

Area 69 News & Notes

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Issue 3

Unity: Our Common Welfare Should Come First, Principles Before Personalities, and Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics.

"To those now in its fold, Alcoholics Anonymous has made the difference between misery and sobriety, and often the difference between life and death. A.A. can, of course, mean just as much to uncounted alcoholics not yet reached.

Therefore, no society of men and women ever had a more urgent *need* for continuous effectiveness and permanent unity. We alcoholics see that we must work together and hang together, else most of us will finally die alone." (Alcoholics Anonymous, pg.563)

This quotation from the introduction to the Twelve Traditions says far better than I can why the unity of our fellowship is of vital importance to all of us. Not only those who are currently sober but those yet to come depend upon the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous to ensure that the program will not only continue to exist, but will continue to be effective in bringing about recovery from the disease of alcoholism.

If unity is vitally important to all of us in Alcoholics Anonymous perhaps we should look at what unity is, how it can be achieved and how it can be maintained. The dictionary I consulted said that unity is the state of diverse individuals being as one in spirit, thought and action. As I looked at this definition I thought of the individuals I know in Alcoholics Anonymous. I doubt that a more diverse group was ever brought together in one organization. We represent different ages, races, religions, political affiliations, educational levels, occupations and income levels. There is no one characteristic that all of us have in common aside from the disease of alcoholism, but that one common characteristic is of more importance than all of the differences.

How then can this diverse group become "as one"? The answer lies in our Twelve Traditions. While unity is mentioned only once, in Tradition One, each of the Traditions plays a role in establishing and maintaining our unity as a fellowship. The Twelve Traditions provide guidance for us in situations where our differences would otherwise be divisive, and show us how to focus on our common problem and our common solution.

While focusing on our common solution many of us find that we have received the miracle of grace, and the common solution has become our personal solution. Reaching out to others has enabled us to find ourselves.

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Alt-Delegate's Report

Welcome to the Fall Assembly, quoting from the Sunday Morning Serenity Preamble, "we hope that what you learn here today will be of help to you in your recovery and your understanding."

Since we last met, District 12, our Spanish Speaking linguistic district has invited us to a couple of their Spanish Speaking AA meetings. They are having growing pains and are having a hard time filling General Service positions especially their District Standing Chairs. Several of us have been going to their meetings encouraging participation and sharing our experience. There is concern about how newcomers are being treated when they show up in some meetings and what message are they getting. Sound familiar? Seems there is always more work to be done than there are workers. However, the enthusiasm shown in the Spanish Speaking meetings for the AA program is inspiring and contagious. Those of us that have seen it first hand come away grateful and looking forward to the next opportunity. The best part is that we keep getting invited back.

And even though we don't always understand each others language, the Language of The Heart is communicated loud and clear. We have all learned new lessons about Unity.

For all of the Area Standing Chairs and Officers; we have been invited to participate at the 2nd Annual Spanish Speaking Convention in Salt Lake City. We are listed on the program under the Service heading. The host committee would like each of us to share about our experience with General Service; how we got involved, why we stay involved and how Service has enhanced our sobriety. What it was like; what happened; what it's like now of General Service. It is hoped our participation will act as a Twelfth Step call and encourage others into General Service. We have two hours on Saturday afternoon. There are 15 Area people to share so each of us will have 5 to 7 minutes. Julie S. will moderate the panel and Lucy has volunteered to translate. Please write your presentations out so Lucy will have a

script to translate from and to keep us within our time allotment. After the Service panel Julie has been asked to address the body as a speaker. Registration is \$15.00 and is payable at the door. The event will be held at the Salt Lake Airport Hilton, Saturday October 20, 2007. Everyone is invited.

Please come show your support for District 12 and the Spanish Speaking Convention. See all of you there.

Yours in AA Love and Service, Monte S.

Chairperson's Report

Hi fellow Area Servants & All,

Once again I've been very busy, helping several committees as well as some group picnics, I just can't say "NO" most of the time. It always turns out good though, and always just how God planned it, and I sure like the way it makes feel. Ya know the warm and fuzzy when you have been able to make someone's day a little better.

I've had the opportunity to attend a few district meeting as well.

Thanx for making me feel welcome.

Thank you all for making my Service experiences an unforgettable gift.

Love Ya All, Andy B.

Registrar's Report

Greetings! We only got back 9 Mailings this time from what we sent out so keep sending the information to keep the Area Directory current, thank you for your efforts. We still need to have everyone that has an email address to consider receiving their minutes, agenda & the rest of their mailings electronically so we can save the Area from excess postage. Last mailing the emails totaled: 83 up from the time before but I do feel we can still improve that number.

Have visited District 12 and delivered Spanish Group change & New Group forms we will also be attending their hosted upcoming event & help with a panel presentation. If there are any District Secretaries or DCMS here today that might want to take back some of these forms I have a few extra, they are on Our Area website & the GSO website as well.

The FNV Database is coming along just fine, this last week I received the updates for District 10 & they will be added to the FNV after this weekend. So far there have been 5 new groups added & group numbers received. If you are a GSR & don't know your group number please see me this weekend so you can use this for correspondence & to receive credit for your group contributions.

I will be showing as part of this report a brief presentation of the Fellowship New Vision so you can see what it looks like, this is not however the connection to the database but a few saved pages from a previous session. I wanted you to see this so there would be less mystery or question about what this is or what it looks like. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. If you would like me to give a Registration presentation in your district or just attend your meeting to answer Group Registration questions please feel free to call or send an email.

There are some fliers here for PRAASA 2008, if you haven't attended PRAASA you are missing a real spiritual experience. I hope everyone who wants to can attend. I have been doing allot of research on flights to Anchorage so see me if you would like me to share what I have found.

My service sponsor tells me to make sure of my actions and that my motives are correct because everyone needs a service sponsor & a sponsee & you never now when or where you might be asked to participate. I feel you are all sponsoring me & I hope my example might inspire you or show you how rewarding General Service can be & how it can improve every area of your life.

Yours in Love & service, always...Charlie G.

Treasurer's Report

I'm Nadine and I'm an alcoholic. I realized a few days ago what an honor it is to be allowed to serve as the Area 69 Treasurer. Thank you.

Last month in Toole when I was shooting my mouth off about loving puzzles, I was talking of puzzles that had all the pieces!! J One more time, I was not specific with my verbalization to my Higher Power and now he is up there laughing and I'm down here praying for guidance! What a sense of humor! Thankfully he sent me a great friend that taught me how to lighten up and laugh in sobriety a few years ago.

I want you to know that I have looked at the financial records of Area 69 as I would if I were auditing a business. While not all of the numbers have added up in all the different, specific categories (which is usually due to coding differences), I have verified that all of the money in the checking account, plus the deposits, minus the documented expenses are accounted for except the \$69.38 that we are over. I have the paperwork with me if anyone would like to review it.

I will also be happy to meet with any of the officers and/or standing chairs to address budget differences if there are any.

Thanks again! Love you all and like most of you ☺.

Ask-it-Basket Questions and Answers

The following questions were not addressed at the Ask-It-Basket session on Sunday, August 19th at our Pre-Assembly Workshop.

Q. Is it wrong to tell someone to go out and drink if they don't know why there (sic) here?

On Page 30 of our Big Book it says "Most of us have been unwilling to admit we were real alcoholics. No person likes to think he is bodily and mentally different from his fellows. We learned we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics." And, most importantly, "We alcoholics are men and women who have lost the ability to control our drinking."

Our 3rd Tradition says "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." And in the long form of Tradition 3 it says "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism."

I know of only one way an individual can decide if they find themselves described in the definition of an alcoholic clearly stated in Chapter 3 and if they meet the membership requirements laid out in Tradition 3. That solution is found on Pages 31 and 32 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

"We do not like to pronounce any individual as alcoholic, but you can quickly diagnose yourself. Step over to the nearest barroom and try some controlled drinking. Try to drink and stop abruptly. Try it more than once. It will not take long for you to decide, if you are honest with yourself. It may be worth a bad case of jitters if you get a full knowledge of your condition."

I have to admit I find it difficult to imagine that someone would be attending meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and not have even the slightest clue why they are here. Though I may not have wanted to be here in the early days, my family, friends, employer, etc., etc. had given me a full accounting of why I should be here.

Mike O.
Past Delegate – Panel 55

Q. Can we ask the host committees to update the flyer, agenda, program info. posted on the website as it gets closer to an event so it's more accurate?

Short answer: Yes

More informative response: We have a terrific website and webservant, but it is up to us in the body to make sure that things stay current - including such things as flyers and meetings. We are still pretty new at this and I think we just need lots of reminders until it becomes a habit to keep our webservant supplied with the most current and accurate information so that it can be placed on the website. Perhaps that is something that should be included in the host committee planning package. If we keep asking the question and reminding committees, hopefully it will get done.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind Districts that our meeting lists on the website are only as good as the information given to the webservant. I would highly recommend that whoever is in charge of keeping your meeting schedules current also be in charge of getting all revised meeting information to the webservant.

Julie S. Delegate
Panel 57, Area 69, Utah

Q. Isn't this Assembly about the service of saving human lives? And carrying the message of A.A. – isn't that first things first? What would happen to A.A. if everything we did was just one big whoopee party? My Higher Power plans better fun than I ever could!

The above paragraph was one of the questions submitted to the Ask It Basket at the Post Conference Assembly this year and after giving it some thought I think I have the answers.

All A.A. service is about ensuring that every alcoholic who wants to recover will be offered the same opportunity that we have been given – the chance to get sober and stay sober using the principles of A.A. So yes, the assembly is about saving human lives – ours and the other guys! And yes, I would say that carrying the A.A. message was putting first things first

because until we receive that message there is no chance (at least in my experience) that life can become a "whoopie party".

That being said, we also need to remember that this program is about attraction. The Big Book tells us that "We are not a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life."

I have enjoyed many celebrations of life and of sobriety during my sobriety, and hope to enjoy many more. At least a part of the message, for me, is that I can learn to enjoy life sober.

My experience has been that when I laugh a lot I feel closer to my Higher Power and when others laugh with me I feel closer to my fellow alcoholics.

I take my program of recovery seriously – it is a matter of life and death. But I have learned that it is better not to take myself too seriously - Remember, Rule 62.

Mickey H.
Past Delegate, Panel 49, Area 69, Utah

Q. "In some areas, the average donation in the basket is \$2, still much less than the cost of a single drink. Is there any consideration to suggest members increase their meeting contribution to \$2?"

I remember starting to hear discussions about suggesting increasing contributions to the basket several years ago at PRAASA and in our area. Some members had already begun doing that. I remember one gentleman who shared that he had started a routine of getting \$2 bills from his bank for when he went to meetings. What I also remember about the discussions around suggesting more people start doing it, was that those discussions were at General Service gatherings. I don't remember hearing them flow over to group meetings much. I think the important point is that you don't need to have the area discuss it for a group or district to talk about the need and take action on their own with an issue such as this. How can it be a bad suggestion for us to be more self-supporting? So I say, "Go for it!" And may the spirit of our 7th Tradition, where money and spirituality really do mix, be with you.

Jodi E.
Past Delegate, Panel 53, Utah Area 69

Q. Will the Utah Area ever be moved out of the Pacific Region? Where would we go?

First I want to talk about Regions - what they are, why they were formed, and what purpose they serve. Regions are geographic divisions of the United States and Canada which were formed to provide for Trustees to be selected from throughout the general service structure. Prior to the formation of regions the Trustees were all from the Eastern United States, primarily New York, because they were most available to serve on the Board which meets in New York City. To ensure that the Board was representative of A.A. as a whole it was felt that membership should be drawn from throughout the conference structure. When the regions were first drawn on the map Utah was not in the Pacific Region. It became a part of the Pacific Region when the boundaries were later changed.

Now to address the question: Will the Utah Area ever be moved out of the Pacific Region? No one knows, because when and if it becomes necessary to change the regional boundaries again that decision will be made based on what is best for A.A. as a whole. Where would we go? No one knows the answer to this either, because that decision has not been made.

Personal opinion: Maybe we could split the Pacific Region into North Pacific and South Pacific Regions, with Alaska, Washington West, Washington East, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and Utah forming one region and Hawaii, Arizona and California (which includes San Diego/Imperial, Mid Southern California, Southern California, Central California, California Northern Coastal and California Northern Interior areas) forming Southern Pacific Region. Or we could become the Pacific Region and the Western Region, with Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Arizona being joined by Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and New Mexico.

Whatever change may be made in the future I trust that our Higher Power will bring us to the right decision for all of A.A.

Mickey H.
Past Delegate, Panel 49, Area 69, Utah, Pacific region

Q. Do's and don'ts of the Conference – what are they? When did it start?

Do's and don'ts ... Maybe it would have been more accurately descriptive if I had described that as how to's. We were told what constitutes a Conference quorum; the committee system is described, substantial unanimity is defined (2/3 majority); how the minority opinion works; general rules of debate and voting; how to table a motion; what happens when someone calls the question, and how do they do it; how and when is a motion to reconsider made and what happens if it passes; and what are floor actions, when and how are they made, and what is a motion to decline to consider a floor action and what is the consequence of same. For further detailed information, look for the "Summary of Conference Procedures" posted on my blog.

The first General Service Conference was held in 1951. At the 1955 International Convention, the General Service Conference was designated as the actual voice and the effective conscience of our whole society. This year was the 57th Conference. All first year delegates this year are Panel 57 delegates as the panel indicates the year number of the conference the first year the new delegates participate, i.e., I am a Panel 57 delegate.

Julie S. Delegate
Panel 57, Area 69, Utah

Area 69 Motions

Presented by Terri M. – seconded by Ed C.

I would like to make a motion that the Area defray new incoming Area Standing Chairs, and Area Officers to the Pass the Gavel MTG. By new I mean those that are not currently serving at the Area level. Pass the Gavel Meetings only occurs every other year, and serves to welcome these people to their new positions. The maximum cost to the Area would be \$600.00 + mileage which would vary. This cost would cover 15 people @ \$40.00 a night for hotel, although I gave you the maximum cost. I believe the real cost would be much less. I say this based on the history of "new" incoming officers & chairs have shown to be 2-3 every other year.

Submitted by Ed C. – Dist 10 GSR – seconded by JA (Stormy) D.

Motion : That the February committee meeting be moved to the last weekend in February and the Pre Conference Assembly be moved to the 1st weekend in April.

Purpose : To give our Delegate more time to review and distribute Conference Agenda Material.

Cost: The financial impact on the Area and all districts would be \$0

Required Changes: There would need to be 2 changes to the area guidelines as follows:

Section 2.1 (item A) currently reads "PRE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY HELD THE 4TH WEEKEND IN MARCH.....Would be changed to "Pre Conference Assembly held the 1st weekend in April.....I

And

Section 2.4 (item A) currently reads "FEBRUARY AREA COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THE 3RD SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY. Would be changed to read "February Area Committee Meeting held the 4th Saturday in February.

Comments: This Motion revisits a previous motion which was withdrawn as it was written. As the Area and groups have dis-cussed at length, the motion to change the February Committee meeting to an Assembly and the associated costs was not well received. As each person spoke of their group's opinion, it was evident that many were in favor of part of that motion which would move the dates. The above motion addresses that issue.

Archive's Report

Good Morning everyone,

I want to thank you for the defrayment to the National Archive Workshop. I was thrilled to see Lana, District 2 archivist there, but I was hoping that other archivists in our State would also be able to attend. The workshop was great. The archivist that for the past ten years Bob who has taught the "Preservation and Conservation Techniques"

was unable to attend due to health issues and Gale the National Archive Workshop Archivist was not there due to an injure, both were missed.

There were 24 archivists from the Pacific region, representing 6 States.

Eighteen other states were represented and one archivist from Toronto, Canada.

68 total attended, about half of normal, it was felt that the attendance was down due to the problems with the web site lack of information.

Friday day was devoted to the "Preservation and Conservation Techniques", three other gentleman filled in for Bob and did a great job.

Friday evening was the opening ceremony with the Arizona Delegate addressing us; following was a panel of long timers. They shared some wonderful memories, but seem to follow a common theme of how AA has grown, but is lacking the close family feeling of the early days.

Saturday morning had 4 panels; "What are Archives", "Storage - Repositories" (my privilege to be a presenter), "Long Time Recollections" and "Disaster Recovery"

Saturday afternoon 1 panel, "Collections vs Archives: followed by a Presentation from the host committee.

Saturday evening, the banquet was followed by a wonderful presentation from Amy GSO archivist. She shared some personal information, then a slide presentation focusing on some of the history of AA. Part of the presentation was audio of Dr. Bob, Bill, Ebby and Neil the first world archivist. She had given a small portion of this presentation at the delegate conference. One that she shared was Bill disclosing the "dilemma and stigmatized worse than alcoholism" on page 142 in the 12 n 12 that had such a profound effect on Tradition 3.

Sunday morning was the business meeting and voting: 2009 Workshop will be held in Woodland Hills, CA., had reports, old business and voting on new business and additions to the Workshop guidelines, bidding procedures and web site issues.

I purchased 7 CD's and brought back hard copies of the "Preservation and Conservation Techniques".

Those areas that were close were emailed to bring small displays as the space was limited, if they choose to. I have on display here today the display I took, other than GSO's portable display and Arizona display, was the only other one there. I had some very good feedback on our display board idea, our history book, also gave the history book away to an area just getting ready do their book.

I have 8 display boards in various stages of completion, I apologize that they are not ready to pass out today, but will have them at the Fall Workshop. We are still 4 short of having one for each of the areas where we want to place them.

Thanks again for the defrayment to the Workshop, I always come back feeling renewed with information, connecting with archivists I have gotten to know and making new acquaintances.

Thank you for letting me be of service to you.

Archive Standing Chair, Janet H.

Assembly/Agenda Report

Hello Family. There have been some things in my life that have kept my attention away from my service responsibilities, and for that I apologize. Within 6 weeks my last 2 grandparents passed on. My professional life is extremely busy due to it being Utah's other season...construction.

I am doing all I can to keep in touch with the upcoming event hast committees, and do all I can when it comes to serving our Area as requested of me. Some times the phone and Internet are the only ways I can communicate, and "suit up and show up" when I am asked to be a part of the committees. I hope I have not dropped the ball when it comes to serving you, and as the seasons change, so will my ability to become more available improve.

Thanks for the privilege of serving you.

Communications Committee Report

Good Morning,

My name is Doug and I am an alcoholic. I currently serve you as the Area's Communications Committee Chair. For those new to service or otherwise not familiar with the Communication Committee; the Communications Chairperson serves as both the Area Web Servant and Newsletter Editor, and directs three sub-committees; the Website committee, the Newsletter committee, and the Translation committee. The Communications Committee meets monthly on the second Monday of every month. All are welcome to attend; we meet at Beans & Brew in Salt Lake City.

The Area's website, utahaa.org, is maintained by the Website committee. The most important aspect of the Area's website is the maintenance of the A.A. meetings list. These are kept up to date and accurate by cooperating with the various Central Offices as well as the cooperation of the various districts. Some districts have created service positions whose sole responsibility it is to make sure their districts' meetings are accurately represented on the Areas' website. Other districts have given this responsibility to their PI chair and/or their DCMs. I would like to thank all of those that are so diligent in keeping the Area informed of meeting changes, deletions and additions. There is a site features article in the newsletter that describes all of the features available on the Area's website.

Speaking of the newsletter it is prepared and copies are distributed at the Pre-Conference Assembly, Post-Conference Assembly, Fall Assembly, and Fall Workshop. In even years, the newsletter may be distributed at either the

Fall Workshop or the December Area Committee Meeting / Pass the Gavel. An Internet appropriate version of the newsletter is also published on the Area's website. They can be found on the Internet at utahaa.org/publications.html, the Spanish versions of the newsletters can be found at utahaa.org/sp/sp_publications.html.

The 2007 Fall Assembly newsletter was printed in English and Spanish, they are available here today. I would like to encourage the GSRs to make these available to their groups, it is yet another way that we can let the members of Alcoholics Anonymous know what the Area is doing for them, and what they can do for the Area.

Area Standing Committee Chair reports and the Delegate's reports can also be found on the Area's website, utahaa.org, in their individual blogs. These are accessible from the home page.

I would like to mention some website statistics. As of September 15, 2007 there have been 51,061 hits (which are people visiting the site), the grand total cost (life to date) of the Internet services has been \$622.75, which means that it has cost the Area 1.2 cents per visit. And that per visit amount will only get less because we will have no more Internet related expenses until March 16, 2008 when the annual ISP amount of \$107.00 will be due.

For those that are not aware the area's meeting list can also be accessed using your mobile phone's internet access at utahaa.mobi. This feature has been available now for a little over five months.

The Translation committee has been busy translating the Area business documents, including the fliers and agendas from English to Spanish. These are available on the Spanish side of the website at utahaa.org/sp/sp_area69.php. Spanish translations of the Area reports are also available at utahaa.org/sp/sp_publications.html.

I want to thank my committee members for their continued dedication and willingness to serve. I would also like to thank the Area for allowing me to serve.

With gratitude, Doug R.

Corrections Report

Dear Fellowship;

Twelve Step work in correctional facilities throughout Area 69 is increasingly growing, thus the need for AA members to carry the message behind the walls is of paramount importance. We have received more letters of interest and requests for inside meetings from inmates in the past several months than previously. One letter came to me by way

of GSO Corrections desk where an inmate in the San Juan County Jail included the Jail Commander's name and indicated that he (the Jail Commander) is open to starting a meeting if there would be a "committed" AA volunteer to facilitate the meeting and requested that this individual contact him directly. This is an example of a direction that seems to be spreading among correctional administrators in an effort to reduce the percentage of ex-offenders re-offending and returning to incarceration (recidivism) through programming and rehabilitation efforts.

The Fifth Tradition and Responsibility Statement is always a reminder to me that I must give away what was so freely given to me in order to keep it. GSO Corrections Desk is in constant need for outside AA's to volunteer for the Correspondence by Mail program---particularly men, as there is a larger population of male offenders incarcerated through out the United States and Canada.

I will be attending the National BTG Workshop September 14-16 and will have a full report-back on the workshop at the Fall Assembly.

The Utah Association of Jail Commanders meeting agenda has been shifted around---AA's presentation is now scheduled for Wednesday September 26th at 9:00a.m.. I'm looking forward to the trip down to Washington County! Our lovely Delegate Julie S. will also be present and available to answer any questions they may have.

The Women's Corrections Power point presentation was recently converted to DVD and we're reproducing them. This will definitely make them more "user-friendly" to everyone. The Men's Corrections Power point has been modified and the suggestions we received at the Area 69 BTG workshop have been incorporated. We plan to view this during the allotted time in the Corrections Committee Round Table for feedback and comments.

The DVD called "A.A. In Correctional Facilities" has undergone its final revision since it was approved by the General Service Conference last April in New York, and is being reviewed by the Board of Trustees the end of this month to set the cost of the DVD. It will be released sometime in October.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 69.

Sincerely, Renae H.

Grapevine Report

The person serving as the Area 69 Grapevine Standing Chair resigned the position on August 18, 2007. This occurred during the Pre-Assembly Workshop in Tooele. Andy B., the Area 69 Chairperson, asked me that day if I would be willing to fill the position temporarily. Andy explained that a discussion and vote would take place at the Fall Assembly in September regarding filling the position on a

permanent basis. I thanked Andy and the Area Committee for the opportunity and said I would be willing and able to serve.

During the lunch break that day, I was given six small boxes of miscellaneous Grapevine materials that had been passed along by the previous Grapevine Chair. Later that same afternoon, I was approached by a new DCM for District 2 and asked if I had any back issues of the Grapevine she could use for her groups. Talk about baptism by fire!

Two of the boxes contained back issues of the Grapevine – 150 copies in all. I felt like I had struck gold! There were also some books, Grapevine and LaVina order forms, and other miscellaneous items. (A detailed list of the inventory I received will be attached to my report when I turn it in at the Fall Assembly.) On Sunday, I was able to pass along some of the old Grapevines to the District 2 DCM and also to another woman who takes meetings in to the Salt Lake jails.

A friend graciously offered to help with a simple display for the Park City event. Please stop by sometime during the weekend to pick up information for your groups and offer your suggestions for a more permanent display. I look forward to learning more about the Grapevine and thank you all for the opportunity to serve Area 69 in this new capacity.

Sheryl T

Literature Report

My name is Pete and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 69 Literature Standing Chair. Many thanks to the host committee for their hard work in providing this event.

I want to say thank you for attending the Pre-Assembly Workshop in Tooele. The event was not only a lot of fun but we had a lot of fun in putting it on. The Tooele group

Area 69 Fall Workshop

Fall Workshop Chairperson, Treesa J.
PO Box 125, Hurricane, UT 84737

The Fall Workshop will be held in Rockville, UT. Rockville is two miles from Springdale, which is the entrance to Zion National Park. Springdale has Bed & Breakfasts, Hotels, Motels and restaurants. My favorite is the Majestic Lodge. It has a small museum and awesome views from the dining area. Rockville is about 25 minutes from

Hurricane, which also has Motels. The facility for the Workshop is an old chapel and recreation hall. It is now the community center for Rockville. Al Anon will use the old chapel and we will use the recreation hall. There is parking off the main highway behind the two buildings for about 60 cars as well as on the street.

Also behind the buildings is a large grassy area and a covered pavilion with 12 picnic tables. Lunch will be

benefited from the event and will remember the good fellowship and lessons learned for a long time to come.

Literature acquisitions for the Pre-Assembly workshop were average. I actually took home some Service Manuals from the event, which is the first time I have not been absolutely sold out for Service Manuals. I guess it's time to focus on tapes and video cassettes that we have available for your group or for individual use. Please stop by the Literature display for more information on what is available from GSO on tape and VHS.

As it has only been a month since my last report, I have little new information nor have I had the opportunity to visit Districts other than District 2. I was able to help District 2 procure literature racks from GSO for placement in Treatment Centers, shelters and other locations.

A recent letter from GSO announces the addition of a new service to help make it easier to purchase literature from them. Group, District and Area Literature servants can now have their literature invoices and statements E-mailed to them rather than mailed. As there are multiple lines for E-mail addresses, I assume the Treasurer of each respective entity can also be added to receive the invoice or statement. This should help reduce the confusion about receiving invoices and, hopefully, reduce the cost involved in doing business with GSO by increasing the accuracy and speed by which the group receives information. I have copies of the request at the Literature Display or you can download this document from UTAHAA.ORG.

I mentioned that my Home Group had the opportunity to provide the ASL tapes for the Big Book and the 12 and 12 to a member. I want to thank Area 69 again for the devotion to those who are challenged by hearing impairment or who are blind. Please remember that the Area has American Sign Language tapes and Braille available to those in need. They do no one any good boxed up in my spare bedroom, let's put them to use!

Thank you, Pete G.

served in the pavilion. The area is very scenic. One of our committee members lived in Mexico for 10 years and will be cooking authentic fare. You will make your own chicken or steak tacos. I have eaten these as have Julie and Janet. The tacos are excellent! There will also be other foods items. Lunch is \$6.00; it will be a dining extravaganza for your taste buds.

There are packets for districts 5, 6 and 9 as well as extra flyers on the table.

Also I have brought information booklets on the lodgings and restaurants in and around Zion's for those planning to attend. This is a busy weekend in Springdale. Please register early and reserve your rooms. The website for Zion lodging is on the front of the flyer and Hurricane lodging information is on the back.

Now information about the event and the area. Al Anon has requested a separate meeting on Saturday night.

Consequently, we will finish about 8:30 PM with the speaker meeting, early for some of us. To keep us entertained, UCYPAA has requested to host a fun event. BINGO! The game – cards will be \$1.00 each and of course there will be prizes. This is a wonder time of the year in Utah's Dixie. In November you can drive into Zion's. Remember your park pass or golden eagle cards. The closest golf courses are in Hurricane at Sky Mountain or Coral Canyon. I have

had the privilege of golfing at Sky Mountain and really enjoyed it. If you can come early, you can attend our Delegates home group. The Hurricane Firehouse meeting is on Friday Night at 8:00 PM in the basement of the Hurricane Museum; corner of State Street and Main Street.

I hope to see you all here! This will be an event to remember.

Ad-hoc Committee Report

EDITOR'S NOTE: At this years Post-conference Assembly an ad-hoc committee was created "for the purpose of investigating options for changes to the Area Meetings/Workshops/Conferences & Agendas with the intent to streamline time frames to create more time for motion discussion, open mike time, round table committees and also ways in which we can improve service 'Attraction' (Fun)."

Hi everyone, my name is Ed and I am an alcoholic.

I have the privilege to be able to serve as chairperson for the area ad-hoc committee to review our area meetings with the purpose of seeing whether we can do things more efficiently and free up time allocations to be used for enhanced discussions such as more round table work, more open mic time, more panel presentations, etc. and present ideas on how we could promote more service attendance.

To date, we've had 3 meetings and there have been some good ideas brought forth. Some of the discussions have been centered on better use of the Friday night activities as set by the host committee. Our thoughts have been to suggest that the time on Fridays be used to hold round table orientations for the new GSR's and to hold an overview panel on the agenda for Saturday's business so that everyone can be better prepared to work the business at hand. This would be a kind of "briefing" by either the area chair, the delegate/alt delegate, or the area secretary (any or all), to review the business at hand and the motions that will be presented. Our feelings here is that this will help eliminate a lot of confusion for the GSR's and better prepare them to participate in the business meeting.

The next area that we've discussed is the business meeting time frames as set by

the area committee for Saturday business. We all agreed on the concept that the standing chair, area officers and district reports be kept as short and concise as possible. The committee would like to suggest that all those giving reports go to the microphone at the beginning of the report session to eliminate the time wasted waiting for each individual to make their way to the mic in turn. Our thought here was to ask each reporter to keep the report to what has been done and the problems they have encountered since their last report. If there were no changes, simply report "no changes to report" and then sit down. We think that this could shave enough time out of the report session to actually have a brief problem solving discussion or panel or round table.

Another item we looked at was to possibly extend the business length by an hour or so, again to provide more time for open mic and round table discussions.

The last area we considered was the use of the time on Sunday. Many still like the "ask it basket" and want to see that continued. There were strong feelings by many that the host committee consider dropping the "spiritual speaker" and use the time as a kind of "debriefing" to help the GSR's better understand the business meeting so that they would be more productive in informing their respective groups. The thinking was that we have several speakers on Saturday night, so

we need to use the time we're paying for to continue the business we are charged with, not hold an AA speaker meeting.

Finally, during almost all our discussions, we kept returning to the concept that the districts need to step up and better prepare the GSR's and their DCM's and become more active in training and encouraging their standing chairs to get active and coordinate with the area chairs at a higher level so that we don't miss out on our opportunities.

Our thinking on this was simple, the Area is not the primary training arena, it is up to the districts. We feel that increased effort at the district level will show up (literally!) at the area level.

Again, these are just some of the highlights of our efforts, this is only a progress report and not our final recommendations, it is most definitely a work in progress.

I want to THANK all those who have contributed their time so unselfishly and I want to very much encourage those who signed up to serve on this committee to please show up and contribute your thoughts and ideas...everyone counts and your thoughts are as important as the next.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve,

Love in fellowship - Ed. C.

