

July 2005

Meeting at the Wasatch Presbyterian Church, 1625 South 1700 East, Salt Lake City

GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.

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AGENDA FOR DISTRICT 2 GSR MEETING JULY 28 7:00 PM

7:00 – 7:15 PM

Open – Moment of Silence

GSR Preamble

Responsibility Declaration (Back page)

Concept 7

Tradition 7

Introductions

Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report – James H. (page 12)

June Meeting Minutes – Doug R. (page 2)

Corresponding Secretary – Charlie T.

2006 Post-Conference Host Committee Report – Michaelene R.

7:15–7:35PM

Chair Reports

Corrections Chair – Jean B. (page 4)

Grapevine Chair – Heather (page 4)

Literature - Michaelene R.

Newsletter – Doug R. (page 4)

Treatment Chair – Jay G. (page 5)

7:35–8:00 PM

Old Business

Sub-District B DCM – alt DCM change vote of approval

Elections for ALT-DCM (sub-district A and E)

District 2 Workshop(s)

Pre-Assembly Workshop – Bountiful - August 20-21

Fall Assembly *Jucin' up with the 'vine* – Logan - September 23-25

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Area 69 District 2 July 2005 News and Notes

June 30, 2005

District 2 GSR Meeting Minutes

Pete chaired the June GSR Meeting, the last in his rotation.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

The GSR Preamble was read.

The Responsibility declaration was recited in unison.

Concept 5 was read, tradition 5 was read and Pete gave an impromptu dissertation on its meaning and origin.

We went around the room introducing ourselves, there were several new GSRs in attendance, welcome!

James gave his first Treasurer's report, it was approved as read.

The May minutes were read by Doug R, Heather was not in attendance. The minutes were approved as read.

Michaelene R, the Chair for the 2006 Post-Conference Host Committee gave her report. A sign up sheet was sent around and 23 people signed up to help. The sign up sheet will be available at the next GSR meeting as well. She also said that the treasurer's position needs to be filled soon. Anyone interested who has at least 4 years of sobriety and an accounting background would be helpful but not necessary.

The Standing Committee Chairs each gave their reports. It seems that they are all doing well.

The Corrections Chair distributed 20 "Pink Cans" which are used to collect contributions to buy literature for those who are incarcerated. So far the fund raising effort has raised \$518.00.

The PI/CPC Chair will have sign up sheets at the next GSR meeting to help form his committee.

The literature Chair asked if you know of any literature racks that are not being filled to please let her know.

The Newsletter Chair pointed out that there are 151 people signed up to receive the newsletter via email. It's becoming a valuable communication tool.

In old business the Newsletter Chair read the proposed amendments to the guidelines that had been submitted in May. There was neither discussion nor any questions.

The Chair called the question on each of the two proposed amendments. Each was unanimously approved.

No one stood for either of the alt-DCM positions.

The new business of a vote of approval for the DCM for Sub-District B switching roles with the alt-DCM for Sub-District B was tabled because neither were present.

The Pre-Assembly Workshop in Bountiful was talked about, additional information and the registration forms are available on the UtahAA.org website. The workshops are non-voting meetings.

The Fall Assembly, *Jucin' up with the 'vine* was also discussed. This is a voting assembly. More information and the registration forms for this event are also available on the UtahAA.org website. It was pointed out that the agenda for the meeting and motions that will be voted on will be sent out to all of those GSRs who are registered with the District's Corresponding Secretary. They will also be published in the District's newsletter.

The agenda was finished with about 8 minutes to go so the Chair opened it up for questions from the GSR body.

Pete presented a challenge to the GSRs to come up with a topic for a District Workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

June 30, 2005

GSR Meeting Attendance Roster

5:15 Happy Hour	Martin Q., GSR	Tooele Group	Dave, alt-GSR
974 Group	Paul C., GSR	Unity Lunch Bunch	Sheri R., GSR
Acceptance Group	Doug R., GSR		
Altrium Group	Terrie Ann, GSR	Corresponding Secretary ...	Charlie T.
An A.A. Group	Matt N., GSR	Treasurer	James H.
Basic Young People	Kevin M., GSR		
Castaways Group	Danny K., GSR	DCM Sub-District A	George R.
Chapter 5	Glenda S., GSR	DCM Sub-District C	Pete G.
City at Seven Group	Mike L., GSR	Alt-DCM Sub-District D	Jim D.
Early Friendship	Rachel G, alt-GSR	DCM Sub-District E	Eddie B.
Foothill Group	Doug C., GSR	DCM Sub -District F	Wade J.
Magna Friendly Bunch	Jeanine M., GSR	Alt DCM Sub-District F	Mark P.
Magna Friendly Bunch	Linda W. alt-GSR		
Midnight Miracles	Steve C., GSR	Corrections Chair	Jean B.
No Rules	Anthony M., GSR	Literature Chair	Michaelene R
Old Fashioned AA	Tony S., GSR	Newsletter Chair	Doug R.
Sobriety Hour	Dawn G., GSR	PI/CPC Chair	Mark P
Tooele Group	Jay G., GSR	Treatment Chair	Jay G.

If you would like to be listed on the attendance roster please be sure to sign the GSR Sign-in Sheet that the Corresponding Secretary passes around at each meeting.

From our DCMC

Principals before Personalities

Fellow trusted servants. It is my pleasure to report that there is much afoot in District 2 service. Our Standing Chairs are busy with their respective duties. The Officers have their fair share to do keeping up with the entire goings on.

As the opportunities to serve in many areas and ways continue to grow, so should we. As a small part of the A.A. service structure, we also have the responsibility to hold true to the Traditions and Concepts within ourselves. We have the District Service Guidelines to let us know what our specific responsibilities are. As these expand, we need to keep up with the details of these.

One of the most important Traditions is the long form of XII. The genuine humility to do whatever it takes to carry this message of hope has been bestowed upon us for a short time only. May we continue to put Principals before Personalities. Our best effort has been shown to be a combined effort of individuals, not the individual's efforts alone.

Love in service,

Thom B
District 2 DCMC
dist2_dcmc@utahaa.org

Standing Committee Report
Correctional Facilities Committee

Pink cans have been instituted in many groups, hopefully these will provide us with the funds to get lots of literature for the jail (and other groups in need). The officer in charge of the volunteer programs is retiring and so things are moving slowly there, until a replacement is assigned. The County does not want to open Oxbow and so more inmates will be released quickly, including many who are there for substance abuse issues. This means there will be a greater need for outside support, or "Bridging the Gap". I would like to get a program like Dis-

trict 10 has where the inmate signs up and an outside member signs up, they are matched and assisted in attending 6 meetings when they are released. Let me know if you have any other ideas or input on this one.

Jean B.
District 2 Corrections Chair
dist2_corrections@utahaa.org

Standing Committee Report
Grapevine Committee

Hi. My name's Heather and I'm an alcoholic. I currently serve as Grapevine rep. Since my last report, I've emailed Leslie to get an updated copy of the GSRs assigned to the Grapevine committee. I haven't heard back yet. I've been reading the Grapevine workbook and have talked to the GVRs for No Rules and Midnight Miracles. The one for Midnight Miracles quit before we got to talk much. The one for No Rules is very enthusiastic and I gave him my other copy of the workbook. In the business meeting for No Rules, the group decided to purchase a subscription and some back issues. I priced them, was given money, and ordered them. The box came today, but the subscription takes a while to process, so I spoke with someone who is sending a free issue, which should arrive in about 2 1/2 weeks from now. As of now, both the GSR and the Grapevine rep for No Rules are planning on attending the Fall Assembly. I am, too, and I need to get a budget allocated from district ASAP.

I will be contacting John McGrath both to see what he wants me to do and to give him back the folder he loaned me on special needs and the elderly. I will find out then if he still has the half-box of Grapevines he mentioned at the last DCM meeting. It would be very helpful if the DCMs could get me a list of who the Grapevine reps are for their groups, especially since the groups were re-allocated. I'd like to know who, both at district and at group level, would like to be on a committee. I'm just the chair, and as pointed out at the last DCM meeting, don't have to do this alone, thank God!

Thanks for allowing me to serve.
In unity, love and service,

Heather
District 2 Grapevine Chair
dist2_grapevine@utahaa.org

Standing Committee Report
Newsletter Committee

I want to thank the district body for unanimously adopting the two guideline changes. I also want to thank the other Standing Chairs for their cooperation even before the guidelines were changed. The new Revision of the guidelines is available on the internet in District 2's area. (www.utahaa.org/district2) The

addendum showing the changes is available here tonight.

The Newsletter Committee does not have an equivalent at the level of the G.S.O. so we do not have GSRs assigned to this committee like the other committees do. I would like to ask if you would ask

your groups if someone would be interested in being on this committee. What I'm looking for is someone that would be willing to occasionally write an article about their group or to get a member of their group to write an article about their experience, strength, and hope.

The District's newsletter is being distributed to 182 people via email. This is becoming a valuable tool for communicating within our Fellowship. I'm personally very happy to be part of it. It seems that it's taken

on its own life and is running itself! It must be that "Higher Power" thing!

If anyone needs an email sign-up sheet I have copies available.

Doug R.
District 2 Newsletter Chair
dist2_newsletter@utahaa.org

Standing Committee Report Treatment Facilities Committee

First a big thank you to Wade for his work and efforts on getting a panel meeting started at V.O.A., This meeting will be on Sundays at 7:00 P.M. usually 2-3 speakers and questions and answers to follow. The first meeting will be July 31.

I am going to be looking into the Haven, I will be getting together with James H. for contacts and what type of problems we have had in the past as well as what we should be trying to accomplish with them.

I was going to look into Orangestreet, this is a halfway house for women, it was decided to let Jean from corrections follow up on this since most of the women are going there from the jails.

Jay G.
Treatment Chair
dist2_treatment@utahaa.org

DCM Group Assignments Sub-Districts A-F

Sub-District A: (George R., DCM) Big Book Thumpers, Bog Irish Big Book Study, Chapter 5, Friday Night Speakers, It's in the Book, Live & Let Live, Primary Purpose, No Rules, Starting the Day, Way Out

Sub-District B: (Stephanie F., DCM) 5:15 Happy Hour, New Hope Group (Women's), Saturday Night Alive, Speak Easy Ladies, The Right Stuff, We Care Group

Sub-District C: (Pete G., DCM) 17th & 17th 12 X 12, 6:40 New Yorkers, Brown Bag Big Book Study, City at Seven Group, DNS Group, Friendship Group, Grantsville Good News, Survive and Serve, New Way Group, Sizzling Sobriety Group

Sub-District D: (Walter C., DCM) 974 Group, Acceptance Group (Gay/Les), Basic Young Peoples, Group 2, Foothill Group, Magna Friendly Bunch, Stonewall Group, Tooele Group, Castaways

Sub-District E: (Eddie B., DCM) Honey's Breakfast Group, Downtown Bunch, Altrum Group, Windsor St. Beginners, Trying Again, Northwest Sobriety, Old Fashioned A.A., New Avenues & Promises, Richard Street Lunch Bunch, Unity Lunch Bunch

Sub-District F: (Wade J., DCM) An AA Group, Boot Straps, Early Friendship, Midnight Miracles, Non-Smoking Sobriety Hour, Saturday Night Speaker, Sobriety Hour, Weekend Get AA

If your group is not listed above please contact the District Committee Member Chairperson. See the 'Currently Serving' section at the end on this newsletter for the contact information.

Being of service

Taking Care of Business . . .

One of the first questions asked by GSR's seems to be is there a wrong way to hold a business meeting. The only wrong way, in my opinion, is *not* to have them. Many times the response is "What's a Business Meeting Supposed to Accomplish"? The beauty of this program is that each group does what it must to 'Take Care of Business'.

It has been my experience that the GSR may be expected to conduct the business meeting, or they may not. They may be expected to set the agenda (or they may not even be on the agenda). Some Groups expect that the GSR have all the answers and some may think they haven't a clue.

The simple fact is that the GSR is the link in the chain between the General Service structure and the group. The GSR is the Guardian of the Traditions, which is harder than it may sound. I feel that groups should hold regular business meetings in order to stay on track just as each individual AA member must attend AA meetings in order to continue to be sober. Of the 70 or so groups that comprise our wonderful District 2, there are probably 70 or so group conceptions of what a Business Meeting should accomplish, how often they are needed, who runs them and what is discussed.

In it's basic form, a business meeting is used to conduct group business and in my experience, a group's only business is taking care of the newcomers. There is no wrong way to have group business meetings so long as group business is taken care of. The only wrong way is **not** to

have open, semi-regular business meetings to discuss group issues. According to the pamphlet 'The AA Group' group business involves the following issues.

A **meeting place** is provided and maintained. This generally involves paying rent.

Meetings are conducted. Assign chair-people, meeting secretaries and greeters.

Contributions are collected, properly allocated and spent.

AA Conference-approved **literature** is on hand. Talk to Michaelene for info.

Grapevine literature is on hand. Talk to Heather for info.

Make sure that lists of local meetings are available. **Utahaa.org, Central Office** list.

Refreshments are served. Got **Coffee**?

Alcoholics in the area are informed about the availability of **meetings**.

Members available for **Twelve-Step calls**.

Group problems are aired and **resolved**. Rule #64 applies here, business meetings should never be a challenge to anyone's serenity or sobriety!

Continuing contact with the rest of AA through **GSR, DCM, Area Members, Central Office Representatives, and just plain old-fashioned fellowshipshipping**.

I offer my help to all groups in any way that I can be of service.

Pete G.
DCM Sub-District C
dist2_dcm_c@utahaa.org

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendar

Maple Grove Camp Out
Maple Grove Forest Camp
Registration \$5.00 per person

Aug 5, 6 & 7, 2005

The Acceptance Group's Annual Picnic
Lindsey Gardens, SLC

August 7, 2005
Noon – 5:00PM

Salt Lake Central Office Picnic & Fund Raiser
Murray City Park, Pavilion 5
Put Luck (Hamburgers and hot dogs provided)
\$3.00 per person \$6.00 for families

August 14, 2005
10:00AM – 3:00PM

Pre-Assembly Workshop

District 11 – Bountiful

Registration form on the web: www.utahaa.org

August 20-21

Fall Assembly *Jucin' up with the 'vine*

District 1 – Logan

Registration form on the web: www.utahaa.org

September 23-25

Please see the Area 69 website for more information about upcoming events.
(and a whole lot more!)

Group History

974 Group

My home group, the 974 group, is much older than I am, so this short history is undoubtedly distorted and colored by my limited perspective. Readers beware! Over the last 6 years, the 974 group has gone through several changes. For a long time, only a core of old-timers knew how the group operated. They conducted meetings, paid the bills, and kept the meeting supplied with chips and big books.

At one point, a small group of young people in AA began to organize at the 974 group. They held regular business meetings and elected a GSR and Central Office Rep to carry the group conscience and report back to the group. The opening statement was changed to affirm the distinction between the group and the treatment center. The 12 traditions were discussed at length. One emotional Tuesday night, the secretary, who had been serving for many years, stepped down, acknowledging calls to observe the spirit of rotation. He graciously continued to serve as treasurer. For several years he was the glue which kept the group together, and his service humbled me.

The inevitable outcry over change arose. Old-timers stopped in to pick up birthday chips and chastise the young people for "fixin' what ain't broke." Business meetings had a temporary surge in popularity as people attended to voice their disapproval. Much spirited debate ensued. 4th step lists flourished. Minority opinions were honored, and occasionally shifted the group conscience. More than once the group audaciously voted contrary to my opinion. Many changes were proposed and discussed. In the end, some changes were retained and some discarded.

The group began studying the traditions along with the steps in our weekly 12x12 meeting, taking phones for Central Office each month, and as far as I know, is the only meeting in the world where our GVR refers to the Grapevine as "AA's meeting on paperback."

There have been many times when my last, thin strand of sanity was held together by the fellowship of my home group. I am grateful to the old timers who held the group together, to my contemporaries who cared enough to ask tough questions, and to the newcomers who carry the torch of service forward today.

There was a time when I almost walked away from my group. Frustrated by some self-induced drama I tried to pin on the group, I told my sponsor I was going to start attending his home group instead mine. He suggested I try to stick it out. When I asked why, he said "That's where the newcomers are." He was right.

The 974 group is an old group with young sobriety. It's not always pretty, it's not always 12-tradition compliant, but I dare say it's the best damn home group in the world.

We invite you to visit us on Tuesday and Friday nights, at 8:30 and 8:00pm respectively, and Monday through Thursday, at 10:00am. Our regular business meeting is the 2nd Friday of every month after our meeting.

James H. -- Salt Lake City

DCM Report

Sub-District A

Hi. My name is George and I'm an alcoholic. I currently serve as the DCM for District 2 sub district A. At this time, I have eleven groups that I get to watch over. It seems as though no matter how much service work I do, it is always a pleasure to watch groups grow. The eleven groups that I have at this time all seem to be doing well. Some have minor problems that the groups themselves will work out; it's what we call "growing pains".

When I came into service as an alt DCM in 1991, I was responsible for 27 groups. A year later, I was elected as a DCM for District 2. Also, at that time, the district was much larger. Since 1991, I was privileged to watch the birth of District 11. Even though the number of groups that I get to participate in on a district level has dropped down to eleven that I am responsible

for, it does not make them any less important to me than the 27 that I had when I first survived in service work on a district level.

As a DCM, the one thing that I must remember is that I don't have to go looking for problems; if there is a problem, it will find me. If I can't solve it, I know a lot of people I can ask who might be able to. Thank you for allowing me to serve the district for these past years and allowing me to serve on an area level also.

Yours truly in love and service,
George R.
DCM District 2 sub district A

PS: Remember, we're here because we're not all there.

Past Events Report

54th University of Utah School on Alcoholism

This year I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to help represent Alcoholics Anonymous at the 54th Annual University of Utah School on Alcoholism, which was held from July 19th until July 24th. I am grateful that there were quite a few members of the fellowship who helped man the booth (that GSO furnished) and chair the open meetings held each night. I personally made many professional contacts from all over the county.

I arrived at the School on Sunday at 8:00 am. Putting together the booth required some cursing and swearing, but I managed to get it together and it was very nice. When I opened the box of literature provided by GSO, to my dismay there were about 100 copies of *AA in the Native American Communities* and nothing else. I should have looked into the box before I left Price! I drove back to Price and got my CPC literature rack and a couple days later Graham

and Leann brought some more literature from the Area PI and the Area Literature.

I met the coordinator for the Pharmacy Division. Since I am a Pharmacist he let me attend several lectures; that was very nice. I also meet a Pharmacist from the State Board of Pharmacy Diversion Committee. She and I talked in great length about what the State does with impaired Pharmacists. I also met several physicians and many people from treatment centers.

I highly recommend being of service to the School. It was an incredibly moving and spiritual experience, far more than I could have imagined. Anyone who is interested, the School is an annual event and the 55th Session will be held again next July.

Mike A.
Area 69 CPC Committee Chair
cpc@utahaa.org

**District 2 information on the web at
UtahAA.org/district2**

Past Events Report

Utah Rainbow Round-up

The seventh annual Utah Rainbow Roundup, a Twelve-Step recovery conference sponsored by lesbian gay bisexual transgender (LGBT) recovery groups in and around Salt Lake City, was held at the Salt Lake Holiday Inn at 999 South Main Street on the weekend of June 17, 18 and 19, 2005. Approximately sixty people participated in this year's Roundup, traveling to Salt Lake City from all over the Intermountain region. While the conference as a whole was infused with Twelve-Step principles of recovery, unity and service, and included workshops that would be at home at any Twelve-Step conference (for example, "Steps 1, 2, and 3," "Women and Recovery," "Step 4 and Beyond"), this particular conference also encompassed workshops that addressed matters specific to the recovery of LGBT people (for example, "Sponsorship: Gay, Straight, Woman or Man"). Eight open A.A. meetings were held through the weekend. The participants were also treated to a Saturday night banquet, talent show, and dance, as well as a grand drawing on Sunday to finish off the weekend.

In addition to a full panoply of A.A. offerings, this year's Rainbow Roundup included, for the second year in a row, a sizable component of Al-Anon offerings. Over the weekend there were two Al-Anon meetings and four Al-Anon workshops with such intriguing titles as "Participation is the Key to Harmony," "Wow, How Did THAT Happen?," "Sons and Mothers, Fathers and Daughters," and "No Strikes! No Balls!" The Saturday Al-Anon luncheon offering, which featured an Al-Anon speaker, attracted both A.A. and Al-Anon members. All attendees had access to good recovery during the Roundup.

In anticipation of next year's Rainbow Roundup, tentatively scheduled for the weekend of June 9-11, 2006, an eager group of about twenty volunteers came to a preliminary planning meeting immediately following the close. The Roundup's website, www.rainbowroundup.org, will provide updates as plans for 2006 progress.

Polly S.

Personal Share

"By the Book"

About five years ago I was living in San Francisco and I was walking down Market Street with a new sponsee. We were on our way to a meeting. He started to tell me about the problems he was having with his ex wife. She had taken everything away from him in the divorce the kids the money and most of the entire thing that really PISSED!! Him off was that she had also gotten the house. The house that his father had left to him and that his Grandfather had left to his father. As we continued to walk James is starting to talk really crazy he starts to say things like, he's going to bye a gun get on a plane go to Seattle, walk up to the door of the house, brake down the door and shoot and kill his Ex and her no good boyfriend. I think to myself "you've got a real sick one on your hands this time!" I was quiet for a few minutes I started to say a little prayer in my head," Oh please God help me with what to say to him" and then with out missing a beat I turned to him and said" James I know that you've read the Big Book, would you please tell me where? and on what page it tells us that killing people is the way we deal with our problems in life. He stum-

bles for an answer and after a moment he looks at me and smiles, he gets the point. I realized that I was taking the Big Book literally and not figuratively anymore. A miracle had happened for us both.

What it was like . . .

My name is Albert and I am an Alcoholic, and as a drunk I was sure of one thing and that was that some how or anther I just didn't understand how to do this thing called life. I always felt that the living of life and all of its joys were meant for other people and not me. I always felt like I was on the outside looking in, always standing on the side lines watching the parade go by. I was so damaged, so unlovable and not worthy.

I had this little movie I played in my head, that up in Heaven the day that I was born God is standing at a very long and large conveyer belt, at his right side is a golden lever, he pulls the lever down and a new born baby comes out of the shoot and down the line. The belt stops in front of God and he says a few nice things to the infant, like "have a great life and I'll see you in

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about seventy years " then he hands the little cherub a book to take with him. On the cover is printed "*THIS IS THE MANUAL ON HOW TO DO LIFE*" "*PLEASE REFER TO THIS WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH!!!!*" God then pulls the lever to his right again and down comes another child, repeat story. This time God pulls the lever and down comes baby Albert only this time as the belt stops in front of God he sneezes, a BIG one!!! and pushes the lever fast forward and I get by with out him ever even seeing me. No greeting, no see ya around kid, and most of all, NO Fricken manual on "How to do Life" no nothing. I'm one pissed off little kid. A defect I would perfect over the next 29 years. Over my drinking career I spent a lot of time looking for that manual with the answers, at the bottom of a lot of empty Gin bottles. Finally I stopped believing in God because I knew that God had stopped believing in me!

What happened . . .

On March 21st 1983 I walked through the doors of Alcoholic Anonymous for the first time. Life had beaten me down very hard. I had hit a very low and dark bottom. All my choices had been taken away and there was no place left to turn and no one wanted anything to do with me. I had burned every bridge. Little did I understand that in my final moments of despair, Grace was teaching me to surrender, that by walking through the doors of AA for the first time I was being given a new life. AA turned me into the person that I had always hoped that booze would. The meeting was about to begin and I sat down on an old lumpy couch I was not happy about its state of disrepair. I was also not very happy about being in a church, and the last straw was that I found myself sitting next to some Hippie Mountain Mama named Debbie. None of her cloths matched her hair was a mess and she had on sandals. I thought to myself were are the fashion police when you need them, but a strange thing happened, As I looked in to her face I could see that she had something that I did not, a look of peace and happiness. Strange to think that in a flash all I knew was that I wanted what she had. After the meeting she walked me over to a table that had all kinds of stuff on it, she reached for a large blue book and put it into my hands, and she said to me, "Read this honey, this book is going to

teach you how to do life!" and then she put her arms around me and held me tight for what seemed a very long time and although I wanted her to believe that I wasn't enjoying it I began to cry. She walked me to the door said "goodbye honey! And remember keep coming back". That was twenty-two years ago.

What it's like today . . .

Over those twenty-two years I have read the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous many many times. In the first few months of my recovery I just didn't get it!! So I began to think that maybe I didn't understand the code or I needed to read between the lines or read it sitting on a couch or laying down on a bed or standing on my head. Then one day I thought perhaps the French version or perhaps the Egyptian translation might help me get it, and what was all this stuff about working the steps. It seemed like an exercise in abstractions. Oh but what a wonderful thing time can be. After all these many years I have finally reached the point in my recovery were I accept the Big Book as it is meant to be. Followed as simply as it is written. For me today the steps are to be lived not worked. The Big Book is the Blueprint for my life, meant to be utilized not analyzed. Mine is program of utilization not analyzation. Today when I have problems with people, places and things I turn to the Big Book and the steps, for the answer I seek is always somewhere to be found on those pages. Just like that night some five years ago walking down Market street with James in San Francisco, IF IT ISN'T IN THE Big Book, or one of the many suggested things that I hear in the fellowship or that my sponsor tells me, I'm most likely walking down the dark side of my path. Today I take the Big Book literally, it is the easier softer way. It's just that simple.

It is said that God works through other people.

Funny to think that when Debbie handed me that Big Blue Book, it was God making up for having had a very bad case of hay fever the day I was born. He finely gave me the manual on how to do life.

Albert O. – Salt Lake City

The 2006 General Service Conference Theme
"Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World"

Past Delegate 51

Ask-It-Basket

Hi, my name is Shirley and I am an alcoholic. I have had the privilege of serving Alcoholics Anonymous as your Panel 51 Delegate from Area 69.

I have been asked to respond to a couple of "ask-it-basket" questions. The following is my experience and opinion.

Question One

Does GSO require groups to send them a listing of their group members? Should groups keep a record of who are members of their groups? What are the requirements to be a group member and who determines that you meet those requirements?

The short answers are: No, If they want to, .A desire to stop drinking, You do.

GSO has no requirement for groups to send them names of group members. Some groups do keep a list of members and their phone numbers. This is totally up to the Groups themselves. I have seen these lists used for a couple of different things. One would be to help the Group be prepared with a cake or chips for upcoming birthdays of Group Members. Another would be to provide phone lists that can be shared with Newcomers and Group Members. In all cases, being on any list is not required.

My Home Group passes a notebook around at the beginning of the Meeting. This is not used as a "record" but as an aid to the chairperson. We find that with this list of names the chairper-

son may call on a larger variety of people and not just those that they know by name.

The requirements to be a Group Member should be the same as they are to be a Member of AA. As stated in our 3rd Tradition, "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." So, we are Members if we say we are.

Question Two

How often does GSO do a survey? Why do they do a survey? How is the survey conducted?

The need, timing and procedure for a survey is determined at the General Service Conference, attended by your Delegate. There have been 13 surveys done in this same manor. They have been conducted every three years since 1968.

The purpose of the survey has been to keep A.A. members informed on current trends in membership characteristics, and to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the professional community and to the general public as part of A.A.'s purpose to carry our message to those who still suffer from alcoholism.

Surveys help to describe the composition of our Fellowship. Surveys provide information that can be shared with the general public by A.A. members serving on local Public Information committees. Surveys contain similar information on C.P.C. committees to share with interested professionals upon request. Participation is anon-

ymous and voluntary. Information from surveys is used to create the pamphlet A.A. Membership Survey.

I was privileged to help with the 12th survey in 2001. We had three groups in Utah that were picked to participate.

I talked with the three Group GSRs and then with the Groups themselves prior to the time of the survey. The Groups all agreed to take part. However, individual members at the meetings still had the choice as to whether to participate or not. It was strictly their choice. If I remember correctly, there were only two people who made the choice not to take the survey.

The survey questions have changed some over the years in an attempt to capture the most up to date and informative picture of who we are

If you would like to see the results of the latest survey, you can see them in the "Alcoholics Anonymous 2001 Membership Survey" pamphlet. It is a Conference-approved piece of literature and can be ordered from the General Service Office. The pamphlet number is P-48. It is free of charge to those interested. It can also be found at www.aa.org in a PDF format.

I want to thank the A.A. members of District 2 and of Area 69 for being willing to share their experience, strength and hope with others. And, thank you for asking me to participate with you.

You may submit your Ask-It-Basket questions via email to dist2_newsletter@utahaa.org or you could talk with your service sponsor, or bring your questions to the District 2 GSR orientation meetings that are held the last Thursday of each month at 6:00pm directly before the monthly GSR meeting

District 2 Financial

Prepared by James H. 07/26/2005

2005 Treasurer's Report	June	Year to Date	Group Contributions	June	Year to Date
OPENING BALANCE	\$2,745.19	\$3,087.92	5:15 Happy Hour		\$150.00
INCOME			5:30 Sobriety Hour		\$0.00
Contributions	\$291.72	\$2,671.14	6:40 Newyorkers		\$0.00
DCM Meeting Basket	\$25.00	\$102.55	974 Group	\$20.00	\$130.00
GSR Meeting Basket	\$33.35	\$209.65	Acceptance Group		\$19.30
Workshops			Altrium Group		\$0.00
Corrections	\$40.38		Basic Young People's		\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$350.07	\$2,983.34	Bog Irish		\$11.10
			Broad Highway Women's		\$0.00
EXPENSES			Chapter 5		\$35.00
PI/CPC			City at Seven		\$125.00
Corrections	\$175.00	\$345.00	DNS Group		\$20.00
Literature	\$50.00	\$150.00	Downtown Bunch		\$30.00
Treatment			Early Morning Friendship Group		\$0.00
Accessibilities			Foothill		\$43.05
Committee subtotal	\$225.00	\$495.00	Friday Night Speaker's Meeting		\$15.65
Workshops/Assemblies			Friendship Group		\$102.81
Hotels			Grantsville AA		\$0.00
Registration			Group 144310		\$0.00
Mileage			Honey's Breakfast Club	\$100.00	\$500.00
PRAASA/FORUM			It's in the Book		\$29.00
DCM Expenses subtotal	\$0.00	\$1,529.00	Magna Friendly Bunch		\$24.50
GSR Expenses			Midnight AA Candlelight		\$0.00
Office Supplies			Midnight Miracles	\$45.00	\$85.00
Photo Copies	\$116.12		New Avenues Promises		\$0.00
Postage			New Way		\$189.00
GSR Coffee			No Rules		\$96.00
GSR Rent			Non-smoking Sobriety Hour		\$200.00
DCM Rent	\$25.00		Off the Cuff		\$8.50
Post Office Box			Old Fashioned AA		\$0.00
Corresponding Secretary			Primary Purpose		\$0.00
Treasurer			Richard's Street Group		\$175.76
Recording Secretary			Right Stuff		\$0.00
Other Expenses subtotal	\$25.00	\$329.12	Saturday Night Speakers Meeting		\$0.00
			Saturday Nigh Alive		\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$250.00	\$2,353.12	Speak Easy Ladies	\$16.22	\$50.33
			Tooele Beginners	\$25.00	\$425.64
CLOSING BALANCE	\$2,845.26		Trying Again	\$35.50	\$60.50
			Unknown		\$0.00
			Unity Lunch Bunch		\$75.00
			We care	\$50.00	\$70.00
			Weekend Get AA		\$0.00
			TOTAL	\$291.72	\$2,671.14

Differences in monthly closing balance and YTD opening balance reflect payments credited to current month but not shown in this report

Note that Corrections payments are not listed individually. Look for individual contributions next month.

Responsibility Declaration

*I am responsible. When anyone,
anywhere reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.*