

Area 42 Newsletter

Winter 2009

Confidential Alcoholic Anonymous Document

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

S.A.G.S.C Meeting
Sunday July 11th, 2009

1:15 pm @ the T.I.E. Club
329 N 11th St.
Las Vegas
GSR Training @ 12:30 pm

N.A.G.S.C. Meeting
Sunday June 7th, 2009

Standing Chairs Meet at
12:15
NAGSC Meeting at 1:00
1400 Chestnut St Suite A
Susanville, CA

Area 42 2009
Fall Assembly at
Tonopah Convention
Center

September 11-13 2009

PRASSA 2010
www.praasa.org

March 5th-7th
Radisson Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

The Group GSR **the communications link in AA**

We have all heard of AA being an upside down triangle. The members of the groups are the largest Part of our Fellowship. Our service Manual is very helpful in describing the communications through the structure. We all have heard and understand that Tradition #2 states "For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority-a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience."

Our group GSR is the person that has the responsibility to carry that group conscience to the Area assembly, and therefore the Area Delegate. "The general service representative has the job of linking his or her group with AA as a whole The GSR represents the voice of the group conscience, reporting the group's thoughts to the district committee member and to the delegate, who passes them on to the conference. (AA service Manual S24) This is the only way that a groups thoughts for or against change can be heard at the General Service Conference." The communications process starts with the group, which lets its group conscience for or against change, approval or disapproval of a proposed action -be known to its elected general service

representative."(AA Service Manual S17)

Sometimes when we receive the Agenda Items for the conference we look at them and wonder does my group care to hear about these things, won't I be wasting everyone's time by going over these things. This couldn't be further from the truth. Without the GSR providing the group with information on the Agenda Items the group can not make an informed group conscience about the item, therefore missing out on being part of the Annual Conference Meeting Described in chapter 7 of our Service Manual.

As each group is autonomous it is the group's decision on how to deal with Agenda Items but we should always remember that we represent our groups and give them the information we have been entrusted with so their ideas can be heard and they can be included in the decision process known as the General Service Conference

Phil W

The AA Grapevine 'Keep-It-Simple' Challenge

The AA Grapevine, Inc. is totally self-supporting and does not receive AA group contributions or income from advertising or membership fees.

Grapevine publications are financed entirely by the sales of the Grapevine magazine, Audio Grapevine, Digital Archive and other related books and CDs.

The magazines and all other items are never priced to earn a profit, but to cover basic operating expenses and to cover escalating fixed costs (such as postal increases of 40% over a 10-year period).

A Little Can Mean A Lot

100 new Grapevine magazine and/or Audio Grapevine subscriptions per area can assure that the AA Grapevine, Inc. is fully self-supporting in 2007.

What You Can Do to Help

If the Grapevine makes a difference in your sobriety, then please pass the word on by encouraging your area to increase its circulation this year by at least 100 subscriptions (that's 7/10ths of one percent of our estimated 1.3 million members).

Please get the word out about this challenge by:

- Announcing it at your home group, area assemblies, wherever you find AAs members and/or by
- Posting this page in your newsletter, on your website, or at your local Intergroup or Central office.

It's that simple.

We will keep you posted of the results of the 'Keep-It-Simple' challenge at www.aagrapevine.org beginning October 2007.

Although the date is from 2007, this challenge was given to us by a delegate at the 2009 General Service Conference. I say lets do it!
Area 42 Delegate Jason D

Editor's Note:

The Area 42 Newsletter is comprised of service oriented articles submitted by its members. We welcome submissions and suggestions. The deadline for the next newsletter is June 9th, 2009. Please submit to area42newsletter@gmail.com

2009 Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations

Advisory Actions

Floor Action—that the revised 59th Conference pamphlet, “The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs,” be returned to the trustees’ Literature Committee for additional discussion and report back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature

Agenda—that the theme for the 2010 General Service Conference be “Practicing A.A.’s Principles—the Pathway to Unity.”

Cooperation With the Professional Community—that the video segment directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field to be streamed on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site be approved

Corrections—that the trustees’ Committee on Corrections undertake a revision of “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell,” and that a draft or a progress report be brought back to the 2010 Conference Committee on Corrections

Finance—that the trustees’ Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance: a) If we continue to use literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit? b) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contribution?

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums—that an anonymity protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken

Literature—that the revised draft pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American” be approved; that the trustees’ Literature Committee undertake a thorough review of the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” and eliminate or revise outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references. The committee looks forward to reviewing a progress report or a revised draft pamphlet at the 2010 Conference; that the title of the pamphlet “44 Questions” be changed to “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”; that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs **Policy**

Admissions—that the General Service Board develop a procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and bring a draft to the 2010 Conference Policy/Admissions Committee for their review; that the General Service Board develop a plan for the General Service Conference to conduct an inventory of itself that includes a planning committee consisting of representatives of delegates, trustees, directors, nontrustee directors, and staff, and that a progress report be presented to the 2010 Policy/Admissions Committee.

Public Information—that the updated pamphlet “A Message to Teenagers...,” containing selected text and graphics from the current “Too Young?” pamphlet, be approved with minor changes; that the wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous be approved with minor changes; that a new A.A. television public service announcement be developed for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Public Information, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, and that full faces of actors portraying A.A. members not be shown in this P.S.A.; that the revised script for “Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD,” omitting P.S.A. #15, be approved with minor changes, and recorded at a cost not to exceed \$20,000

Report and Charter—that various suggested changes be made to The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service

Treatment Facilities—that the revised video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous be approved; that the committee’s scope be expanded to include service to Special Needs/Accessibilities committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities.

Trustees—that in light of the extensive confidential information in the trustees’ election résumés, that résumés of all election candidates would no longer be made available to all Conference members immediately prior to the Conference trustees’ election session. Distribution of trustees résumés at the Conference would be limited to only voting delegates and members of the Conference Committee on Trustees and the trustees’ Committee on Nominating. The résumés of the elected trustees would be distributed to all Conference members immediately after the election session.

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Additional Considerations

Archives—requested that the trustees' Archives Committee create a report to be forwarded to the 2010 Conference Archives Committee on the feasibility of developing a format (e.g., PowerPoint® presentation) for a self-guided tour of G.S.O.'s A.A. Archives to convey the experience of visiting G.S.O. and the Archives, for those who have not yet visited the General Service Office in New York

Grapevine—considered a request that “The 2007 Conference Advisory Action recommending that ‘the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal, and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer’ be rescinded” and after lengthy and thoughtful discussion took no action.

Estimates of Groups and Members

as of January 1, 2009¹

Groups		Members
United States	55,244	1,248,394
Canada	4,849	93,986
Sub-Total	60,093	1,342,380
Correctional facilities ²	1,585	39,964
Internationalists	3	36
Lone Members		235
Total	61,681	1,382,615
Outside U.S. & Canada ³	55,092	702,510
Grand Total	116,773	2,085,125

1 The General Service Office does not keep membership records. The information shown here is based on reports given by groups listed with G.S.O., and does not represent and actual count of those who consider themselves A.A. members.

2 U.S. and Canada only.

3 We are aware of A.A. activity in more than 180 countries, including 60 autonomous general service offices in other lands. Annually we attempt to contact those G.S.O.s and groups that request to be listed in our records. Where current data is lacking we use an earlier year's figure.

You can find the
minutes for the
Area 42 Assembly's

@

www.nevadaarea42.org

NORTHERN NEVADA GSR WORKSHOP

When: Sunday, May 31, 2009

1-4 p.m.

Where: Reno Triangle Club, upstairs

635 S. Wells Avenue

Reno 775-324-7977

What to Bring: Nothing but your experience, strength and hope

Who: All GSRs and anyone else with experience or interested
in AA service in Northern Nevada

RSVP: Tim W District 2 DCM

From Districts 1 and 13

District 1 and District 13 had a combined event on Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 2-4pm at the Triangle Club, in Las Vegas. 40 People were in attendance. About a third of them were GSR's and a handful of those were new to the GSR position. We had fellowship, a potluck and showed the GSO approved video "AA Grapevine and Service Structure." The general feeling of the group was that the video could be shown once or twice a year at similar events.

After the video we had input from Dick H. "Past Delegate" and Julian R. "Past Delegate & Past Trustee" both served in the service structure. They explained the GSR position and the function of the Assembly, our current Delegate's functions at the Conference at GSO and tied it all together for us.

The Video will be donated to Central Office so they may loan it to whomever request.

Thanks to all who brought food!

Justin P. DCM, District - 13

Our A.A. Experience Has Taught Us That:

Nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous. It grew. Trial and error has produced a rich experience. Little by little we have been adopting the lessons of that experience, first as policy and then as tradition. That process still goes on and we hope it never stops. Should we ever harden too much the letter might crush the spirit. We could victimize ourselves by petty rules and prohibitions; we could imagine that we had said the last word. We might even be asking alcoholics to accept our rigid ideas or stay away. May we never stifle progress like that!

Yet the lessons of our experience count for a great deal --a very great deal, we are each convinced. The first written record of A.A. experience was the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. It was addressed to the heart of our foremost problem --release from the alcohol obsession. It contained personal experiences of drinking and recovery and a statement of those divine but ancient principles which have brought us a miraculous regeneration. Since publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in 1939 we have grown from 100 to 24,000 members. Seven years have passed; seven years of vast experience with our next greatest undertaking --the problem of living and working together. This is today our main concern. If we can succeed in this adventure --and keep succeeding --then, and only then, will our future be secure.

Since personal calamity holds us in bondage no more, our most challenging concern has become the future of Alcoholics Anonymous; how to preserve among us A.A.s such a powerful unity that neither weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of these troubled times can harm our common cause. We know that *Alcoholics Anonymous* must continue to live. Else, save few exceptions, we and our brother alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion.

Almost any A.A. can tell you what our group problems are. Fundamentally they have to do with our relations, one with the other, and with the world outside. They involve relations of the A.A. to his group, the relation of his group to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, and the place of Alcoholics Anonymous in that troubled sea called Modern Society, where all of humankind must presently shipwreck or find haven. Terribly relevant is the problem of our basic structure and our attitude toward those ever pressing questions of leadership, money and authority. The future may well depend on how we feel and act about things that are controversial and how we regard our public relations. Our final destiny will surely hang upon what we presently decide to do with these danger-fraught issues!

Now comes the crux of our discussion. It is this: Have we yet acquired sufficient experience to state clear-cut policies on these, our chief concerns? Can we now declare general principles which could grow into vital traditions --traditions sustained in the heart of each A.A. by his own deep conviction and by the common consent of his fellows? That is the question. Though full answer to all our perplexities may never be found, I'm sure we have come at last to a vantage point whence we can discern the main outlines of a body of tradition; which, God willing, can stand as an effective guard against all the ravages of time and circumstance.

Acting upon the persistent urge of old A.A. friends, and upon the conviction that general agreement and consent between our members is now possible, I shall venture to place in words these suggestions for ***An Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition of Relations --Twelve Points to Assure Our Future:***

Our A.A. Experience Has Taught Us That:

1. Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.
2. For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as He may express Himself in our Group conscience.
3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. Group.
4. With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. Group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee or individual should ever take any action that might greatly

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- affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.
5. Each Alcoholics Anonymous Group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* --that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
 6. Problems of money, property and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. Group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be so set apart, that if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the Groups. The management of these special facilities should be the sole responsibility of those people, whether A.A.s or not, who financially support them. For our clubs, we prefer A.A. managers. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. --and medically supervised. An A.A. Group may cooperate with anyone, but should bind itself to no one.
 7. The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each Group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous; that acceptance of large gifts from any source or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is usually unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.
 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those full time services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But personal "12th Step" work is never to be paid for.
 9. Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is usually the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central committee, which often employs a full time secretary. The trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation are, in effect, our General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which they maintain A.A. General Headquarters and our General Secretary at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal publication, *The A.A. Grapevine*. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.
 10. No A.A. group or member should ever, *in such a way as to implicate A.A.*, express any opinion on outside controversial issues --particularly those of politics, alcohol reform or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.
 11. Our relations with the outside world should be characterized by modesty and anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.
 12. And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a truly humble modesty. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

May it be urged that while these principles have been stated in rather positive language they are still only suggestions for our future. We of Alcoholics Anonymous have never enthusiastically responded to any assumption of personal authority. Perhaps it is well for A.A. that this is true. So I offer these suggestions neither as one man's dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past.

P.S. To help free discussion I would like to amplify the *Twelve Points of Tradition* in future *Grapevine* pieces.

Bill W.

Emotional Dynamite

. . .It was into an uncharted future that we looked from the window of Dr. Bob's living room in 1937 when we first realized that alcoholics might be able to get well in large numbers. The world around us, the world of more normal people, was being torn apart. Could we recovered alcoholics hold together? Could we carry AA's message? Could we function as groups and as a whole? No one could say. Our friends the psychiatrists, with some reason, had begun to warn: "This fellowship of alcoholics is emotional dynamite. Its neurotic content can blow it to bits." When drinking we were certainly explosive enough. Now that we were sober, would dry benders and emotional jags blow us up?

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age

Service Center Only, Bill Wilson

The answer to this question is almost surely "no." That is the clear verdict of our experience.

To begin with, each A.A. has been an individual who, because of his alcoholism, could seldom govern himself. Nor could any other human being govern the alcoholic's obsession to drink, his drive to have things his own way. Time out of mind, families, friends, employers, doctors, clergymen, and judges have tried their hand at disciplining alcoholics. Almost without exception the failure to accomplish anything by coercion has been complete. Yet we alcoholics can be led, we can be inspired, coming into A.A. we can, and we gladly do, yield to the will of God. Hence it is not strange that the only real authority to be found in A.A. is that of Spiritual Principle. It is never personal authority.

Our unreasonable individualism (egocentricity if you like) was, of course, the main reason we all failed in life and betook ourselves to alcohol. When we couldn't coerce others into conformity with our own plans and desires, we drank. When others tried to coerce us, we also drank. Though now sober, we still have a strong hangover of these early traits which caused us to resist authority. Therein probably hangs a clue to our lack of personal government in A.A.: no fees, no dues, no rules and regulations, no demand that alcoholics conform to A.A. principles, no one set in personal authority over anyone else. Though no sterling virtue, our aversion to obedience does pretty well guarantee us freedom from personal domination of any kind.

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Area 42 Current 7th Tradition Contribution Addresses:

General Services Office (GSO)

PO Box 459
New York, NY 10163
(Make Checks to General Fund)

Area 42 (All Nevada)

PO Box 70171
Las Vegas, NV. 89170-0171
(Checks to Area 42 Treasury)

Northern Area General Service Committee (NAGSC)

C/O Phil W.
P.O. Box 9080
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(Checks to Northern Area 42 Treasury)

Southern Area General Service Committee (SAGSC)

Southern Area Treasurer
PO Box 71804-1804
Las Vegas, NV. 89170-1804
(Checks to GSR Fund of S. Nevada)

Southern Area Treasurer

PO Box 71804-1804
Las Vegas, NV. 89170-1804
(Checks to GSR Fund of S. Nevada)
Las Vegas Intergroup

Las Vegas Central Office

1431 E. Charleston Blvd. Suite 15
Las Vegas, NV. 89104
(Checks to Las Vegas Intergroup)

Northern Area Intergroup

436 South Rock Blvd.
Sparks, NV 89431
(Make Checks to N. Nevada Intergroup)