

# DISTRICT 2 NEWS & NOTES

MARCH 2005

### 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 02 GSR MEETING MARCH 31 7:00 PM

7:00 – 7:15 PM

**Open** – Moment of Silence

**GSR Preamble**

**Responsibility Declaration** (page 2)

**Concept 3** (page 11)

**Tradition 3** (page 11)

**Introductions**

**Treasurers Report** – Paige (page 10)

**February Meeting Minutes** – Doug R., Standing in for Recording Secretary (page 2)

7:15–7:30 PM **Officer’s Reports**

Corresponding Secretary – Pete G.

Treatment Facilities – Jay G.

Corrections – Jean B.

Accessibility – Charlie T.

PI/CPC Chair – Mark P.

7:30–8:00 PM

**Old Business**

Elections for Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and DCM.

**New Business**

Report back on PRAASA

Report back on Pre-Conference Assembly

**DCM Reports**

### Table of Contents

<b>GSR Preamble, Meeting Agenda &amp; Table of Contents</b> .....	1
<b>GSR Meeting Minutes (02/24/2005)</b> .....	2
<b>From our DCMC</b> .....	3
<b>Newsletter Chair</b> .....	3
<b>Corrections Chair</b> .....	4
<b>Area 69 Pre-Conference Assembly</b> .....	4
<b>Upcoming Events</b> .....	7
<b>My First PRAASA</b> .....	9
<b>Spotlight On Service</b> .....	9
<b>Treasurer’s Report</b> .....	10
<b>Step, Concept, &amp; Tradition Three</b> .....	11
<b>Currently Serving</b> .....	11

## **District 2 GSR Meeting February 24, 2005 7:00 PM**

The GSR Orientation meeting was held at 6:00PM.  
The GSR Meeting was chaired by Wade J. DCM for Sub-District F.  
Doug R. stood in for the Recording Secretary.  
GSR Preamble was read by John. (Definitely John!)  
Concept 2 was read by Kevin.  
Tradition 2 was read by Martin.

**Introductions, there where new GSRs in attendance**

**Treasurer's report was given by Paige S. Approved as read.**

### **Standing Committee Chair Reports**

#### **Corresponding Secretary – Pete G.**

Several new meetings have their GSO numbers  
Plugged the Area's website. Service position change forms

#### **Literature Chair – Michaelena R.**

Literature racks are being filled  
Let her know if you have racks that need to be filled

#### **PI/CPC Chair – Mark P.**

Absent

#### **Corrections Chair – Jean B.**

Has jail access passes available  
Let her know if you need more for your group

#### **Grapevine Chair – Taylor K.**

Absent

#### **Newsletter Chair – Doug R.**

Wearing too many hats!  
District 2 Guidelines printed and available. They are also available on the Area's website on District 2's page.  
Newsletters are also available on the Area's website (a stripped down version; no full names or telephone numbers)

**Minutes of January's meeting where read by Doug R. Approved as read.**

### **Old Business –**

No one stood for Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, or DCM. Eddie B. stood for Alt-DCM, the GSRs approved him unanimously.

All of the existing DCMs have Alternates now. Sub-District E has not been filled with either a DCM or Alt-DCM.

### **New Business –**

Thom B. talked about the upcoming P.R.A.A.S.A. that will take place in Arizona in March.

George R. talked about the Pre-Conference Assembly and the General Service Structure of A.A.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.**

**After the meeting the DCMs held round table discussions with their GSRs.**



Heart Felt Thanks  
**From our DCMC**

From the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone for the trust bestowed on me to serve our District. This past month has been a little busy. From the Area Committee meeting in Feb., we have been busy with the Conference Agenda. Your invitations to attend Group conscience meetings showed me how we "lovingly" can decide how we feel about what goes on among the Fellowship. There is still a sense of awe and amazement in how this works, at all levels of our structure.

In between the committee Meeting and our Pre Conf. Assy. in St George, I did go a ways to the south. Tucson, AZ. is one more place I have been able to visit, that would not have been possible before. Add to that, a service meeting attended by approximately 1500 A.A.s? Once again, never in my wildest dreams! And to top it off, 1600 miles of roadtrip that turned out to be more like a "field trip". I think I learned and saw more in 4 days than I could have packed into 4 weeks here. A special thanks to my "compadres" for making the trip with me. It would not have been possible without those who shall remain anonymous. At least in print!

A pleasant surprise awaited us in St. George. Fri. 18 Mar. marked 7 years for Pete G. And those who made it there that night, marked an excellent turnout for the District at an Area event. What lengths (and distances) you have gone to to serve others is an inspiration to many. We did, as the Area, get through the business at hand. Managing to stay within the time set on the agenda was even realistic. Our Delegate left with a well informed group conscience, I believe. Good knowledge and background from the Area Chairs, care and love from the voices of those who serve, and a loving God, really shown brightly that day.

Thanks for allowing me to be a small part of it all, and to serve all of you.

Love in Service,  
Thom Boyle  
dist2\_dcmc@utahaa.org



Standing Committee Report  
**Newsletter Committee Chair**

I would like to encourage you to bring a newsletter sign up sheet back to your groups. The intention is to get this newsletter to as many A.A. members as possible. I have asked the DCMs if they would do the same as they go out and visit each of their groups.

I would also like to encourage you and your groups to submit articles. Let us know what problems or challenges your group has had and how they have been handled. This is your newsletter. Let's share or collective experience, strength and hope with each other so we can learn from one another. This newsletter can be a very valuable tool. The District's Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, and DCMs have all been asked to do the same.

Doug R.  
Newsletter Chair  
dist2\_newsletter@utahaa.org



Standing Committee Report  
**Corrections Committee Chair**

The District has approved the passing of "Pink Cans" by the correction volunteers. The purpose of these cans is to collect additional funding to provide inmates of the local jails and juvenile detention facilities with access to AA literature. Currently the District budget provides \$500 a year. This provides about 330 of the small Big Books, which with the number of people in and out of the system, is about enough for three or four months. By providing our own literature we can remain "entirely self-supporting", not relying on facilities to have the literature funding available (many volunteer organizations do request these funds). This is a great help to hundreds of people who are incarcerated annually with no access to treatment for their alcoholism.

Jean B.  
Corrections Chair  
dist2\_corrections@utahaa.org



Washington, Utah Mar 18 – 20

**Area 69 Pre-Conference Assembly**

My name is Pete and I am an alcoholic. It was my privilege to attend the Pre-Conference Assembly this past weekend in Washington. The event was well attended and, as usual, the spirit which accompanies these types of events is nothing short of amazing.

Julie S. opened the event. There were 8 new GSR's and DCM's that were attending their first service conference. They were heartily welcomed.

On a sad note – past delegate Don H. passed away a week prior to the Pre-Conference. Don has helped many alcoholics and will be greatly missed.

Joanne G. – Area Secretary, read the minutes from the Area Election Assembly. These minutes should be included in your GSR mailings.

Sherrie P. provided the Area financial report. Copies of this are available for review.

Upcoming Events.

District 2 bid and won the Pre-Conference Assembly to be held in March of 2007.

Way to go Thom!

An Area Guidelines Committee was formed. Members participating from District 2 are Thom, Sara, Jon I., Dawn.

Area Committee changes.

In November and December of 2004, Jim H. began to suffer greatly from an illness. In order for him to concentrate on his recovery, he chose to step down from the CPC Standing Chair position. Per Area Guidelines the second place finisher for this position was given the choice to accept this

position. That person was Mike A. and he chose to accept. He was ratified by a vote at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

Mike A. held the Treatment chair position prior to his accepting the CPC chair. Second place finisher for Treatment was Keith M. Keith accepted the CPC chair and was ratified at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

#### Roll Call

All Area servants were present.

District 1 – DCMC, 5 DCM, GSR

District 2 – DCMC 4 DCM's, Alternate DCM, 7 GSR's, 2 Alternate GSR's

District 3 – DCMC, 2 DCM's, Alt. DCM, Standing Chair, 4 GSR's

District 4 and District 5 were not represented.

District 6 – DCM

District 7 – DCMC, 2 DCM's St. Chair, 2 GSR's

District 8 – 2 GSR

District 9 Not represented.

District 10 – DCMC, 3 DCM's, 3 St. Chair, 9 GSR's, 2 Alt. GSR

District 11 – DCMC, DCM, 3 GSR

To the 15 members of District 2 who made the best of this opportunity to be of service, our admiration is extended.

#### Bridging the Gap Workshop.

A group conscience was taken to get a feel for the level of commitment we have concerning the workshop. The group felt favorable toward holding a BTG workshop by a substantial unanimity.

#### Delegate's report.

Mike's delegate report is in your GSR monthly mailings. Highlights of the report are that the 25 millionth Big Book has been printed and will be given to a new member at the International Convention.

#### Agenda Items

Trustee Committee – Jodi E.

This initiative dealt with the method used to fill the term of a trustee who resigns or passes away. Other items include length of term for trustees and eligibility of delegates to serve as trustees.

#### Finance – Sherrie P.

Agenda items include reinforcement of the policy that financial contributions never carry any obligation from AA toward the donor.

Item included the question concerning only alcoholics contributing to the basket.

A legitimate question arose concerning the fact that we sell our literature to others outside the organization so why should we not allow outsiders to contribute.

General information included the fact that the percentage of groups contributing to GSO has decreased but overall the size of the contribution has gone up.

Committee re-affirmed the need to resist the temptation of accepting money from the outside world.

Ask questions, at all levels, about contributions and expenses.

P/I – Leann.

Committee recommends that the AA web site remain under AAWS board control.

Web changes, summary and actions taken should be published and reviewed.

Committee recommends that the Membership survey be reviewed and that statistics be updated to reflect new information. The format of the Membership survey could use some 'cleaning up'.

Committee also recommends that the Area be able to choose which videos should be used in each Area. These are the Public Service videos.

Group consensus called for changing the wording in Young People to remove 'and taking pills' – no clear majority was determined.

Archives – Janet H. No recommendations from committee.

CPC – Mike A.

Committee suggested items for inclusion in kit.

- Bridge the Gap pamphlet.

- Community sign-up sheet.

- Specific dialogs for doctors, lawyers and judges.

- AA web site cards for use by professionals.

- Specific pamphlets for criminal justice committee.

Corrections – Richard B.

Change in wording for information regarding open/closed meetings for pamphlets intended for the criminal justice system. This item received mixed consensus from our group.

Item regarding the creation of a video for training of professionals and the dollar amount involved in this. On the first vote, this item received a mixed consensus. Further information from Shirley O. illuminated that this request came from the criminal justice system. That changed the vote to a resounding 'yes'.

Change of the name for this committee also passed.

Grapevine – John M.

Item to create, in 2006, a collection of stories from the Grapevine targeted specifically for young people. Passed

Item to produce a Spanish speaking CD covering steps 7 – 12 to coincide with the existing 1 – 6. Passed

Literature – Grahmae L.

Item to review and add an introduction to the beginning of the 12 X 12. Passed.

Review 'Too Young' – Passed.

Shorten 'Young people and AA'. Passed

Review progress on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Spanish Big Book. Passed

Create pamphlet on 'Service Sponsorship'. Passed

Review 'It Happened to Alice'. Passed

Literature continued.

Review 'The AA Group'. Mixed review.

'Explore idea to develop a pamphlet for 'Old Timers' Passed.

Replace the phrase 'Sexual preference' with 'Sexual Orientation'. Passed

Change table of contents of the Living Sober to be divided into Unity, Recovery and Service. No.

Create a second literature committee. No.

Standardize singleness of purpose statement in the 6 publications currently used. Mixed reviews.

International – Ken B.

Mixed vote for location of the PRAASA – split between Anchorage and Oakland.

Internet broadcast of the flag ceremony from the International AA convention. Initially passed but the opposition voiced concerns, which changed this vote to a mixed review.

This ended the voting portion of the Assembly.

The sobriety countdown had 879 years of sobriety.

The Ala-Teen, Alanon and AA speakers were very good. The AA speaker was a former delegate from Mississippi.

The Ask-it-Basket on Sunday produced some excellent questions, all of which were not answered. The remaining questions will be answered in the Area newsletter.

The spiritual speaker was Keith M. from Moab. Excellent as usual.



**New A.A. Meeting:**

## Back To Basics

At Fellowship Hall (Small Room) 2060 South Windsor Ave (840 East)  
Wednesday Evenings @ 6:45 PM Starting 04/06/2005

### Upcoming Events

#### Mark your Calendar

District 3 Workshop	Open and Closed Meetings – Roles and Responsibilities 10:00 am – 2:00 pm St. Mary's (50 West 200 North Provo) Lunch will be provided	April 9
District 6 Workshop	AA in Rural Utah 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Legion Hall (60 S State Salina) Lunch will be provided	April 16
Area 69	Post Conference Assembly A.A. 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Holiday Inn (999 S Main Street Salt Lake City)	May 20-21-22

District 2 will be the host for the 2007 Pre-Conference Assembly. For more information on these and other events see the Area 69 website. They have added a new section to the calendar of events for "A.A. gatherings". It's not just for service events anymore!

[www.utahaa.org](http://www.utahaa.org)



## My First PRAASA

I want to begin by thanking District 2 for defraying me to attend the 2005 Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly in Tucson, AZ earlier this month. This year's theme was in line with GSO's yearly theme, "Basics of our Home Group: Unity, Service and Recovery". The weekend was jam-packed with AA panels, round table discussions, question and answer sessions, a report from our regional trustee, an ask-it-basket, a banquet and speaker meeting, and, of course, good old fashioned AA fellowshiping!

I got to meet other AAs from all over our region (CA, WA, OR, ID, NV, AZ, HI...) who were just as ecstatic to be there on behalf of their groups, districts and areas as I was! In attendance were roughly 1,250 service-buffs, several of whom were past area delegates and other AA enthusiasts--mostly district and area officers--and, of course, GSRs (*ahhhh-yeah!*). It was truly inspiring to be among so many people committed to bettering AA as a whole. Everyone in attendance was there because they love and care about this life-saving, life-giving organization of which we are so fortunate to be a part!

One of the greatest highlights in my eyes was the sheer magnitude of saying the Responsibility Declaration with 1,000+ AAs; that was a powerful, hair-standing-up-on-ends experience that I will cherish and carry with me always! I also loved having the opportunity to spend some quality time with our Area 69 officers and standing chairs. We are sooooo freakin' awesome--and everyone at PRAASA knew that Area 69 ROCKS! (*Trust me, we totally rock!*)

PRAASA was unlike any AA experience that I have had before. Spanish and Japanese translators and ASL interpreters were very helpful in making sure that all AA members in attendance were able to participate in this phenomenal event. The days were looooooong--and the amount of information disseminated was hearty (to say the least). This PRAASA rookie was wide-eyed and very interested to hear all of what everyone had to share. I took copious notes, so if anyone would like to see those, I'd be glad to share!

Again, thank you for this unforgettable experience. AA's service structure is divine by design, and I am so honored to have had an opportunity to see another level of the AA's inverted pyramid at work in our behalf. I can only sum up PRAASA in one word: "WOW!"

Gratefully Submitted,  
Sara N. GSR, District 2



### Spotlight On Service

## One AA's Journey to Helpfulness

Recently, I was elected as District Committee Member for District 2 in Area 82. I didn't get the position as the result of a popularity contest. I was voted in by acclamation. In other words, of the members present at that meeting who were eligible to accept the office, I was the only one who let my name stand. Part of the reason I did volunteer is because no one else did. I have

been noticing an increasing trend within my district of an apparent lack of interest in service.

A few years ago, when I served as Public Information co-chair, I read a passage from the Public Information Workbook. It was number thirteen on the list of suggested goals for P.I. work. "Fight apathy within the Fellowship . . ." But,

exactly how does one fight anything within the Fellowship? Tradition One in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* states that "No AA can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled." So, if I can't make anybody do anything, how can I get members to be more active? Well, the answer lies in Tradition Two during the discussion of bleeding deacons (which I have on occasion been) and elder statesmen (which perhaps one day I will be): "They do not drive by mandate, they lead by example."

So, the solution is simple. In order to encourage action within the Fellowship, we ourselves become more active. We pass on to the newcomers the same message that was passed on to us.

When I sobered up seven years ago, my sponsor was very clear on the message he was passing on to me and also on what I would be expected to do with that message. He introduced me to the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. He gave me the example of the three-legged stool. It cannot stand on only one or two legs; it needs all three firmly in place in order to keep from toppling over. He encouraged me to observe the ABCs of service (ashtrays, brooms, and chairs – that was back in the days when we could smoke at meeting halls).

When I was still drinking, I was first in line at the liquor store and I arrived early at the bars so I could guarantee myself a good table. When I sobered up, I arrived early at meetings and stayed late to so I could help set the place up and clean up afterward. After I had been doing this for about a month, my sponsor suggested that I volunteer to make coffee. I pointed out that they already had someone to make the coffee. Couldn't I just stack the chairs? He said that was so typical of new people; they want what we have but are reluctant to do what we did in order to get it. So, to prove him wrong, I volunteered to make coffee. The guy making the coffee offered to take care of the chairs. I didn't realize it at the time, but I had just been introduced to the spirit of rotation.

Later, I was asked to chair a meeting. I was nervous at first, because I imagined the

chairperson to be the leader of the meeting, some elite class of alcoholic who had to be especially trained. Besides, wasn't I supposed to make the coffee? My sponsor said not to worry; it was probably time the chairperson learned how to make coffee. So, I became the Tuesday night chairperson for the Big Book Study meeting of my home group. As time went on, I served as secretary, treasurer, P.I. co-chair, and general service representative. I also worked the phones at our central office, chaired meetings at the local detox, helped to form three of the groups in my district, and sponsored a number of men.

This year, I attended the Area 82 Assembly in Halifax, Nova Scotia. While I was there, I heard about the Special Forum that was conducted in Goose Bay, Labrador. Informative presentations provided an interesting analogy of AA service by drawing attention to the Inukshuk, an Inuit statue in the image of a man. A description of the statue was attached: "To build an Inukshuk you must find the perfect balance for each rock. No one rock is more important than the other, and each creation is unique. Its strength lies in its unity. What is true about the Inukshuk is true about people. Each individual entity alone has significance. As part of a team, each of us supports and is supported by another. "We are united by our common goals, and together we are part of a greater whole."

My sponsor always told me that there are different ways of making coffee, that no service in Alcoholics Anonymous is more prestigious or more necessary than another. The AA Service Manual defines service as anything that makes Twelfth Step work possible. He also told me that if everyone thinks someone else is making the coffee, the coffee won't get made. So, for the next two years I will help make coffee at the district table.

Bill W. once wrote, "Our first duty, as a society, is to insure our own survival." How do we do that? It's simple. Become more active. If you are new or old in Alcoholics Anonymous, don't drink and go to meetings, show up early. Stack some chairs. Shake a few hands. Make some coffee. Chair a meeting. Be a sponsor. Let your name stand.

*Bernie S.  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia*

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## District 2 Financial

2005 Treasurer's Report	February	Year to Date
<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$3,230.71</b>	<b>\$1,994.34</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions	\$202.50	\$1,218.64
DCM Meeting Basket	\$11.00	\$53.00
GSR Meeting Basket	\$35.00	\$66.00
Workshops		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$248.50</b>	<b>\$1,337.64</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
PI/CPC		\$0.00
Corrections	\$140.00	\$140.00
Liturature		\$50.00
Treatment		\$0.00
Accessibilities		\$0.00
<b>Committee subtotal</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>	<b>\$190.00</b>
Workshops/Assemblies		
Hotels	\$320.00	\$400.00
Registration	\$44.00	\$54.00
Mileage	\$372.00	\$372.00
<b>PRAASA/FORUM</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>
<b>DCIM Expenses subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,336.00</b>	<b>\$1,426.00</b>
GSR Expenses		\$0.00
Office Supplies		\$0.00
Photo Copies	\$47.00	\$47.00
Postage		\$0.00
GSR Coffee		\$0.00
GSR Rent		\$0.00
DCM Rent	\$25.00	\$100.00
Post Office Box	\$38.00	\$38.00
Corresponding Secretary		\$0.00
Treasurer		\$0.00
Recording Secretary		\$0.00
<b>Other Expenses subtotal</b>	<b>\$63.00</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,539.00</b>	<b>\$1,801.00</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,940.21</b>	

  

Group Contributions	February	Year to Date
5:15 Happy Hour	\$75.00	\$100.00
974 Group	\$20.00	\$60.00
Bog Irish		\$11.10
Chapter 5		\$35.00
City at Seven	\$75.00	\$75.00
DNS Group		\$20.00
Foothill		\$19.05
Friday Night Speaker's Meeting		\$9.03
Friendship Group		\$44.20
Honey's Breakfast Club		\$400.00
Magna Friendly Bunch	\$12.50	\$24.50
Midnight Miracles		\$40.00
No Rules		\$96.00
Richard's Street Group		\$83.22
Speak Easy Ladies		\$16.54
Tootele Beginners		\$165.00
We care	\$20.00	\$20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$202.50</b>	<b>\$1,218.64</b>

  

Budget	Balance
\$200.00	\$200.00
\$500.00	\$360.00
\$500.00	\$450.00
\$100.00	\$100.00
\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>\$1,300.00</b>	<b>\$1,110.00</b>
\$50.00	\$50.00
\$964.00	\$564.00
\$218.00	\$164.00
\$500.00	\$128.00
\$600.00	\$0.00
<b>\$2,332.00</b>	<b>\$906.00</b>
\$80.00	\$80.00
\$20.00	\$20.00
\$200.00	\$153.00
\$30.00	\$30.00
\$30.00	\$30.00
\$150.00	\$150.00
\$80.00	(\$20.00)
\$45.00	\$7.00
\$50.00	\$50.00
\$25.00	\$25.00
\$30.00	\$30.00
<b>\$740.00</b>	<b>\$555.00</b>
<b>\$4,372.00</b>	<b>\$2,571.00</b>
<b>\$4,372.00</b>	<b>\$2,571.00</b>

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

**Notes**