

**Area 42 Assembly  
March 22, 23, 24, 2002  
Tonopah Convention Center  
Tonopah, NV**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Friday March 22, 2002**

Kathy S., our Chair, opened the meeting at 6:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer, followed by the Preamble to Area 42 Guidelines. Aurora S. then read the long form of Concept 3. Kathy announced that this is a non-smoking meeting, and mentioned that we have many questions to talk about this weekend, so there might not be as many reports available. She introduced the Past Delegates and Guests in attendance. She also introduced the District 6 volunteers, who are hosting this assembly. She then introduced John S., our Alternate Delegate, for his opening remarks. He gave us a review of PRAASA in Fresno, and reminded us about PRAASA 2003 in Reno. He had the new attendees stand. He also thanked the District 6 volunteers. He urged GSRs to ask questions, since this is their assembly. Kathy then explained the round table sessions, which are scheduled for tonight. Mike D will be the overall moderator for the round tables.

**DCM Reports**

**District 1 Terri H.:** She thanked her GSRs and Aurora for reading. 68% of the District's groups have GSRs. They will have their District meeting tomorrow. Expect about 15. Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at the Green Valley club.

**District 2 Eric S.:** He has been filling out update forms at meetings, will give to Sam. They are putting on a spaghetti feed May 5 at the Masonic hall in Sparks, and Sam H will be the speaker. They average 5 members at their District meetings.

**District 3 Bruce T.:** They are alive and well. The District funded him to PRAASA. He recently visited the Panaca meeting, and updated Lincoln County. They will put on a Founders Day program on June 8. Next District meeting is April 14 at 1 pm in back of Central Office.

**District 4 Ed dP.:** He had his GSRs stand up. They typically have 18 to 25 at District meetings, and they have discussion topic meetings. Use controversial topics, like the recent one on court cards. They meet every other month, on the first Thursday at the Reno Triangle club.

**District 5B David B.:** He had his GSRs stand. They are doing well. He met with the DCMs from Districts 1 and 3, and discussed having combined meetings to cover the Concepts. They are missing their longtime District treasurer, Craig H, who has moved to northern NV. They will soon be planning their picnic for fall.

**District 6 Ray G.:** His District has 13 here so far. He thanked his alternate, who did much work for hosting this assembly. They had flyers on table for their founders day picnic on June 9. Now meet on second Sunday of every month at various locations within District 6.

**District 5A Dick J.:** He is the new DCM for District 5A. He is trying to find out how many groups there are; there are 24 meetings with 700 attendees per week in the District. He is interested in sponsor workshops, and would like information on workshops held by other Districts.

**District 8 Carrie for Sophie K.:** Bishop has a new GSR and alternate. They found a new location for their meeting in Bishop. They now have a phone line for the High Sierra Group. They hosted the last NAGSC meeting on October 7.

**District 7 Pat G.:** They have 2 GSRs here. Their new Secretary is Holly. Their next District meeting is April 18 (the third Thursday). They will have tickets ready shortly for the Mt. Charleston picnic, which is August 18. April 28 they will have a Barbecue, car wash and speaker meeting.

**District 9 Robin alt for John K.:** The District is solvent. They meet the first Thursday of each month at private residence. They were able to assist 5 GSRs to PRAASA. They are planning their picnic. Last time, they had a dunk-your-sponsor tank.

**District 10A Scott H.:** He is a new DCM that inherited Barbara's job when she moved out of state. At their March 17 District meeting they had 10 people, April 19 is the next one. They will have a July campout. Their next District meeting will be in a tent to attract more people. They want to have a sponsorship workout at their next meeting. They are looking for speakers to come to Elko.

**Districts 10B Buck:** He is an alternate GSR from Winnemucca. Unity Days will be May 11 and 12. This will include the Delegates report on Saturday at 10 AM. There will be speaker meetings, and dinner. He invited everyone to come up to Winnemucca for Mothers Day weekend.

**Note: District 10C is vacant.**

**District 13 Mike McM.:** They took their "On the Road" meeting to Overton recently. They meet 6:30 PM at the Triangle. He had the GSRs stand. He thanked Sheryl for being Secretary.

**District 12 Crystal K:** She didn't resign, as she thought she would after the last Assembly. Things have changed for the better in her District. They had two new GSRs here, plus more coming. They now have a treasurer, secretary and alternate DCM. They get 5 to 8 at each meeting. Things are getting better. They have a Hotline going, the number is 775-423-6009. Their schedule is on a recorded message. On April 14 they will have Charlie K. at their District meeting from 1-4 PM for GSR training.

**District 15 Ralph M:** Their Christmas party was a success. They are having a workshop on April 14, their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Men Sponsoring Men session. It will be at the TIE Club at 1:30 PM.

**District 14 Bill F:** Charlie K. is sick, couldn't come to Tonopah. They had 2 GSRs go to PRAASA. They just finished a 6 month project putting together District guidelines. There is now a young people's meeting in Tahoe City. See Jason for details. On May 24, North Tahoe, will celebrate 50 years of AA in the Lake Tahoe area. Anthony H and Tom A will be speaking with a dance to follow.

**District 16 Judy A:** They will have 2 new GSRs here tomorrow. She had those GSRs that were here stand. In June they will have start planning their Christmas affair. They will host NAGSC at the Sparks Alano club. There District meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed at Alano club at 6:30; they have around 10 GSRs at each meeting.

**District 17 Mike D. alternate :** They have a hotline now, and 775-764-4035 is the number. They have a literature cart in District 17, which goes around to the groups. The weekend of the full moon in June, they will meet in Lovell canyon; flyers will be out soon. They had a twelve steps workshop. They are planning their talent and non-talent show for August. They are looking into insurance again.

**District 18 Don S:** This is his third trip here. District 18 is alive, and they have had 4 District meetings since Sept. Attendance varies from 12 to 30.

**District 21 Julio A:** was not there yet. However, here is his report, added to the minutes: District 21 is working with 2 committees. The H&I Committee is working with Clark County, N. Las Vegas, and Indian Springs institutions. The PI Committee is going to participate on the first Spring Festival on March 24 in Henderson. The District is celebrating 10 years of General Service on March 30, at 2727 Civic Center in N. Las Vegas.

**District 20 Candace P. for Bill P:** She had their GSRs stand. She is an alternate for Bill, as his wife is in the hospital. They recently had a corned beef cabbage party, and they had a big turnout despite snow. They are working on their Founders Day picnic plans. Her home group almost always has standing room only, due to the many court card signees. They have 3 new big book study groups that have started.

**District 22 Luis M:** was not there yet. Here is the report he gave on Sunday: They attended PRAASA in Fresno, and learned many things related to the services as well as noted that a Hispanic Registration table is needed because most Hispanic members do not speak English and they need translation. Due to this they are willing to help the PRAASA 2003 committee, to help as much as possible. They have also been working with District 21 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Convention of AA of NV, at Hotel Sands Regency, 4<sup>th</sup> Street & Arlington Avenue in Reno, July 5, 6, & 7. They are also working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hispanic Regional Congress of AA of the Sierra Nevada, October 11, 12, & 13 in Carson City. They have a service manual study every other Saturday with the GSRs, and a workshop on the last Saturday of every month. They are working with hospitals and visiting NNCR twice a week. They have established communications with an AA member at the Lovelock Correctional Center. On April 20, the New Lite of Sparks will celebrate its anniversary at Paradise Park in Sparks. The District invites everyone to its 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on May 11 at Paradise Park in Sparks at 2 PM.

**Sue K. Special Needs North:** Sue spoke about the PRAASA '02 Special Needs Roundtable – one of the topics was "How to fund ASL interpreters for group, districts, area and PRASSA meetings." Funding ranges from "putting heads in the sand" ignoring the issue completely, receiving grants from outside sources. YES, NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEVENTH TRADITION, and yes, they know this. Other response to this is that groups, districts and areas are designating 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition money to an ASL interpreter fund, as a separated line item in budgets. This separated line item can be found in the PRAASA and the International and other conferences budgets. Other districts and area in the United States are setting aside moneys for ASL interpreters NOW. So when the need arises they are prepared, in the spirit of the Language of the Heart. Sue is not asking for the separated line item in the Area 42 budget at this time. She

is just planting the seed!!! Also discussion was working with CPC and PI in the disabled community. Including special needs chairs and/or info during medical conventions. Ensuring the doors of AA is opening for anyone, anywhere. Educating each other on needs and keeping an open mind. One more time about the deaf and interpreters ... one of the member from Southern CA ... brother is deaf ... and is very limited on his meetings ... he does not understand English ... meaning they have to have a Spanish Sign Language Interpreter!!!

**TJ CPC South:** She has 5 on the committee, and her Cochair went to PRAASA. At their meetings they have training of how to give presentations. They did an informal presentation for a rescue mission. They also did one at Westcare. There is a professional meeting at the Mirage in April, that they will attend.

**Ralph CPC North:** In January he put on an exhibit of for youth court professionals in Sparks. He has sent out letters to all DCMs in the North to try to generate interest at district levels. He has heard back from a couple, hoping to meet with more over the weekend. It is important we get the message to youth court people.

**John F. Intergroup Liaison South:** The annual Service Festival went well. He thanked Ruth and Julian for covering the Traditions and Concepts. Central Office is fiscally sound, the Intergroup Chair (TJ) has reports for anyone interested. The Gratitude Ball will be April 6 at the Gold Coast. The cost is \$40 for tickets, although you can go to hear the speaker and dance for only \$10. They just had their first meeting to plan the Founders Day celebration. It will be June 8 will be at 101 North Rancho. They meet the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the back of Central Office.

**Joe R. Intergroup Liaison North:** He thanked John F for allowing him to learn. Northern Nevada Intergroup now has \$7000 in prudent reserve, in contrast to the position they were in last Fall. The Founders Day picnic will be June 8. They had a Big Book study last month, with over 100 attendees. The PI Committee is working real well. They have a proposal to have a Gratitude dinner committee, directly responsible to Intergroup.

**Carrie for Rick W. Corrections North:** Extended Rick's thanks for being sent to PRAASA. They got a letter from Julio at GSO. There are 160 prisoners back listed at GSO looking for prison pen pals. Prison correspondence is a great thing that only takes about 15 minutes per month. Carrie then passed out the forms to sign up for the prison correspondence program.

**Mark C. Grapevine Chair North:** There are many changes with Grapevine. They are transferring audio cassettes to CD, sold out of pocket planners. They are offering a 4<sup>th</sup> edition Big Book plus Language of the Heart for \$12 on the Grapevine website. There is some controversy regarding this offer. Also "Should we go easy on the God stuff" is the cover story on the latest Grapevine. They now have guidelines for their committee, although they get small attendance. The Grapevine display will be set up at the Spring Festival April 19 and 20.

**Rick H&I South:** He is the Institution chair of southern H&I, and he is filling in for Andre. They now have a "bridging the gap" chair, Brian. They bought some 3rd editions of the Big Book from Central Office for \$1 apiece, to give away in prisons. They got a meeting into the High Desert prison, they are now looking at getting one into the Jean womens' prison again.

**Deanna PI Co-chair South:** They have ordered and are mailing Big Books to all the libraries in Southern Nevada. Their new website is [www.aalasvegas.org](http://www.aalasvegas.org), and it is linked to GSO's website. They got new PSAs to the local radio stations and to Cox cable. They did a 1-hour radio program on radio 107.5 FM. They went to a health fair at the University of Phoenix (in Las Vegas). They are keeping the AA hotline number in the local free newspapers. Their treasurer attended PRAASA. They train in their meetings by going through the PI workbook, and discussing what they could do better.

**David W. for Ray W. Grapevine South:** The committee meets the first Friday of each month at 7 PM at the TIE club. There are 18 members on their committee. They now circulate 65 issues at meetings through these representatives.

Kathy then made the announcement that registration will open again at 7:30 am. The Ask it basket will be on Sunday, pointed out the basket. If you want to purchase tapes of assembly, call 1-800-566-5575 for Las Vegas Audio Taping. There will be an open AA meeting tomorrow morning at 7 AM.

Kathy then asked for any **Old Business**. We now have translation equipment in both the north and south. This equipment was used to help with PRAASA. They have just purchased 10 more receivers. There was no old business.

Kathy then asked for any **New Business**. Mike D. came forward. He was a former Alternate Area Secretary, and he wanted us to consider having an Area Literature Person, in lieu of this job being done by

the Alternate Secretary. Joan commented on a letter she received from Valerie at GSO, asking to give it to the literature person. She thought it might be helpful to have one. Mike commented further that at PRAASA, that others areas had literature chairs. Barbara M. (our Alternate Area Secretary) then mentioned, that the literature part of the job has been a pleasant experience. However, she also noted that most other areas have a separate literature chair. Past Delegate Dick H., then reminded us that we would need an Area Literature Chair and Alternate, but keep in mind, that we could probably afford it. Sam H. reminded that it would be a guidelines change, and would need to be submitted to us before June 1. There was no more discussion. Kathy asked that Barbara and Mike put together a proposal by June 1, to add to the September agenda. There was no further new business. Kathy announced that the Round Tables will start at 8:45, and the Area Committee will meet in the blue room at the same time.

#### **Area Committee Meeting in Blue Room at 8:45:**

Kathy opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. She asked for new DCMs or Committee chairs. The Area Registrar gave a form to Kathy to hand out tomorrow.

Kathy asked about old business.

Joan spoke about the speaker timing lights. She recently called Toastmasters about getting lights. She went to a meeting to find out about them, and got selected to be "toastmaster of the day". She had to join that group so that she could order lights. They are green, yellow, and red lights, similar to those seen at PRAASA. Kathy thanked Joan. The cost of the lights is approximately \$218.

Kathy asked about other old business. Hearing none, she asked about new business.

Joan mentioned the questionnaire that she recently sent out about additional areas, and regions. March 5 was closing date for comments. She has sent back a compilation of responses to GSO.

She mentioned another letter from GSO thanking our area for the additional money that we sent to GSO above the required \$800. We sent a total of \$2000.

At PRAASA there was information on the regional forum given out that had the wrong phone number for the hotel; the right number is 602-273-7778. She now has resumes of all 14 past delegates who are candidates for trustee, including Roberta from our Area. Joan will introduce her at the luncheon at the conference, and would like any funny stories any has about Roberta.

Ideas for the theme for the next International, have to be in before June 30.

They will allow 24 personal computers at the Conference, and there will be a drawing to see who gets to bring them. They will set up a separate area for those people. This is a trial for two years.

John F. asked if Joan gets a taped version. She said no, but they do get the minutes, a written report.

John G. commended the group and our area about translations equipment. He was impressed by how quickly contributions came in to cover that, over \$3000, and we still have \$500 left.

Barbara has found a professional translator, Spanish to English, who knows about AA, and the rates are good.

Kathy said that was good news not only for the assembly, but for PRAASA. She pointed out that they now have self-translation. She wondered about the need for a professional.

John F pointed out that in the PRAASA guidelines it has to be someone not involved in the presentation.

TJ mentioned that this is tough for Julio, and how hard it is to translate and keep up with what is going on.

Joyce mentioned a card that she got from someone in the south who could translate, and wasn't in the assembly. They try in the north to get the people hosting to try to get a translator, but they can be hard to find.

Joe R. wondered if both Hispanic districts had said this. Kathy mentioned that they trade off during the assembly.

Sue K mentioned that in ASL translations, they encourage professionals, because amateurs make mistakes. Even after a couple of years of signing, they miss a lot. That is why they need professionals, and someone will miss stuff.

Joyce brought up certified interpreters, and noted that then you need two. But there are also excellent interpreters who are not RID certified, but it is more like \$20 per hour.

John S pointed out that a buddy would be needed. All would have to be in funds available mode.

John F pointed out that the Spanish was one thing, but hearing impaired isn't an assembly problem right now, because we haven't been notified of any hearing impaired people coming to the Assembly.

Ed dP mentioned that he had bad hearing loss. He didn't hear a lot.

TJ wondered how someone would find out that they needed to ask for interpreter.  
Sue K pointed out that they would find out by going to a special needs or accessibilities committee. She thought we are being open minded.  
Ed dP said that people will miss some stuff whether they are professional or not. If they are not familiar with AA, they might not get the importance of certain feelings, that another AA would get.  
Kathy summed up this discussion by pointing out that we don't have a need at this assembly for professional translation. However, there will be a time when we will need help. And she thanked Barbara for finding a professional Spanish translator.  
Kathy then asked for any more new business.  
Sam looked in guidelines, saw the travel for professional translators is covered up to \$125, with receipts.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

### **Saturday March 23, 2002**

Kathy opened the meeting at 9 AM with the Serenity Prayer. She made announcements about the Big Book that is going around for signatures, and the cards for Louise R. She mentioned that Big Books and service manuals are available for sale in the back of the room. Sunny is selling GSR survival guides for \$2. The Area 42 traveling archives are set up in Blue Room. She pointed out the ask-it basket. She asked for new GSRs to raise hands. Approximately 40 introduced themselves. Concept 1, the long form, was read by Jay S.

Kathy then made a few more announcements, about the banquet and breakfast tickets. 11AM is cut off for banquet tickets, which cost \$15. Breakfast ticket sales will be cutoff at 2 PM and are \$6. Registrar has printed up group forms for changes, please give to David W., Alternate Registrar. Kathy still has jacket left last September.

The first item on the agenda was approval of minutes from last September's assembly. Steve H. asked if everyone had read their minutes, as they were in the October and February newsletters, and given out here too. He asked for corrections or deletions. He asked for a motion to approve. All were in favor. Roberta L. then shared on PRAASA 2003. She is the chair, and Dick H. is the co-chair. She explained what PRAASA is and what it is about. Also the history of how we got it for next year. Now we have the Reno Hilton, and rooms are only \$79 a night. There were around 1100 attendees at Fresno, so they are guessing that there might be 1200 in Reno. She passed around a clipboard for anyone who hasn't signed up yet. Pass it on is our watchword. She has a brief handout at the table on a short history of PRAASA. Reno Hilton is adjacent to airport, so it will be easy to get to. Progress is being made for next March. A Committee meeting will be Sunday after this assembly. This meeting will last an hour or hour and a half. Dick H. is the co-chair, Don L. is program chair, Ed dP. is round table chair. Barbara M. housing and transportation, Treasurer is John G., co-treasurer John S., Registration Robin M., Secretary Sam H., Spanish Translation Victor F., Hospitality Joyce P., Archivist is Roger R.. Ruth J. is her PRAASA sponsor. Ruth has been to all PRAASAs, except the first five.

Dick H. then had a few comments. He introduced Robin M. as registration chair, John F. is co-chair for registration. A mailing will go out in August, and again in January. Julio is Victor's co-chair for Spanish translations. Then they had the other committee chairs and co-chairs stand, Don L, Ed dP., John G, John S, Sam H, Joyce P, Barbara M, Roger R, Joan M is Delegate Liaison. Sam had a question, wondered about contacting Alanon, it is on Roberta's list of things to do.

Kathy S then passed the basket to cover donut expenses for District 6.

Joan M then came up. She told about the letter we got from GSO, thanking us for the extra \$1200 donation above the delegate expense of \$800. She is hoping that the presentations will go smoothly. She asked that we all read the agenda item as the presenter comes forward, so you can help decide what we want her to do with the item.

Kathy noted some changes to the presenters and presentations.

### **CPC**

**Randy S.** covering Item 1: What suggestions are the best to convey Singleness of Purpose in CPC literature. He noted that this impacts traditions 3, 5, 7, 10. He quoted a 1997 advisory action on the single of purpose statement. This statement says that in order to become a member, you need to have a drinking problem. It is being asked that this statement be moved to a more prominent place in the CPC literature.

The members of the Trustees committee did not think the statement needed to be moved. It was suggested that we put more information in CPC workbook. He thanked Joan for asking him to participate. Joan asked Randy to stay at the mike in case there are more questions. Joan wants to know which of the ones should be adopted.

1. Should we relocate where the statement occurs in CPC literature? Trustees didn't think we needed to. Jason then went to a mike. He thought it would be only a problem if professional counselors gave them a referral. He wondered if we were seeing this. He hasn't run into this. He didn't think people came because their professionals sent them. He doesn't think there is confusion in the professional committee, and thinks it is a waste of money to change pamphlet.

Andy the GSR for Misfits, asked about the statement, if this would affect open meetings.

TJ, the CPC south chair, says it is an issue, and in fact, people get sent to AA for anger management, etc, and doctors do send anyone to AA. She doesn't know if moving the paragraph would help.

David B., asked if moving it was the answer. Wondered if it should be in bold letters right at the beginning. Might help if we make it more prominent. Joan then asked about some of the other suggestions.

2. Should there be more articles in the Grapevine, About AA, or Box 459 for singleness of purpose?

Joan then stated that if we move the statement more and put it in more service pieces. The most people were in favor of making these changes. A few were opposed. John K thought he should be able to give his minority opinion. So he went to the mike. The statement being spread through more literature, he thinks is ridiculous. He didn't think he had a drinking problem until he was sober for three years. Some times people don't catch our disease.

Jason then thought we all had had a chance before the raising of the hands.

Bill A from Reno, then brought up that he went to a group in San Diego, about primary purpose.

Next speaker was Number 4 on CPC, **Sherri C.** from Elko:

She had the guides given out to DCM. She thanked people for asking her to share. Spoke about the need for a pamphlet or a flyer similar to "So the Court Sent you to AA and You Hate the Idea". GSO has archivist that this has been going on in Florida since 1966. Many more people being sent now. It doesn't address people being sent by courts. According to the conference approved 1998 survey, 11% are court ordered. She spoke of letter put together in Arizona in 1994, which was like the flyer she handed out. These entities do not follow our traditions, and we cannot stop court referrals. This is not the pamphlet itself, but this is what it would be like. She thinks it would help the court and probation officials.

Mike D. spoke about all the people that were sent to meetings in Tonopah, that the courts just sent us people whether we wanted them or not. Ray G. spoke in favor of the pamphlet, but thinks it will help both the people, and the leaders of meetings. Jim from Susanville, thinks the pamphlet is good, and thought it should add that we are not a religious organization. Ralph likes the pamphlet but not at the CPC level. He thinks it is a good pamphlet, but not at that level. Barbara M. asks where does our responsibility lie? Sue K. likes the pamphlet, but doesn't think it is for court officials, but for the newcomer and for meeting secretaries. John S. thinks it is more of a PI function than CPC. Thinks it should be expanded. Roger R. has been to lot of meetings when court appointed people come in, and denigrate our efforts, and thinks it would be good if we had a pamphlet for secretaries, that would be better.

Many people voted for it, a few opposed.

John K. thinks it should not be at CPC level.

Everyone but three were in favor of having the pamphlet, regardless of where it goes, it is needed.

Next presentation was on **Corrections**.

Discuss ways to get more people to participate in Corrections Correspondence Service.

**Cecil M.** from District 13 came up to give a presentation on Corrections Number 3.

Cecil gave a review on the Corrections Correspondence Service. Inmates and AA members send information to GSO, and they get matched up. Anonymity is protected by PO boxes. Correspondence is similar to sharing in an open meeting. Someone who has been in prison is encouraged, but it works great for anyone. It depends on members interests for success. Need to encourage our chairs at all levels to discuss this at many groups. Should put this information up at group bulletin boards. The flyer is available on table. Handout info should be available from group secretaries. Sponsors should consider recommending this activity to their sponsorees. Depending on which report you read, there are up to 200 members needed to answer letters.

Scarlett P just wanted to make it clear that we go through this program, and not just start writing to inmates we meet on the inside. Joan made clear that the program keeps you separated from them. Lisa asked if ex-felons were eligible. Joan pointed out that it makes no difference. The members' record never comes up this way. Cecil pointed out that it was a good way for those who can't go to prison to help with those who are there. Renie S. asked a question and it was clarified that you do correspond with the same inmate. No vote was taken as it was just ideas that were being looked for.

**Sophie K.** then discussed "Sharing Behind the Walls". How it is now carried into prisons, and how to improve how it is used in prisons. She gave the history of this publication. It is now mailed to General conference members and correctional facility chairs. They are to duplicate and take to facilities. But it is not now mailed to groups meeting in prisons. This only goes to 2 people in each area. We are here to find out better ways to get these out.

Joan M. gets a copy, and she takes it to a prison group. She thinks we need a better connection to get these out. Sophie goes to county jails, she said they got one in a workbook. There doesn't seem to be a consistent way of getting these out. Rennie suggested that it be sent to H&I chairs. Ray G. says that the pink can money should be used to buy this literature. Mike D. pointed out that if it has staples in it you can't take to a lot of prisons. Carrie thought that it isn't mailed because of the cost. If somebody emailed it to her, she could distribute. It was also mentioned that we could mail to all DCMs

No sense of assembly taken, as Joan just wanted the ideas to improve.

Next Correctional f item 5. Joan wanted to know how we could the message inmates in program.

**Lee Z.** spoke about the information, spoke to those who go to jails. There were suggestions that contacts be made with CPC, and luncheons with professionals. Suggested that we keep planting the seed to inmates, or kids. Some doctors don't need to know how it works, but just how to send people to us. Lee quoted Billy S, said it was important to be nice to the prison staff, because sometimes they don't want to let us in. Don't promote AA, be grateful that they let us in. It is important to communicate and be willing to keep going.

Joan thought it was important that we keep going back. Because sometimes there will be turnbacks when there are lock downs. Crystal mentioned the pink cans and how they made contact. The need is great. Sometimes they find members that work in prisons, and they can get the message in that way. Dean wondered if the PI committee in their effort to go to libraries, would go to prison libraries. The PI committee doesn't right now, because those addresses go to H&I and prison committees.

No sense of the Assembly was taken on this as Joan just wanted ideas.

**Finance** item 1 was next.

Joan wants to know about accounting practices for local conventions.

**Candace P.** presented that she thought it was important to have a separate account for internationals. 44 areas do separate accounts. Most events are funded by registration fees.

Joan mentioned that there is a difference if the convention is an AA sponsored convention for AA members, as opposed to a convention put on by AA people who put on conventions for AA people and others. Kevin D. mentioned that we can't tell an outside organization (like a roundup) how to do their accounting. The LV roundup is a separate corporation. He compared it to the way clubs do business. Julio A. mentioned all the Spanish conventions, and how they distribute their money. Joe R. said that if LV roundup is an outside organization, how can AA take money from it? John S. said he was a board member of the Las Vegas Roundup. He mentioned the yellow guidelines, published by GSO. He mentioned that the board sent the money to Intergroup and Alanon, and that SAGSC didn't take any this year. Barbara M. mentioned that if an autonomous group puts on a roundup, she wondered how can we take their money. John S. said that an outside group can send money anywhere, we can refuse to take it if we don't want it. Area 42 is receiving money from both the Tri-State in Laughlin and Fall Roundup in Reno. Kevin D. wanted to clarify that the question on the floor is should be do we audit conventions, not do we take money from them? Joan confirmed this.

John F. pointed out that the board members of the Las Vegas Roundup was mostly in this room, and it is a registered group in NY. John K. mentioned that he agrees with Kevin, that the real issue is does AA want to be an accounting firm and audit things. John G. thinks that these accounting activities should be handled by the locals. Drew wondered what is meant by auditing. Joan said that every year we have someone go through the NAGS books, and make sure money has been spent appropriately.

Joan has all of her information. No voting needed. We adjourned for lunch.

Kathy called us back to order at 1 PM. Kathy reminded us that if when we go to mike, if you've already heard what you are going to say, just pass.

Joan talked about Finance 2. What methods can be used to keep the reserve fund below the maximum level.

**Byron F.** spoke on Finance item 2. What do we do with the extra money? He told of the history of the reserve fund. Approximately \$10M is the current 1 year operating level. In 1998 it was decided to use literature price reductions to keep it below that level. What do we do if we exceed it? Leave it alone is one reaction. Donate literature to libraries etc.

Joan wants to know how to keep it from going over the max. There are rules on what has to happen if we go over. Groups only provide about 50% of the money, the rest comes from literature. What methods should be used to keep from going over?

Mike D. asked if the literature reduction isn't what we've always done in past? Ray G. wondered if they had raised the top of the fund last year. He is in favor of raising the max instead of lowering literature prices. Kevin D. remembers they would drop big book price one year, then group contributions would drop, and the price would go back up. He thinks literature shouldn't fluctuate in price.

John K. says we are lacking across country in getting books into prisons, etc. He thinks GSO could give away, don't fluctuate literature prices. Better to expand services. TJ says it goes down to \$5 or up to \$6. She says it's not a big deal, don't fix it. Carrie, thinks GSO could help finance interpreters for assemblies etc with extra money.

## **Grapevine item 2**

Joan asked what new items should be produced in 2004 and after.

**Dave B.** on item 2: He went over the recommendations.

The Grapevine is our meeting in print. Should a pamphlet on the Grapevine be produced?

Should we consider other related items for production?

They help GV keep its selfsupport status. There was a proposed list

1. Declaration of Responsibility sign
2. Best of GV cd's.
3. Spanish language cd of La Vina articles.

Possibly each year see related items, at least two years in advance, can now drop to one year in advance, due to faster technologies.

Mark C., the Northern Grapevine chair, thinks the idea of a Declaration of Responsibility sign is good. They formerly had a purple and red sign for carry the grapevine. He thinks they should produce it again, and sell it instead of giving away. He thinks Grapevine T-shirts or hats would work. Randy, the District 6 GVR, says that they want a permanent Grapevine display. Any kind of display stuff. Sue K. asked about the Grapevine in Braille? Joyce P. thinks a special edition on the traditions and concepts of Bill W's writing would be good. People generally thought the three things would be good.

## **Grapevine item 3**

Joan says the question is: Should new ideas be reviewed annually?

**Brenda V** presentation: Previously two years in advance was required in 1992. Now because of new technology, the Grapevine staff wants to drop to one year so that they can get on the new items sooner. The Con was that it might cost more, and Pros were that they could do this already.

Joan clarified that the items that we just voted on are for 2004. Morgan from MD, said that he was on the Grapevine committee. The only reason they wait two years is that a long time ago they required this. They have already approved a book on newcomer directed stories from the Grapevine, because of the rules it is now not available until 2004. Mike S thought maybe we need to stay out of this, that maybe we're micromanaging.

Joan wants a sense of the assembly to keep at two year or drop to one year.

All but three were for dropping to one year.

## **Literature item 1**



Joan says that this is about the dropped stories project. It is about the Publications department doing editorial fine tuning, rather than GSO editors. How much of this should be given to the publications department.

**Kathy S** on item 1: How much responsibility should be delegated to the Publications department on this book? Early on AA decided to be its own publisher. The AA Publications board oversees this. She believes that we should allow them to do their own job as now.

Dave B. thinks we should let them do, or it will take ten years before this book comes out.

Jimbo asked about the book. Joan clarified that the book is already under way, that it is the 55 stories that have been taken out of editions 1, 2, and 3 of the Big Book.

Ray G asked about changes to the big book. It was clarified that this is not a big book.

Roberta was on the panel that accepted this book. The stories will not be changed, we are giving publishing department the authority to do what we have already told them to do.

Randy: asked about “maintain”, if that is how it is now. Joan clarified that this would be similar to how they produced other things. So Joan is asking if we want to keep letting the Publications department doing their job. All were in favor of this.

Literature item 7: How should a Spanish translation of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition be done?

Ernest is translating for **Luis M**: The feeling of the Spanish groups is the idea to produce a new 4th edition of the Big Book in Spanish. They would keep the same chapters, appendix, foreword, and first three stories. They now have the stories of 3 Americans, 4 Puerto Ricans, 5 Mexicans, and 1 Ecuadorean. They just want to keep the first three stories. For the rest of the stories they want to combine input from young people, and people with a long time in AA. They want the feeling that the Spanish groups are a part of the book, and they would send in their own stories, and get to decide the stories in it. That is all they can say for the moment.

Joan asks: Are you asking for just stories or a complete translation?

Luis tells that they now 15 stories in back of the Spanish edition.

Joan says that this includes 12 stories not in the English Big Book, want new ones now.

Luis says these are ideas that they have. Mike S. thinks you can't change due to publications laws.

Joan mentioned that their book is different now. They want a new version, with new stories also.

Mike D. says we need to take to GSO. All were in favor of a new version for the Spanish edition.

Literature 8 and 9 Joan: new text for existing pamphlets. What information should be made available to members in these pamphlets?

**John S.** for Joe A., who is in the hospital: On the “Your DCM” flyer, John quoted from a letter from the Area 51 delegate, that they rotate half of their DCMs off in the opposite year from the delegate. They recommended that the pamphlet be revised, just to cover those areas. They suggest that a reference to the Service Manual be added at the front of the pamphlet.

On the “Your AA GSO” pamphlet, there is a suggestion on how they answer questions in Spanish. They want to add a broader statement into the pamphlet regarding the International Convention.

Joan wants to know if we are in favor of those changes? They were mostly in favor, although 3 were opposed. Terri thought that it was needless to add to the pamphlet. Its target seems to be non DCMs so why would they look in service manual.

Literature item 13. A proposal for putting the Doctor's Opinion on page 1 as it was in first edition. Since the second edition, the Doctor's Opinion has been in the Roman-numbered pages.

**Robin M.** on this issue: It is definitely an emotional subject. If it became page one, then the first 164 pages would become the first 172. That would change all of our favorite pages. Why would we want to do this?

Is it to honor Dr. Silkworth, or what? Why was the change made in the first place? You can a lot of different answers. It didn't happen normally. Even his group was unanimous in leaving as is. He found one guy who was very emotional in changing it back. Maybe we should do this before the Fifth Edition.

Gary thinks they moved to page 1 because Bill is number 1. Leave alone.

David from the 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension group, thought it would be tough to do, but jacket would have to be reworded. Barbara M. stated that the Doctors Opinion is on page xxv. Many people say to read doctors opinion. So what if it is not on page 1. Lee Z. said his group said to leave as is. Sam H. says that the foreword changed between the 2nd and 3rd editions, due to something that came out and was put back in. Need to keep sending people back to read the Doctor's Opinion.

Asked who wanted to change, 4 wanted to change, everyone else wanted to keep it like it is. Don said that his group was unanimous in changing it back and had 3 reasons, one that it should be redone as it was, one that it should be for newcomers, not us.

We took a break from 2:30 to 2:40. Kathy had copies available of the inflation calendar that Kevin D. talked about one of the round table sessions.

Literature item 12: **TJ** had a presentation on this: This is in reference to the following statement in the Foreword to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition: “Fundamentally, though, the difference between an electronic meeting and the home group around the corner is only one of format.” A lot of people are upset about this statement in the Foreword to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Her group believes that this was a substantive change to the foreword. There is nothing wrong with electronic meetings, but something is missing even having meetings over the phone. Thinks a newer version would be better. The structure of the home group is not possible online. Bill L. said that his group wanted the whole paragraph removed. We are built on roots. Says that you’re not a group anymore if modern to modern. Kevin D. was reminded of a Grapevine article on online meetings. It said 7 or 8 years ago that the purpose of online meetings was for shut ins. He pointed out that you can’t see peoples faces when you are online or on the telephone. Dave B. said that tone and inflection don’t come across in email. He has misconstrued things before. He doesn’t think we should ever denote that this is the equal of face to face meetings. The vote was probably 3 to 1 in favor of deleting this statement. Lee Z has a lot of disabled friends online buddy lists, etc. Bill L pointed out that it is not the same as an in person meeting.

#### **Policy and Admissions** Items 3 and 4

Joan: This has to do with the questionnaire that she sent out to DCMs. She just wants to know if the form meets the needs, and should we have the special meeting.

**Jason C.** on this item: He says that he will present the information that he has found. Does it meet the needs of the committee? Some of the problems are state populations, huge areas with small populations, expenses, etc. The actual application form is the only information that is given to the committee. More would be better. He has an application and one with changes. They all address geography, population and expense. The revised form would be 4 pages rather than 2. Nothing was deleted. Number of groups that participated, how many for, against, comments from minority, are all included. The structure and function of the existing area is discussed. The number of active DCMs, and whether they are involved with the delegates work, are both items. Item 4 is whether a special meeting should be held before the conference begins. Area 5 was last one to split their area, which happened in 2000. Prior to the conference each member on the committee called the Area 5 delegate. A special meeting would allow all members to all hear the same answers to their questions, and the responses to all of the other questions. Does the two page form meet the needs?

Bill H says that when he gave a report on the question of Area 5 splitting two years ago, he didn’t think the application was sufficient. Barbara M. says that more information is better.

When the question was called, all but two were in favor of expanding the form.

On the question of having a special meeting, all were for it.

#### **Policy and Admission** 6

**Ruth J.** on this issue: She explained the difference between conference approved literature and our non-conference approved literature such as our workbooks. These can be updated more often. Should every member read every piece of literature before it becomes conference approved, it would take a lot longer to get anything published. Because they now go through committees, there is a good cross section of opinions. Delegates need to work on the committees they are assigned to, rather than read and approve everything that happened. Do we feel that all 135 members read and approve everything or stick with conference committees.

David B. asked how many of us read that form that we just voted on?

All but three in favor of keeping as is.

#### **Public Information** item 4

Joan on this question: Do we degenderize our “policy”, which is in several publications.

**Sue K.** on this Question: Should we consider changing the personal pronoun to be gender neutral in the statement: “A.A.’s Movement-Wide Public Information Policy” approved by the 1956 General Service Conference, and included in several A.A. publications? Here is the policy:

“In all public relationships, A.A.’s sole objective is to help the still-suffering alcoholic. Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to him, and to those who may be interested in his problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol. We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism”

The creation of the Public Information Committee was a logical development in A.A.’s growth and was designed to fill two needs which had become increasingly demanding: (1)The need to prevent misunderstanding of our Fellowships, and the equal importance of creating increased understanding of our program. (2) The need, expressed by Bill, for broader sharing of responsibility on sustaining A.A.’s sound movement-wide public relations. From the Final Report of the 1956 General Service Conference: A.A. Fact File was developed for distribution, upon request, to writers, editors and others in the fields of publishing, radio, television and motion pictures.

~ From the A.A. Fact File: This statement reflects a long-standing A.A. tradition of not seeking publicity for promotional purposes, but of always being willing to cooperate with representatives of all media who seek information about the recovery program or about the structure of the Fellowship.

~ From the Public Information Workbook: Public Information in Alcoholics Anonymous means carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. A.A. Guidelines Public Information **has been** updated to read: Always mindful of the importance of personal anonymity, we believe this can be done by making known to the still-suffering alcoholic, and to those who may be interested in their problem, our own experience as individuals and as a Fellowship in learning to live without alcohol.

☞ The foreword to First Edition: We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, are more that one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.

☞ In 1973 the General Service Conference Advisory Actions: The P.I. Kit be reviewed annually by the Conference Committee on PI to keep it effective and up to date.

☞ AA 2001 Membership Survey *Draft Version* – more the 7,510 AA members from the US and Canada participated in the survey

- 33% Women
- Factors responsible for members coming to AA
  - Self-motivated 33%
  - Family 23%
  - The Media 1 %

☞ AA Japan – of the 4,000 members 800 are women. Which is less then 2%

☞ Female population of the US is a little over 50%

☞ This statement was written in the pose (style) of the time.

☞ The first 164 pages, the Preface, the Forewords, “The Doctor’s Opinion”, ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare’ and the Appendices remain as is.

~ This statement is used as public information about AA and with keeping with the times/ages should follow the logical course of the present day terminology.

Pat G. spoke against it. Barbara M. spoke for changing.

Candace P. spoke against it because Bill wrote it.

Joan pointed out that it wasn’t written by Bill, and we weren’t changing big book.

Don S pointed out that in the English language “him” is gender neutral.

When the question was called, it was pretty much split.

Cecil said that making new words won’t help. He thinks English is fine.

TJ spoke that since this is for “public information,” we should change for the general public. Kerry said that since this is for PI, it could help us in reaching more people. Dick H. said that he thought it was okay that we are split, since we are looking for sense of assembly. Deanna said that some of the material has already been changed, so this should be done to remain consistent. Crystal wanted to make sure it didn’t cover everything broadly. When the sense of the assembly vote was taken, it was approximately 2 to 1 for degenderize.

#### **PI item 5**

Joan: Does our literature adequately explain that our program is spiritual, not religious.

**Ronnie M** on this: She went to a dictionary to see the difference between religious and spiritual. Religion has specific rites, where spiritual shows a more general belief. Pamphlet on spirituality was voted down, but it is proposed to add to existing pamphlets. There is an idea of producing a simple uniform statement. But it was decided against, because it might sound like a policy. They are thinking of changing two pamphlets, clarifying that it is a spiritual not religious program.

Crystal thinks that there is a need to define it more. Her son took a religious course, and the professor said that we were a religion. Jason C. is from NY, says that they are passing a law in NY to remove it from treatment center. TJ says that the government classifies us as a religion. Gabrielle says that we don’t point it out in the Preamble. John just pointed out that his college professor also felt it was a religious. Mike D. says we have 12, not 10 commandments. Randy doesn’t think the changes that we are making will make any difference.

When the sense of the assembly vote was taken, the majority thought we need to explain better.

#### **Report and Charter item 1**

Joan: Review the Service Manual to put back the service wheel chart, and add maps of the Areas in the US and Canada.

What changes should we make to the Service Manual?

**Paul E.** on this item: Paul thinks we should put back the circular chart. He saw several group functions that his group could have but doesn’t. He concluded that it was taken out because of editing that happened by reducing chapter 2 from 8 pages to 5. All of that information is in the Group pamphlet. He thinks that they concluded that if it was in pamphlet, it didn’t have to be in the Service Manual. It seems like it would be easier to have it all in one book (Service Manual). He thinks maps of the areas would be good, because he responds to visual. Same with the Regional maps. Thinks that reviewing those two chapters would be good.

John S. is all in favor because a picture is worth a thousand words.

When the question was called, all but one were in favor of putting it back in.

Gary, the voice of the minority, said he thinks it is not needed because those who read the Service Manual would already know.

Item B maps, all in favor of adding maps, except one. Item C regional maps, unanimous on maps. Item D to reflect updating text was unanimous.

#### **International convention/Forums Item 2**

Joan: discuss ways to encourage participation at forums.

**Warren P.** on this: He explained what Regional Forums are. They started in 1975. They are sharing sessions, not formal motions. Carry AA message through service. He stated that early organization of host committee, and pre-forum sessions with committees would help. Also, early mailing of the forum agenda. Make sure local intergroups have information on this. There should be articles on the front pages of area and local newsletters. There could be a special letter to DCMs to discuss in their meetings. Starting a web page is good, too.

Mike D. said that probably 10 years ago they thought about bringing a special forum to rural Nevada.

John S. thinks that we need to do a better job in spreading the word on forums. Julian R. then explained about forums. Forums are sponsored by GSO, so that the average AA member would have a better idea what GSO is about. It is for the average member, not the service junkies who go to assemblies and PRAASA. It usually has one presentation from each department. There is a Pacific Regional Forum

coming up July 12-14 in Phoenix AZ. Sunny S. said she only heard about forums in the GSR body. She thinks a flyer on forums would be good.

Joan thanked us for giving her the feedback she needed to carry our conscience back to NY. We adjourned until 6 PM for seating for the banquet.

### **Sunday March 24, 2002**

**Kathy S.** opened the Assembly at 9 AM. She thanked the District 6 volunteers for the great job they have done. Also she thanked everyone here. Kathy turned it over to **Joyce P.**, to act as chair, as Kathy had to leave to take the Saturday night speaker back to Las Vegas to catch the airplane back to Maryland.

Committee Reports, Continued from Friday night:

**Renie S. Accessibilities South:** They are looking for groups to sponsor ASL interpreters, which costs about 35 per month. They got their wheelchairs back. They are accepting donations for loan library. Their new pamphlet is available from GSO. They meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, at the Triangle club.

### **Area Officer Reports**

**Chair - Kathy S.:** Kathy thanked us for sending her to PRAASA. She was happy to listen and learn.

**Alternate Chair - Joyce P.:** She thanked us for sending her to PRAASA. She thanked us for helping with the translation equipment. She has been to several district 22 functions, and saw how good they worked. NAGS guidelines are being updated.

**Delegate - Joan M.:** They have approved Roberta as a candidate for Pacific Regional Trustee. She is asking for interesting stories about Roberta, to use when she introduces her at the PRAASA Lunch at the conference. The Literature Committee person at GSO, sent a letter on things that are happening. There is a new Big Book translation into Chinese. The currently published big books in French and Spanish are not a translation of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. There are about 600 pages in those books. There are dates open for Forums, after 2004. We could put together a proposal for one of those years. There will be a Remote communities meeting again this year at the conference. Joan wrote up some stuff about NV, for that meeting. A little about native Americans, senior centers, other languages, etc. The theme for the 2005 International Convention needs to be proposed before June. In September they will be putting out housing flyers. Susan U., who spoke here last September is retiring, and they need someone to replace her. Joan has an application, if anyone is interested. She told us about the 24 people who get to use PCs at conference. She has a list of 10 FAQs about websites, that she will make available. She thanked us for the opportunity to be the Delegate, knows she is still learning, and will keep learning. Reminded us that any of us could do this job. Urged us to be willing.

Then Joyce took over as acting Chair.

**Alternate Delegate - John S.:** John thanked us all, thanked the presenters, and reminded us about the May 12 meeting at the TIE club. Joan will give the Delegate's report there. He thanked us for a wonderful event.

**Archives - Roger R.:** At PRAASA in Reno next March, he has arranged to have the traveling archives from GSO there. He is still looking for group histories. Here is one: Hi Sierra group in Bishop, the history was read by Carrie. It was written by Becky S. The group goes back to 1979.

**Registrar - Sam H.:** He thanked us for sending him to PRAASA, it was his 15th. He gave a presentation there, and was really nervous. He panicked when the yellow light came on. So he left out many of the things he was going to say. Response to GSR update forms has been much better this year. He would like to get them back soon. This is what they base the western directory on.

**Alternate Registrar - David W.** Thanked the new GSRs for being here. He also thanked Sam for doing his job. He showed both the new group form, and the group change forms. The other form was to capture email information. Rising postage rates, etc. Talked to Elaine at GSO, they are switching to "Access" there, which should make it more convenient to communicate with us.

**Treasurer - John G.:** Thanked us for sending him to PRAASA. He also thanked us for the translation equipment, that once the need was there the money showed up. \$3500 was contributed, and we still have \$500 left. He reminded people to put their group number on their contributions. Area 42 has \$8931.14 in checking, \$7341.03 in savings, for a total of \$16272.44, plus \$1000 prudent reserve equals \$17272.44 total

in bank. Look at the report to see if your group has contributed. Noted that he received registration money from 174 people at this Assembly. Thanked us for letting him serve.

**Alternate Treasurer - Byron F.:** He also serves as the SAGSC treasurer. Right now SAGSC has \$4930 in bank, and things are running on budget. He has a list of all the groups that contributed this year. Be sure to include your address if you need a receipt. Cash on hand at end 2001 was 7906.12. Make checks payable to the SAGSC treasury, PO Box 71804, Las Vegas, NV 89170.

**NAGSC Treasurer - Bill H.:** The last time he reported to us last Fall, he thought NAGSC would be bankrupt by now. Instead, they now have over \$5000 in bank, and they funded a number of people to PRAASA, so they got good group contributions. The balance is \$4173.06 in checkbook, with \$1032.50 in savings.

**Alternate Area Secretary - Barbara M.:** At the last NAGS meeting, Barbara was sick. She thanked Joan for being there, and taking notes on her laptop. They do have minutes, but she hasn't been able to send them out yet. She is trying to a better secretary to NAGS.

**Area Secretary - Steve H.:** He said that 165 had registered at the Assembly. Our treasurer collected from 174. We only had printed materials for 165. He said we will plan on 225 for September.

Joyce then gave us a break prior to the Ask-it basket.

**Ruth J.** called us together for the Ask it basket.

First question : Why didn't we cover all the items on the Conference agenda?

Joan answered that she chose the questions based on what she knew would come to the floor. Since she is on the PI Committee, she leaned heavily toward those items. Some of the questions won't apply to what the groups would know about ahead of time anyway. So she tried to pick stuff that she thought would be applicable.

What do you do when groups in your town don't pay attention to traditions, and you are alienated?

Roberta said that if it happened in Fallon, she would try to get others from other towns to help. She thought that maybe you could get the group to discuss traditions once a month.

Why is Central Office not a part of the service structure?

Dick H. said they are not a part of the general service structure. Ruth pointed out that they are part of the local service structure, rather than general. We are lucky in that we have a liaison.

Next question involved trying to stay anonymous in a small town. AA is written on our Area 42 checks that we have to cash.

Kevin D. said he was not that anonymous. But he suggested that you could go to a large town, and go cash it there. John G. jumped in. He said that sometimes he has gotten a money order for someone instead of a check, which would keep it anonymous.

The next question was in reference to fundraisers for districts, raffles, etc. Are these in keeping with the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition?

Julian R. said that in the true essence of the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, the measure is whether money is coming in from members. In a pure world we would be getting money only from our members. These groups or districts are open to criticism. Regarding Central Offices, they don't compete with general service, they complement it. They handle local AA needs.

What does DCM stand for? Ruth stated district committee member.

Kevin question: What are your feelings about the loss of personal touch, with online meetings.

Kevin dug back through old Grapevines, and read the article from 1995, and believed that the purpose was for people who don't have access to in-person meetings. For anyone who can get to a regular meeting, get to one. Easier to hide your feelings online or via telephone. This can be an excuse for looking your sponsor in the eye.

Joan question: My group did not receive the agenda until 2 weeks before this meeting, so I couldn't bring group conscience. Can anything be done?

They have harassed delegates to get items by the end of January. The agendas can't come out until the middle of February. She received it on February 17. She Emailed it to everyone she had addresses for at that time. There are 459 groups in NV. You can harass your DCM. Some of the district meetings first heard last week.

Dick question: How do you encourage your home group to spend? My group has a larger prudent reserve than the Area.

Healthy groups will move their money on. After cakes and coffee, they should move their money on. It always makes him wonder why, if a group has a large fund. If you are uncomfortable, move on to another group.

Roberta question: Should AA areas, districts, intergroups, etc, take money from conferences, roundups, etc. that have non AA members.

She pointed out that people have been debating this for years. She pointed out that most roundups have boxes to check to declare AA or Alanon, so that the money can be kept separate.

Julian question: What is your feeling on the logo use on other things?

We have abandoned the circle and triangle logo. GSO has no opinion on any using this on anything. GSO is not putting it on their literature anymore. However, when you go to GSO in NY, there is a big one, right where you enter.

There was a statement about apathy, how do we instill the passion for service in people?

Ruth likes guilt as a motivator.

Joan said that 10% of the people do 90% of the work. If you want people to get into service bring them along. She has got her sponsor after 26 years of sobriety to catch the virus "GSR". Be an attraction for people to get into service. You can't make people do it, you have to show them how much fun it is.

**Ruth J.** then made some closing remarks. She reminded us that Roberta is having a PRAASA meeting after this. She remembered 10 years ago, when we started thinking about a pre-conference assembly. It is great to meet and greet old friends. She commented on our singleness of purpose. It is a compliment that they are sending others to us. Anyone is welcome to listen at meetings. She hopes we remain inclusive rather than exclusive. She hopes Grapevine can be just a magazine. She thinks they shouldn't have to keep coming up with new ideas. She never thought AA was a religion.

**Joyce P.** thanked all the past delegates and current delegate for answering the questions in the ask-it basket. The forum is July 12 through 14 in Phoenix. Your last chance to send resumes for NAGS meetings are in August, for SAGSC in July. The next SAGS meeting is May 12 at the TIE club.