

Secretary Minutes from September 5, 6, 7, 2003 Fall Assembly Tonopah, NV

Friday, September 5, 2003

Assembly opened at 6:30 PM by Barbara M., Area 42 Chairperson with Serenity Prayer. Sherrill read the Preface from the Area 42 Guidelines and Rick W. read the Introduction to the 12 Concepts for World Service from the Pamphlet of the same name. Opening remarks from Barbara M. included the importance of the 12 Concepts and she directed all in attendance to utilize Area Officers and the multitude of past delegates and trustees in attendance at the Assembly to answer any questions about the Concepts.

Guests were introduced included; past Class B trustees from Area 42, Ruth J. and Julian R. as well as Tony T from the state of Connecticut. Also past Area 42 Delegates; Dick H., Roberta L., Joan M., Kevin D., and John G., (area 07) and Marita H., (area 05).

Changes to the agenda were made and overviewed and the Assembly informed that due to lack of communication that the Sunday Countdown Breakfast would not be held this Assembly.

BREAK FOR GSR TRAINING IN BLUE ROOM AND AREA COMMITTEE MEETING IN MAIN ROOM – GSRS INVITED TO ATTEND EITHER.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES:

Committee was asked whether they were in favor of the formation of an ad-hoc committee to explore the possibility of an Area 42 Website. The Committee agreed to the idea and the Committee was formed; Ed dP, Terri K., Steve H., Chris R, Rick(?) and Rick M(?). Committee will make a report at the Spring 2004 Assembly.

Barbara M. asked if any other groups/districts or Northern or Southern areas were experiencing and difficulties? Bill F. discussed the need for an orderly process for transition of standing committees to build on an existing foundation and make job more effective. He expressed no need for ad-hoc committee but stated that concerned individuals working together could make things happen.

More loving discussion ensued with Joyce P. suggesting that it may be more a local (North) problem and not an Area problem that should be dealt with at NAGSC

The issue about more inclusion of the Hispanic Alcoholic population of Area 42 was brought up by Ed dP. Are we doing enough to include the Hispanic Alcoholic Community? Perhaps not enough; Discussion about historical efforts and present efforts ensued with Kathy S and Joyce P recounting the attempts made in past to include that part of the Area that spoke Spanish. Illustrations were given and it was agreed we need to continue our efforts to include them especially in Assembly.

A suggestion was made by Dean B that an Area Committee position might be created to bridge the gap, a Liaison perhaps. A proposal will be made to the assembly (see note later).

(attendees)

Barbara P	Beverly H	Ernie P	Brian H	Sam R	Bill P
Mary D	Robert P	Bill L	Ray G	Sophie K	Carol B
Barbara M	Ed dP	Joyce P	Kathy S	Jeannette R-W	Terri K
Michael M	Kathy Sq	Bill F	Chris R	Jim L	Lou A
Mary Jo A	Rick S	Paul E	Sam H	Elizabeth S	Rick W
Dave W	Susan K	Candace P	Steve H	Rick B	Roger R
Mark C	Dean B	Julia S			

COMMITTEE ADJOURNED

Saturday, September 6, 2003

Assembly opening postponed until 9:12 am due to insufficient chairs in room to accommodate late arrivals. Convention Center complied and meeting commenced at 9:12 am.

Tonia read Concept 3 from the pamphlet on the Twelve Concepts. Barbara M announced the availability of the pamphlet on 12 Concepts and Meeting Directories. Basket was passed for Doughnut reimbursement and all money needed was made on first passing of the "basket".

Minutes for the March Preconference Assembly were approved unanimously.

DCM REPORTS

District 1 Mike thanked Roni and Kerri for their assistance in work done prior to his taking position. About 17-25 people usually attend district meetings. The District had questions about area positions and Robert will sit in on meeting to discuss committees and how they can serve others. Picnic on October 4; free potluck.

District 2 No representative

District 3 Bill L. stated district is alive and well. Introduced GSRs. Las meeting held in Mesquite and Delegate Report was given (August 10th). Treasury has balance of about \$650. Next business meeting is 10/12 at the LV Central Office at 1 PM. Thanks.

District 4 Mark C. Meetings average 6 to 9 attendees. Meet 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Reno Triangle Club. All district offices are filled. Updates to groups are being done. Thanks to alternate Bob K for helping out. District has \$500 prudent reserve with excess sent to NAGSC and Area. District participated in 2 GSR Survival classes. Thanks to Sam H for being there and doing classes. Correction Chair participated in August meeting and several GSRs are taking in meetings to facilities. Treatment Chair due in October meeting. Controversial bi-monthly meeting seem to have found a niche and will continue on alternate months to regular meeting. Panel of trusted servants have helped with topic meetings such as; "Singleness of Purpose", "Myths in AA", and "7th Tradition ~ Beyond the Basket". Thanks

District 5a Lou thanked the Assembly for allowing him to serve.

District 5b Dean B. announced the picnic at Centennial Park on October 4. (flyer). Doing and inventory of the groups in the districts to ensure accuracy. DCM is relocating to SoCal in January and will do his best to pass on good information.

CHAIR ASKED AT THIS POINT IF ANYONE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH SPANISH TRANSLATION?

District 6 Dave stated quiet summer – no controversy. Roy G put together workshop on The Group which was narrated by John N. Founders Day picnic held in Genoa was great success and Kathy S came and did Delegate report. Fall Festival coming up shortly in S. Lake Tahoe. Bob and Bill's excellent adventure coming (flyer). Bill F will speak to District on Treatment Centers at October meeting.

District 7 Holly H. reported 3 GSRs in attendance. Alternate, Pat G is very supportive. Car wash in May very successful and Delegate report given. Picnic at Mt. Charleston also very successful. Introduced GSRs.

District 8 Jeannette reported that the District is still without a Treasurer and recording secretary, vacancies are being announced. Bishop now has Men's Stag. Bishop group okay and voted against proposal to change To Wives Chapter. High Sierra Group is moving. Voted to change title of chapter To Wives only, not wording in chapter. Mammoth Lakes group had campout and it was a big success. New group has joined with them recently. District C&T committee needs new men's jail contact and juvenile facility contact.

District 9 Mary Jo acknowledged GSRs in attendance. Great cooperation in putting on successful spring event. Changing meeting schedule to 6X per year (2 at SAGSC, 2 at Tonopah, and 2 prior to events as needed). New exciting event; Annual AA Movie Fest using historical films. Group information sheets being updated.

District 10a Rick, as new DCM, stated the problems getting people to chair meetings. Still keeping the doors open however. Meetings in Spring Creek and Carlin. August had Serenity in Rubies Campout which went well and Kathy S did Delegate's report and her husband Russ was Sat. speaker. Planning for next year has already begun.

District 10b Butch did overview of area, which is in a state of rebuilding.

District 10c no representative

District 11 Jerry did his presentation on the meetings in district of Tonopah and Smoky Valley. Holding meetings in Conversion Camp prison. 100% attendance of GSRS at this Assembly!

District 12 John S described state of District as in need of moral support. Core people do all the work and thanks to the Assembly for allowing him to be of service.

District 13 Kenny stated district area covers Triangle Club (LV) and they have 28 registered groups and 77 weekly meetings. 6 GSRS attending Assembly. Fair level of participation at District meetings. Working on suggested set of Guidelines for District which is taking time in order to get informed group conscience.

District 14 Chris R, alternate gave report for DCM. District is revisiting guidelines and making several changes. Considering District Website and has an ad-hoc committee at this time. Had a Corrections and Treatment workshop with Bill F, Joyce P and Kathleen S and Amur R. C&T taking meeting into Westhills Adolescent unit every Tuesday. Hosted NAGSC meeting in August. Held 5th annual Jamboree, which was very successful with over 50 people in attendance. Treasury is noticeably lower this year- uncertain as to why.

District 15 Dave stated that there was more GSRS participating than before. Women Sponsoring Women and Men Sponsoring Men workshops went well with 30-40 people attending. Picnic was fun with about 76 people attending. Next event is Traditions Workshop on Sept. 28th at the Tie Club with 3 past delegates/trustees participating. (flyers) Financially the District is doing better and all GSRS were able to be funded if needed.

District 16 Paul E. stated that he and 7 others represent the District at Tonopah. Assisted in two GSR Survival Training Classes in past 6 months. Annual Christmas Affair planning is in full swing. (flyers) Grateful to be of service.

District 17 Roxanne Z stated District has 16 groups with 23 meetings. 10 groups have GSRS but attendance at district meetings is sluggish. Big Book and 12X12 meetings are starting up. Completing financial audit of district new secretary for district easing burden on DCM. AA hotline and 12th step support in growing and H&I meetings in jails are continuing. CPC working with VA and hotel and casinos to support and educate. Spring Roundup is Mother's Day weekend 2004. Next event – Talent/No Talent show and Spaghetti Feed on October 19. Alcathon on Christmas and New Years supported by district.

District 18 Carol B, new DCM gave update on Don S. who was past DCM and is on duty military overseas. Thanks to Don for all his support and encouragement. Group "archiving" is a work in progress. Good mix in district of newcomers and insightful elders. Yerington group sponsoring a "Sponsorship Panel Discussion" on September 21 with Joyce P, Garen S, Rick and Jeanette W as panelists. The TRE, End of the Road group is sponsoring the next NAGSC meeting on October 5 at the Topaz Ranch Estates Park Bldg.

District 19 no representative

District 20 Candace introduced her GSRS. Attendance at district meetings has made slow progress. Being spread out has been challenging and the support has been great. Alternate John M has been invaluable. Very active in Susanville. District meetings have rotated in location for more support. John's wife, Shelly has been very helpful and encouraging. Sam has also been supportive in an area that is 100 miles from my home. She is in love with AA and a good foundation has been laid. It took over 10 hours to get to Assembly and sometimes makes one question why am I doing this?!! But by Sunday the magic of Tonopah happens all over again and am wishing the opportunity could be more frequent.

District 21 Ruben – Este distrito cuenta cn 11 grupos 10 tienen RS 6. El comite de JP pasa el mensaje en la radio y en el periodico y dieron una Junta de informacion en Mesquite. El comite de H&I cuenta cn 4 Hospitales y 3 carceles. El comite del Grape trabaja mus duro. Contamos con un comite de Raund.ub(?) el cual festejaremos en Noviembre. El distrito 21 ase juntas planificacadas cada mes con los comites auxiliares. El 4 de Mayo tuuimos nuestro primer foro de las Vegas. El 11, 12, y 13 de Julio Realizamo nuestra 5th convencion Hispana del Estado de Nevada. El 26 de Julio festejamo el 20 aniversario de la yegada del mensaje de habla hispana a Las Vegas.
(SECRETARY NOTE: APOLOGIES IF THERE ARE ANY MISTAKES FROM THE WRITTEN VERSION)

District 22 Luis reported for Pablo, the DCM, that there were numerous activities going on in the district. Spanish Congress meeting upcoming and all is good! (No written report)

BREAK

Old Business Liberty Belles proposal (see last meeting minutes and Spring 2003 Newsletter)
Proposal read and position of group restated.

Ruth J. commented the fact that GSO does not make changes to the Big Book but rather that the members of the Area empower the delegate of that area to make recommendations to **The General Service Conference** which is charged with making or not making changes.

Julian R. also presented information for the Assembly's use. Julian brought to light historical precedence in this area and noted that changes to the Big Book only occurred approximately once every 20 years and with a great deal of forethought and care. This issue has been dealt with numerous times in the past. He stated this was information not to sway but

rather to inform the Assembly. A non-AA publication attempted to change the 1st 164 pages of the book to gender-neutral language in the 1990's and it did not sell well. The book is now out of print and is called "*A Simple Program*".

Open and loving discussion ensued and a sense of the Assembly was taken and the proposal to change the "Chapter to Wives" to "Chapter to Family and Friends" did not pass.

Minority opinion was expressed and it resulted in one additional vote changed. Proposal did not pass.

AREA CHAIR THEN CALLED FOR NEW BUSINESS OUT OF ORDER

New Business

Barbara P. from the Quincy Women's Group read the proposal concerning adding and additional and supplemental "first 164 pages" of the Big Book that would be non-gender specific. This calls for a separate pocket version of the Big Book to address women in particular.

Her presentation as follows;

Motion presented to the Area 42 Assembly in September 2003

Consider supporting a request to the 2004 General Service Conference to publish (in *addition* to the 4th Edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous) an alternate pocket version of the first 164 pages editing gender specific nouns and pronouns to include *both* women and men. This would improve our ability to reach more suffering alcoholics, which is our primary purpose.

We make this proposal not for ourselves alone but for all the suffering alcoholic women who are not getting our message.

My sobriety date is October 1, 1981 and I have made it a cornerstone of my 22 years to actively do 12-step work face to face with newcomers, new referrals, and women in jails and institutions. A few times in the last 22 years I have heard women say they cannot relate to our literature because it always assumes the alcoholic is a man.

I love AA. Learning to apply the principles in the inventory steps of four through nine has steadily improved my life and relationships, and as they did I learned to apply the same principles in other areas of my life. So I take an inventory at my work, in other groups and of AA as a whole to see if they can't be made better. I have found that the inventory process is a very effective way to improve almost anything.

About ten years ago I ran across a copy of the AA Survey that is taken every three years. The breakdown in our membership was and continues to be about 66% men and 33% women. This means we are only half as effective at carrying our message to women as we are to men and ten years ago I started asking myself why? I have diligently sought answers to this ever since and I now believe there are several reasons and the issue is very complex.

Although the barriers to women's recovery are complicated, I believe that a significant component of them is the gender-laden language of 1939 and I will tell you why I think so.

In the year the Big Book was published, there were no sober women in AA. One or two had come and gone but the first woman to get sober came to her first AA meeting about the time the Big Book was offered for sale. Although she kept coming, she relapsed three or four times and finally got sober in 1941.

Hazelden has published her story and it is called "Mrs. Marty Mann, First Lady of Alcoholics Anonymous". It's a fascinating story that includes a lot of early AA history especially about the first women who came to the program.

When Marty Mann came to the meetings at Bill's house in New York, many of the men did not believe women could even be alcoholic and others told her they did not think women were capable of grasping the spiritual program in the 12 Steps.

In 1935 when Bill got sober, women had only been allowed to vote fourteen years before and in many places could not own property or control their own money, let alone seek an independent solution to a personal problem like alcoholism. So the Big Book was written at a time when women had to fight even to be allowed into AA. The language of the first 164 pages not so subtly reflects this bias.

I came into service as a GSR about a year ago and I soon began studying the Service Manual, 12 Concepts, AA Comes of Age and other writings of Bill W. The awe and respect for the program that I had learned through the Steps and Traditions I am now learning from the Concepts and AA's commitment to democracy and spiritual principles.

Sometimes I would rather sit quietly in the back and let someone else address the gender issue. Many have and are. This issue has been addressed by the General Service Conference twelve of the last eighteen years.

I have to tell you I don't like being at the center of controversy. But when I read Concept Five, Bill's words jumped off the page and grabbed me. Concept Five seemed to propel me to stand up and speak to you today and to work toward a change that could ultimately benefit thousands of suffering alcoholic women. Let me read you a few sentences on page 22 of the 12 Concepts.

"When a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect AA as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual *duty* of presenting a minority report to the Conference. [The emphasis here was Bill's.]

...Minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are partly or wholly in error they still perform a most valuable service when...they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority."

At PRAASA I heard a report on the AA Survey. Of the 1.2 million members of AA in the US and Canada, about 800 thousand are men and 400 thousand are women. The report said that although our total numbers are going up they are not going up as fast as the general population. If we were able to reach even a few of the missing 400 thousand women, our numbers *would* be increasing, as they should be.

Now I want to address concerns we have heard over the last year on this issue. Women have said to us, "But I was able to surrender; they will just have to surrender in order to get this program." Its true that I too had to surrender my alcoholism and so will other newcomer women, but I do not think its necessary to surrender to gender specific language to get sober. It is only necessary to surrender to alcoholism. I can hear Bill's voice saying, "This is not good enough. We need the very best when lives are at stake. Could more women hear our message if we say it differently?"

A lot of scientific research has been done on gender specific language over the last thirty years and about ten years ago all the researchers and scientists concluded if you want women to get your message, you must use language they can hear. That is why every single newspaper, magazine, professional organization, union contract, fiction and non-fiction books, indeed every modern source of information has switched to using standard gender neutral language. AA is almost the last holdout. And this is a program on which lives depend!

Originally we thought of asking for the Big Book to be reissued with the gender changed but as we talked to people, we decided a compromise would be better: we don't want to take away the Big Book under which you got sober. I do not want to give up my old, lined and beat up Big Book either. Just give us a small alternative pocket edition to reach more women in our 12-Step work and leave the 4th Edition as it is.

And please do not ask me to use "A Simple Program" [the gender translation published elsewhere]. There are men in my meeting who have stood up and yelled at me for doing so. Some things should not happen in AA, but in small towns like mine, they do. We need an alternative *inside* AA, not from outside. Standing up to angry men in small towns is not easy and most women will not do it. If "A Simple Program" did not sell, no wonder! But it is available because I found it on the Internet a couple weeks ago.

I want to read you some words of Bill W's written in 1955 that are printed in the pamphlet "AA Tradition, How it Developed" on page five.

"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 that 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!"

Lets not let the letter crush the spirit of our program to the extent that 400 thousand women are denied recovery from this hideous disease!

This issue will not go away but will get more urgent with every passing day and every woman who dies without this program. It is not for ourselves alone that we ask it. I expect it to take three, four, five or even ten years to accomplish this but lets start now hammering out an informed group conscience that addresses my concerns *and* yours. Lets not let the letter crush the spirit.

One last thing. The other day I ran across an item on page 98 of "As Bill Sees It". In it Bill says that not only can anger interfere with our own recovery but it can also interfere with the unity of our groups. We can have unity while disagreeing and it is not disagreement that causes controversy and disharmony, but anger. As long as we respect differing opinions, all will be well.

If everyone can speak their truth with thoughtful reasoning and heartfelt terms, surely we can find a way to an informed group conscience on this topic.

Thank you very much for your respectful attention to me today.

AREA CHAIR RECOGNIZED THE FACT THAT THERE WAS STILL OLD BUSINESS AND APOLOGIZED TO ASSEMBLY

Old Business (continued) Replacement of Area Registrar was discussed and the methodology. Alternate Registrar, Sue K stepped up in succession of the out-going Registrar and a volunteer from the Southern Area, Jim L offered to be alternate. Several questions from the floor came about whether nominations could be taken from the floor or other interested parties could offer to serve as well. After some discussion the question was asked and Lou volunteered to serve as well. After a show of hands, Jim L was voted to serve out the term of alternate Registrar.

The GSR Survival Guide has been updated by Sam H. who presented the changes made and pointed out several errors and indicated the boundaries of the various districts may still need some re-wording. He also brought copies for people to pickup which they did. The Assembly approved the changes made to this point.

Conclude Old Business/Return to New Business

Dean B. presented a proposal that the Area consider building closer relations and communication with the Spanish-speaking alcoholic districts.
(His proposal in full will be listed in the Fall Newsletter when this becomes available)

BREAK

After several questions from the floor concerning whether or not a vote on the Quincy Women's Group proposal was going to happen and a check of the Area 42 Guidelines it was noted that a vote on the proposal could take place if the Assembly decided to do so. Many groups appeared not to be willing to go forward and the Quincy Women's Group was in favor of tabling the vote/discussion until the March 2004 Assembly, time permitting.

LUNCH BREAK

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Northern Area Liaison Paul talked about fundraiser put on by NNIG to raise money since donations are way down This year. Event is on 10/31/03. Treatment needs volunteers. Corrections needs volunteers. CPC having a workshop on 9/18. Secretary of NNIG resigned and Tonia appointed. PI Chair resigned and John appointed to replace. NNIG asked by member to resign also but issue will be presented at next Committee Meeting. NNIG has web page which has been updated.

Southern Area Liaison Jack reported that the Central Office is trying to make their website more user-friendly. Thanks to all volunteers for helping out at C.O. "Silver Streak", the newsletter for the south needs more subscribers with a total subscriber listing of 95. Groups can hold meetings at Central Office from 8 am to 3pm on Monday through Friday --- bring your own coffee and refreshments.

Grapevine North Elizabeth has reported having taken inventory and continues to order GV product as Needed. Ordered 20 additional Prison issues from July. Will present financial report at next NAGSC meeting in October. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Grapevine South 20 people on the committee! Setting up GV table at Picnics and various activities in the South. Ordered 500 back issues of GV to be distributed by committee members as a way of encouraging people to know and order the GV. Plans to get to outlying areas soon.

H & I South Robert reports things are "happening" in the South! Vegas Rescue Mission, Indian Springs, Prison Oasis Program, and meetings in the County Jails. About 30-35 H&I meetings in South. SNWCF Orientation on Sept. 20. Very dedicated people on committee but always need volunteers.

Public Information North John stated that organizational activities continue and an inventory is under way. PSAs

Are going out soon to local TV stations. Volunteers still needed. DCMs have been contacted and "badgered". Districts library and school survey is under way and when completed books will be distributed. Funding from NAGSC has been set at \$200/year.

Public Information South Jerry reported that they were involved with Nova Southern University Health Fair as well as Clark County Health Fair and the North Las Vegas Police Night Out and have had requests from UNLV and USAF/VA outpatient orientation personnel. Looking at inventory to replace Big Books in area libraries and have donated 43 "Living Sober" books to libraries. New PSA distributed to over 800 TV stations in US and Canada and will report results at next Assembly.

GSR Survival Guide South Jeannette reported thanks to Sam who has been doing most of the work on the revisions To the GSR Survival Guide.

GSR Survival Guide North Sam reported that he had done 3 sessions; one at the Reno Triangle Club, one at the Sparks Alano Club and one for District 6 all of which had fairly good attendance.

Treatment North Bill reported he has endeavored to contact all DCMs and reestablishing contacts with Treatment facilities in the North and has enlisted the DCMs as committee members and assisting him to identify centers in their district in need of support. Has set up district and general workshops in Sept and Oct. Has asked DCMs for reports of activities in their districts. Has brought literature for new DCMs. Is depending on DCMs to assist him in making NAGSC more successful.

CPC North Candace talked about her successful involvement at NADCP (National Association of Drug Court Professionals) at the Reno Hilton with lots of support from Reno area AA who assisted with the volunteer effort at the booth. She did a presentation on 12 Step fellowships and had an AA literature throughout the weekend event.

CPC South Marion reported activity of the committee with the April CC Nurses Convention and the Approaches made to UNLV Counseling Services and Family and Judicial Court Judges. In future the committee will be working with Indian Springs Prison, Women's Correctional Facility and Choices/Drug Court as well as Las Vegas Metro Police.

Special Needs South Rik stated that education is the key to his job. He described the responsibilities of the Members of his committee. Lots available to special needs people and "we are the link".

Special Needs North no representative – position open

Corrections North Luis reported that he is working with the districts and has given a report at District 4. He brought information which is available to all on the table about Corrections Committee. He is also working with District 22 on institutional residents. He reminded everyone about the Pink Can donations and the purpose. Inmates are in need of literature and are waiting for material.

Young People Roundup Liason Kelly reported that the LV Young Peoples Roundup would be at the Four Queens (flyer) on October 25-26. Sunday speaker is Mike M. They committee has been meeting regularly. A Halloween affair is also planned.

BREAK

An ad-hoc committee was appointed by the Chair to review and revise the Area 42 Guidelines; Joan M asked to Chair committee when Kevin D. stated he could not. Rest of committee are; Barbara P, Marita, Sam H, and Warren P. Committee to make recommendations at Spring 2004 Assembly.

Area 42 Officers Reports

Delegate Kathy noted important interest points; she has made many visits to all over the state and parts She never knew existed, Final Conference Report Booklets are now available but only limited supply available at present but no Spanish Language at this time, PRAASA 2004 letter from Nick M reminding everyone of next year assembly at Irvine; ask for experiences in prisons for new pamphlet, CPC considering pamphlet "So Courts Sent You to AA and You Hate It" being considered, any experiences related please send in; new handout available with staff assignments at GSO; ask for suggestions about theme of 55th GSO Conference; publication director apologizes to Fellowship regarding snafu about return address of AA on recent literature catalogue. Thanks to all!

Alternate Delegate (Submitted by email as read at assembly)

Hello, my name is Joyce P. and I'm an alcoholic. My home group is the New Beginnings Group in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Dist. 6 and I currently serve as your alternate Delegate.

A big hello and welcome to all. I always look forward to the Area Assembly, as it gives me the opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am to currently serve as your Alt. Delegate.

This year has been a most wonderful experience. I have been busy doing workshops and traveling to different districts in the north, hopefully encouraging participation in service and explaining that without your groups voice being carried by your GSR and DCM, our Area as well as our Delegate and the General Service Office doesn't function as effectively as it could. We forget that the groups voice or group's conscience is the most powerful voice in AA. Unfortunately sometimes we only hear the loudest voice and we need to remember that the loudest voice isn't always conveying the group's conscience, it's just the loudest voice. I have first hand knowledge on being the loudest voice and not necessarily the correct one either. So this weekend please share or put a question in the Ask it Basket as what you have to say is important.

I know many of you are here for the first time and welcome. It takes great courage to attend that first assembly. I certainly remember mine. I felt lost, confused, I didn't know a soul and wondered if I left would my group would find out. Well it then occurred to me of course they would as we had some old-timers who wanted a report and actually listened and asked questions. So I stayed. Eventually before that weekend was over I met another new GSR, we sat together, and critiqued how the other women were dressed and wondered if we were there by mistake. As that year progressed we became friends and over the years we grew together in service. Sometimes we or should I say I tend to forget that the newcomer in service is often as fragile as the newcomer in the rooms. Grab me or any one of the Area officers, past Trustees or past Delegates and ask that question. The beauty of service is that we can continue to grow in the spirit of AA and I truly am glad you are here.

It has been a tremendous gift working with Kathy. She is generous in sharing information with me along with guidance and long hours of mentoring this Alt. Delegate. I want to thank Steve and the Southern Area for their warm invitation to attend the Nov. SAGSC meeting. I am looking forward to being there.

I want to share that I attended the Campout in the Rubies, in Elko Dist 10a, Susan K. had given me some registrar duties so on Sunday I was getting the information she asked for when I met a young man, a new GSR, who had that I really want to be here and do this attitude. He looked familiar but I couldn't place where or when I had seen him. We sat at a picnic table where he endured my AA service lecture with a smile and told me he had been the newcomer who received the Big Book at the last Area Assembly. It was I, that felt at that moment, the magic of Alcoholics Anonymous. I can't begin to tell you how proud I was to be at that table with him.

I want to share one last thing with you, our DCM, Don S. from Hawthorne, By God Nevada, was called by the military to go to an undisclosed area in the Kuwait. Don is a wonderful witty and kind man and will be missed. Here is to a safe return and the miracle he bestowed on Dist. 18. When he became DCM, Dist. 18 was not functioning as a District and they hadn't for quite awhile. But with Don's excitement and commitment in service they are now alive and growing. So if you are here today and you wonder if you are here by mistake, the answer is absolutely not. You are needed and you make a difference and please keep coming back.

Thank you so much for allowing me to be of service.

Area Chair Barbara spoke about her learning process as Area Chair. Recounted service history and taking The fact that her and the NNIG were going to take " the show on the road" Expressed gratitude!

Alternate Chair Steve expressed gratitude for serving as alternate and SAGSC chair. Went to PRAASA. Kathy gave Delegate report at May SAGSC meeting. New volunteers stepped up to help at area and sagsc level. GSR training will precede the SAGSC meeting in November. Gave email and phone contact number.

NAGSC Chair Rick stated that guidelines were being updated and thanks to Sam. Need to change language In guidelines concerning funding of GSRS to assemblies. Looking forward to; continued discussion of NAGSC PI chair motion to Pass It On, district 22 liaison, continued NAGSC inventory and special needs chair is open.

Area Secretary Ed stated feedback from 1st Newsletter was mostly good – thanks to Rick M for putting it all together And feedback is always welcome. Extra copies of minutes, guidelines and newsletter available at the break. DCMS have all these if copies are ever needed see DCM or me. Keep current email or mailing address available to me for best results.

Alternate Secretary Not attending assembly

Area Treasurer Not in attendance, report read by Ray G since he was away at a wedding in NY. Account balance

Is \$12,738 including \$1,000 prudent reserve, \$6,057.64 in savings. Income this year below forecast and expenses are favorable to forecast. Reminder to make checks to Area 42 Treasury PO Box 70171 Las Vegas, NV 89170-0171. Ray can provide more details.

Alternate Treasurer Ray thanked groups for making donations. Checking account has \$7777 before assembly Expenses. Projected budget in good shape. Prudent reserve is \$1000. All signature cards are now current. Has limited copies of detailed expenses to save on printing cost, if copies needed/wanted, see him. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

SAGSC Treasurer Terri has handouts for treasury report. Running close to budget and have a balance of \$7207. Send funds to appropriate AA body; SAGSC Treasurer, H&I. LV Intergroup, etc. New finance committee in south are; John S, Ruth J, Bruce T, Kevin D and Terri K. Area committees asked to submit budgets to Treasurer prior to next meeting.

Area Registrar Susan has received Registrar software from GSO and has come to grips with how it works. Final version still not available. DCMS have received listing today or see me. Purpose is to keep meeting information up-to-date for proper distribution of materials for groups. Groups are numbered sequentially as to when they registered with GSO and for example:

Golden Group, Kings Beach	#100,000
St Rose Sunday Beginners, Henderson	#658,809

(Difference is 558,809!!! There are not that many groups in Nevada so let's all help keep the Registrar happy :>) Thanks for your help and any questions see me this weekend.

Alternate Registrar Jim L. (new alternate) introduced self to assembly but had no report.

Area Archivist Roger said that Roberta and Don L donated quite a few old issues of the Grapevine To area archives. All groups still encouraged writing up group histories and submitting to archivist for use in developing district files.

Alternate Archivist Jack F thanked assembly and talked about the value of communication. Donated 1st Edition BB with Green cover found it's way to GSO archives and letter of commendation sent to Las Vegas office. New archive room should be open by March 2004.

CHAIR RECOGNIZED AT THIS TIME SPECIAL VISITOR FROM EL SALVADOR AA WHO WAS VISITING AREA AND ASSEMBLY AND SPOKE ABOUT THE SIMILARITIES TO AA IN HIS COUNTRY.

AFTER BREAK EDUCATION SESSIONS COMMENCED

TOPIC AND PRESENTER LISTED

Ruth J (past Class B Trustee – Area 42 and Pacific Region) – spoke on “chant or not to chant” (see detail in Spring 2003 Newsletter)

Ruth J also addressed the role of the **Delegate** in General Service structure

Rick W discussed the role and responsibility of the **GSR** and shared experiences.

Joan M discussed the role and responsibility of the **DCM** and shared experiences

Dick H discussed the role and responsibility of the **Registrar** and shared experiences.

Tony T. discussed the role and responsibility of the **Area Treasurer** and shared experiences.

Marita H. discussed the role and responsibility of the **Area Secretary** and shared experiences.

Roberta L discussed the role and responsibility of the **Area Archivist** and shared experiences.

Kevin D. discussed the role and responsibility of the **Area Chair** and shared experiences.

Dr. John Chappell discussed the role and responsibility of a **Class A Trustee** and shared stories

Julian R (past Class B Trustee Area 42) – discussed role and responsibility of the Class B Trustee and shared stories.

End of Saturday Session

Sunday, September 7, 2003

9:10 Open with Serenity prayer and Chair asked if there was any unfinished business and there was none from the assembly.

Chair asked for sense of assembly about snack for next Spring Assembly. Fruit and Doughnuts? Yes was the answer

Also, will ask Lion's Club to revisit food quality standards and continue to host the Sunday am breakfast.

ASK-IT BASKET

PANEL WAS: Julian R, Ruth J, Dick H, Roberta L, Kevin D, Joan M, Tony T, John G (CNC Past Delegate)

Questions were;

- 1) What is the relationship between Intergroup and General Service?
- 2) Why is the Pink Can pink? Is that not gender-bias?
- 3) If the GSR is the most important person in general service why do the tables with delegates and area officers always get called to dinner first?
- 4) Should excess district funds get sent on to Area? Can the money be spent better at the District level?
- 5) What is the proper way to present a proposal at area assembly? Timing and method?
- 6) Can people propose items at assembly?
- 7) Why is there not enough space in Blue room for training class for GSRS?
- 8) How do you get groups to dispense of 7th Tradition funds to all recommended entities?
- 9) Are Guidelines available to all GSRS? Are they "cast in stone"?
- 10) Do guidelines state we have to read a proposal twice before voting?
- 11) If a GSR or alternate cannot attend assembly who is next in line to attend?
- 12) Has change ever happened gracefully at Area level?

SESSION ADJOURNED WITH RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT AND NO CHANT

Respectfully submitted

EdP
9/03

****Secretary note: If you want your report in the minutes verbatim, please save a copy on your computer and email to me and I can drop it into the minutes. Otherwise I will summarize your report.**