

Secretary Minutes from March 26-27-28, 2004 Pre-Conference
Assembly Tonopah, NV

Friday, March 26, 2004

Assembly opened at 6:30 PM by Barbara M., Area 42 Chairperson with Serenity Prayer. Sherrill read the Sherrill read the 12 Concepts for World Service, short version. Opening remarks from Barbara M. included change to agenda which will now have the Area Committee meeting in the "blue room" due to space considerations.

Guests were introduced included; past Class B trustees from Area 42, Ruth J. Also past Area 42 Delegates; Roberta L., Joan M., Kevin D., and Marita H., (area 05). Also past delegate from New Mexico Ray R. was also scheduled to be the banquet speaker for Saturday evening.

DCM Reports – Barbara reminded all to turn in written reports to Secretary.

District 1 Absent

District 2 Mike McC. – District is carrying the message to recovering alcoholic; district meets monthly; has 8-10 GSRs in attendance and the groups are in service of various types.

District 3 Bill L. - Doing well; activities in district mentioned; Specifically Founders Day involvement.

District 4 Mark C – District is currently updating group and meeting information; has decided not to move forward with Correctional and Treatment chair; has discontinued bimonthly topic discussion meetings; received and discussed conference agenda items.

District 5a Lou stated it was important for him to be at Tonopah and everything is "AA-OK"

District 5b absent

District 6 (DCM absent- Alternate gave report) – district sponsors 4th annual Founders Day picnic and is sponsoring the upcoming NAGSC meeting in Carson City.

District 7 Holly reported on district activities and noted that there were 4 GSRs in attendance. Attended PRAASA and attended roundtables and got ideas from them.

District 8 absent

District 9 Mary Jo reports quiet time in district; Held AA historic film festival; introduced GSRs and is hosting the Assembly this weekend; breakfast tickets on sale now.

Districts 10a and 10b and 10c absent

District 11 Jerry W reports on a number of district and group activities and the fact that they are sponsoring a dance after the Speaker meeting tomorrow night.

District 12 John S reports attempts to continue to reach all groups in district; thanks and gratitude expressed for his sobriety and continued opportunity to serve.

District 13 Sherrill gave report; district currently working on guidelines; and district has 20-30 groups currently.

District 14 Jason C stated they are alive and well; well attended meetings with alternates and others wanting to get involved in service; Numerous members attended PRAASA; delegate report already scheduled for May; thanks for allowing him to attend PRAASA.

District 15 absent

District 16 Paul E. reported on activities in district and the fact he and 4 GSRs attended PRAASA; also reported the untimely passing of Craig H (alternate DCM), a good friend in sobriety and for Assembly to remember his family in their prayers.

District 17 Roxanne Z gave boundaries of district; recognized 6 GSRS at Assembly; reviewed activities and service functions going on in district; Feeding the Masses continues; district still experiencing growing pains and appreciate support of Area and SAGSC.

District 18 absent

District 19 absent

District 20 Candace introduced GSRS and gave report on Bill P and wife health situation. District seems to be unified by "controversy". Wonderful new meeting place; service rox.

District 21 absent

District 22 absent

End of reports

Barbara then turned over to Steve H (alternate chair and SAGSC chair) who is moving out of the Area in June. Steve stated his regrets but will be on hand in September for Assembly and will seek replacement as SAGSC Chair at next meeting in May. Interested in serving see Steve.

Meeting adjourned – Area Committee to "blue room" and GSRS stay in Main room for GSR training with Past Delegates.

Area Committee Meeting – (meeting roster not passed, oops)

Barbara M opened meeting with Serenity Prayer

OLD BUSINESS - Report from Website Committee by Steve H and Ed dP and proposal (see Assembly report). Loving discussion ensued and overall there seemed to be agreement to move forward with Committee with emphasis on anonymity factor and protection of privacy issues. Report to be presented to Assembly on Saturday.

Sue K mentioned she had updated group info sheets she was going to pass out to Assembly.

Kathy S (delegate) mentioned two issues of concern to be specifically addressed at open Assembly on Saturday were; extra delegate area in Florida; anonymity protection with distribution of GSO materials on the Web;

Saturday, March 27, 2004

Assembly opened at 9:05 with Serenity Prayer and Responsibility Statement; Steve H read short version of the 12 Concepts for World Service.

DCM Reports (continued)

District 1 Mike M reported wonderful participation level in district; 20-25 groups; district events recounted and special meeting today at lunch in blue room.

District 5b Lauren B recognized GSRS and mentioned elections were recently held and what positions still need to be filled; reviewed district activities and stated off to slow start.

District 8 Jeanette R-W – voted to not be in NNIG; DCM went to PRAASA and asked for GSR Survival training in May; Groups doing fine overall; gave overview of district activities and events.

District 10a Rick S reported district is alive and well; recounted various meetings in district and announced the Serenity in Rubies campout in August.

District 13 Marvin reported things going well and mentioned events upcoming.

District 18 Carol B reported district is alive and well; mentioned upcoming Northern Nevada Native American AA Conference; Reviewed events upcoming and overview of PRAASA experience.

District 21 Ruben O introduced new GSR and noted upcoming events;

District 22 Pablo reported involvement in translation of GSR Survival Guide in cooperation with Sam H; district going great and working on Spanish Convention at the Reno Hilton; most GSRS are at Oregon Hispanic Convention;

End of reports

Ed dP asked for and received approval of minutes to Fall 2003 Assembly minutes

OLD BUSINESS

Judy from Quincy Women's Group read statement (below is her report) restating position and proposal to Assembly that a "pocket version" of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous be produced with gender neutral language. This proposal was read at the Fall 2003 Assembly and is a voting issue.

From Judy H., Quincy Women's Meeting

We request that the General Service Conference publish an alternative pocket version of the first 164 pages of the Big Book of AA, edited to include women in all of its language and to make it clear that the God of our understanding is entirely one's own and not necessarily masculine, as the language indicates now. We ask this, not for ourselves but for all the suffering alcoholic women who feel excluded by the words 'he' and 'man'.

I came to AA in 1981 and fell in love with the people and when I was able to read, I fell in love with the literature. When I was sober for 13 years I happened to be at a women's step study where, without discussing it, we began to substitute 'she' and 'woman' for 'he' and 'man'. I was astonished at the reaction I had in my heart and mind? It was a tremendous relief! The effort to translate the masculine words to include me was suddenly relieved. It is clear the outdated language simply excludes women. Some women my age were raised on translating language to include us but today younger women have not seen this outdated language anywhere.

For them, the word man means a male human being. This is alarming when I remember the mental condition I suffered from when I came in to AA. I could barely read so finding and reading the prefaces took years. What we hear first is read before every meeting. The window of willingness is very small at first and the readings in the meeting are crucial for attracting and keeping new members. In keeping with our primary purpose, these changes must be made.

Bill spoke often of the necessity of our willingness to change in order to keep our program relevant in the world.

I love Bill and Bob and this fellowship and revere their legacy to the world. However, when the book was written there were NO sober women in the group. In fact, the drafts that Bill wrote were changed significantly by the members of the group. The book was not written "by Bill" but instead, by committee. Why people have set these words in stone is beyond me, and they have made it impossible to find out unless I could go to New York and sift through archives. We feel certain that Bill would be outraged.

Did you know that 'as we understand' and 'suggested' would not be in How It Works if Bill were writing alone? Without those changes AA would have died long ago.

When the book was published it was thought that women could not be alcoholic. Marty Mann arrived at the NY meeting and refused to join the wives making coffee in the kitchen. She told her story and they began to realize that women could be alcoholics. Change came slowly and not easily. Some of them didn't think a woman could grasp and use the spiritual program. To set this in historical context: women had been allowed the right to vote only 14 years before Bill got sober; women were barred from most colleges and professions; and in many places women were still not allowed to manage their own money because a woman's money became her husband's when she married. It was thought that women were unable to manage these things. We were just beginning to come out of an era in which women were considered to be inferior to men in all ways. 1935 was a very different world.

The world has changed phenomenally in the last 70 years. Bill's writing is full of admonition to us to be flexible and willing to change. In the Big Book he says, "This book is meant to be suggestive only. We realize we know only a little. More will be revealed to you and to us..." Do you think he didn't really mean this? That he meant his work to be set in stone? To allow the legacy of AA to become irrelevant as the world changes? The outdated language was right for that time and Bill meant no offense. Today it is offensive to say the alcoholic is a man and expect every woman to feel included. Research has proven that the word 'man' does not include women any more. Bill said it repeatedly; we must keep the doors of AA as wide open as possible—to help the still suffering alcoholic is our prime concern! Failing to offer a revised version to the women who suffer and cannot feel welcomed by the outdated language denies all that Bill stood for. He said, "The good is often the enemy of the best." What was best 70 years ago is no longer best now.

AA is not growing at the same rate as the population we serve. AA attracts and holds twice as many men as women. Think about that for a minute...This is not true of any of the other 12-step groups because all of them have made the changes. We are slipping behind and the trend is toward becoming ever more irrelevant. I just can't believe Bill would stand in the way of this desperately needed change.

I have heard no reasons for refusing to change and offer an alternative book which includes all humanity in the modern world. I hear you say, "We got ours, let them either get it the old way or too bad." You know very well Bill would never tolerate such an attitude. We print translations in many languages and even make changes to include different cultures. Why is the fellowship refusing a modern language alternative to the Big Book that includes all people?

I have never been much of a feminist. I have been slow to understand the issues. But let me assure you that the old language is insulting and offensive to some women in today's world. Do you want to include everyone or not?

Please vote for this change that allows an alternative Big Book to be published that will help us in our 12-step work with the women who are rejecting our message today. If adopted, this proposal would leave the 4th edition of the Big Book intact and would provide an alternative pocket version for such suffering alcoholics who cannot understand the language of 1939, bringing our message to an otherwise dark corner of alcoholic despair among women and young people.

Loving discussion of the merits of the proposal were discussed by members of the Assembly and the proposal failed based on hand vote of the eligible voting members of the Assembly.

Barbara's presentation for the minority opinion is as follows:

Proposal offered by the Quincy Women's Group

Consider supporting a request to the 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.

Area 42 Assembly Tonopah, Nevada March 27, 2004

It just breaks my heart that we are failing to reach so many women with our message. I have tried to understand why the Fellowship as a whole refuses to address this issue by providing a version of the Big Book that fully includes women, as a first step towards rectifying this problem. But no matter who I talk to, the only explanations I hear are "The Fellowship as a whole has decided to keep Bill Wilson's writings intact," and "If it works, don't fix it." But it is clear that something is not working when experts tell us women are more likely than men to become alcoholic yet our survey says there are about 400 thousand fewer women in AA in the US and Canada.

I'm sure that Bill Wilson would not want his words set in stone if it meant some women could fail to hear our message and therefore never be able to hear about this marvelous program which has meant so much to all of us.

Our spiritual commitment to anonymity is undermined by rigidly holding onto the written words of Bill Wilson. Putting him on a pedestal this way is directly in opposition to our traditions of anonymity and humility. The spiritual foundation of all our Traditions is diluted by an unyielding commitment to the strict writings of Bill Wilson. The spirit of the Program can be passed on to more people if we relax our hold on this outdated language. This is our primary purpose.

There are numerous passages where Bill urges us not to cast his words in stone. Bill wrote this in 1955 and it is printed on page five in the pamphlet "AA Tradition, How it Developed":

"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!"

Here is a quote from Bill's writing in a 1965 article in the Grapevine:

"...We shall therefore be asking ourselves, "What sort of heritage are we leaving, for the use of all those future generations that will people our Society? Is this heritage as good as we can make it? While there is yet time, what can we still do to multiply our assets and decrease our liabilities?"

Indeed, here is something we can do now that will increase our ability to attract more young people and decrease our failure to help so many women.

The first woman to stay sober in AA came just after the book was published in 1939. Since then, the world has changed so much. In 1939 women had only recently been granted the right to vote, and in many states they didn't have the right to own property. Women rarely worked outside the home and the stigma attached to them making their own decisions was strong. Many men in AA didn't think they belonged in the Program and the language of the Big Book clearly reflects this bias. Women alcoholics are only mentioned once in the first 164 pages!

Not until after 1970, did the English language begin to change so that the words 'man', 'men', 'he' and 'him' began to be understood by everyone to include men only. By 1990, most institutions updated their language to reflect this change in perception. Now it is more than a decade later and still AA holds onto outdated language that makes it difficult if not

impossible for many young women to hear our message of hope. One sentence of explanation about "historical context" in the Preface does not make up for the damage done. Did you read the Preface when you were new?

In the 1980's, Congress passed a law mandating that all school textbooks be written with gender inclusive language. That was over fifteen years ago. The kids in first grade then have graduated from high school, and some of them are now alcoholics. How many of those young women will turn to AA for help if they encounter language that specifically leaves them out? Masses of young women are already turning to our sister program and NA's survey supports this view. The difference between women and men in NA is 45-55% as opposed to AA's 33-67%. NA literature was all written since 1980 and has no gender bias. This should give us a clue why we perpetually fail to reach more women. There are other reasons why women don't stick with our program, but this one is simple and easy to address. Please give us an alternative version of the Big Book for use with newcomers and breathe new life into Alcoholics Anonymous.

The most stifling part of our effort to reach the Fellowship on this issue has been the blank refusal of opponents to tell us exactly why they are against it. "The Fellowship as a whole has decided to keep Bill Wilson's writings intact," but what is the reason behind this statement of intent? None is ever given. Because I don't know the reasons, I am at a loss how to reach you with why we need to support this modest proposal.

Please vote for this change that allows an alternative Big Book to be published that will help us in our 12-step work with the women who are rejecting our message today. If adopted, this proposal would leave the 4th edition of the Big Book intact and would provide an alternative pocket version for such suffering alcoholics who cannot understand the language of 1939, bringing our message to an otherwise dark corner of alcoholic despair among women and young people.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara P.
bpalmerton55@yahoo.com

Minority opinion was expressed by Barbara P and others but failed to change voting members sufficient to alter outcome.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve H presented the proposal for the Website Ad-hoc Committee. It is as follows;

Proposal: To establish an Area 42 website

Purpose: To create another way to easily access members of the area and inform Members and committee members of events and to keep Area mailing Costs from expanding as the area expands in population and to better Communicate with remote areas of Area 42 ***Samples of other Area Websites may be seen by linking through www.aa.org.***

Cost: Estimated \$200 setup and registration and about \$100 or so per year plus any administrative costs associated with webservant.

Needed: Establish an Area 42 guidelines change (noted below) to establish An Area Web servant. This web servant shall create and maintain the Website initially until such time as her/his term of office expires.

Updates: Monthly updates to website.

Suggested additional language to Area Guidelines

- 1.1 C. add to listing of working members of the Area Assembly, the words, "...and Area web servant."
- 1.4 E. add section "j" under Secretary duties to include "Assist in the production and maintenance of the Area 42 Website through cooperation and suggestion with the Area web servant."
- 1.4 K add new section "The duties of the Area web servant shall be:
 - a. to maintain the Area 42 Website.
 - b. To keep website updated monthly
 - c. The position shall be funded as requested by Area Assembly with a limit of \$200.
 - d. The position will be a 2-year commitment and will rotate in the section of the Area in which the Delegate resides.
 - e. The position will be appointed from resumes submitted to the Area Delegate on or before December 1st of the rotation year.

- f. This position will be appointed by the Delegate and will be chosen from the section of the Area in which the Delegate resides.
- g. The Web servant will be a non-voting member of the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted

Steve H/Terri K
Ed dP – Website Ad-Hoc Committee Chair
December 29, 2003

A sample of the Oregon Area website was shown and highlighted as an example of a good website. Committee is seeking approval of the Assembly to continue it's work and make a full proposal in Fall 2004.

Loving discussion ensued and the major concern expressed was anonymity protection and confidentiality. The Assembly unanimously voted to continue exploring the website option.

The next order of new business was the "guidelines changes" Ad-hoc Committee and Joan M. (past delegate) presented her committee's report of how future guidelines changes were to be made. It is as follows;

Presentation of new material for voting by Assembly

Step One: Making a new motion, either at the Area Committee, at an Area Assembly. District motions do not require a second, personal motions do.

Step Two: Appears as New Business at current assembly. The author of the motion or a designated alternate must represent the motion or it will be dropped from the agenda. Presentation of group and district consciences (if any) and discussion. Discussion of pros and cons then are discussed. Motion returned to the groups for discussion and presentation of group conscience votes.

Step Three: Appears as Old Business at the next Area Assembly. Continuation of presentation of consciences and discussion.

- o If the room is ready to vote, our first decision is whether passage of the motion requires a 2/3 or a simple majority. Next the actual vote on the motion. However the vote goes, we ask for minority opinion (those who voted on the side which did not prevail); after expression of the minority opinion, someone who has voted on the side which did prevail may move to reconsider. If this receives a second, we vote on whether or not to revote on the original motion (decision by simple majority). If this reconsideration passes, we reopen discussion on the original motion. If the reconsideration does not pass, the original vote stands.
- o If the room is not ready to vote, we can continue the motion as Old Business at the next meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: We may want to consider that it is possible and desirable to introduce topics for discussion without using the motion format. We have discovered that when we hold group discussions first, motions which arise are clearer; they better address whatever the issue might be, and sometimes the discussion itself takes care of the perceived problem.

Discussion ensued and there seemed to be confusion about the proposal and how it was worded. Clarification was made and full Assembly will vote on the matter in Fall.

And amended version of the proposal to require 2/3 vote of the Assembly on all matters was defeated.

LUNCH

Area Chair amended Agenda to Assembly and allows two presenters for Sunday morning to present today.

CPC South – Marion T. Gave an overview of current CPC activities in South and target areas for future contacts

PI South – Jerry P. enjoyed PRAASA and gave a listing of activities PI South has been involved in and activity on Website. Asking for more cooperation in communicating to all other entities.

Conference Agenda items for Discussion**1. CPC: (no vote)**

C. Share Cooperation with the Professional Community committee activities:

1. Discuss ways Cooperation with the Professional Community committees can help when it comes to individuals referred to A.A. who focus on problems other than alcohol at A.A. meetings.

Carol B presented the following in electronic form to area secretary for inclusion in minutes)

Conference C. P. C. Committee

Discuss ways Cooperation with the Professional Community committees can help when it comes to individuals referred to A.A. who focus on problems other than alcohol at A.A. meetings.

What an interesting discussion topic for this year's Panel 54 General Service Conference, as the theme this year is "Our Singleness of Purpose -- The Cornerstone of A.A."

Seems the Mental health workers do have a concern about denial in their patients. Unfortunately many feel that our Fifth Tradition is a holdover from the early days of A.A. and that the young, the poor and the minority with a criminal record will be barred. The two arguments that trump these concerns are; first, The Third Tradition of A.A. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking. Renders A.A. non-exclusionary. Each year A.A. welcomes many thousands of minorities, many thousands of poor, many thousands of alcoholics with coexistent drug problems and tens of thousands of convicts into it's membership. Nobody with a desire to stop drinking is excluded. The second argument, that Singleness of Purpose is necessary to overcome denial, is even more compelling. Given a choice, nobody wants to talk about alcoholism. Put differently, the experimentally documented success of A.A. in the treatment of alcoholism is in part because A.A. groups are the only place in the world where the focus is on alcoholism and nothing but alcoholism. There is simply no other way to overcome the denial.

As eternal vigilance is the price of our sobriety, let it also be the watchword for our cooperation. The group of professionals that have contact with alcoholics through the Corrections Facilities include physicians, nurses, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, psychiatrists, union leaders, and industrial managers, as well as those working in the field of alcoholism. Information on this from a member working with a treatment facility regards the ongoing difficulty with the attitude of; when there is conflict between what we think the newcomer should be doing and what the treatment facility feels is needed. We should try to work within the treatment facility's structure than to deny an alcoholic the opportunity to find Alcoholics Anonymous. If we don't agree with the facility's approach, it's still better to cooperate and develop open dialogue rather than attack it's policy and alienate ourselves from both the facility and from those we're trying to help. When a conflict arises between the A.A. group and a treatment facility, the looser is invariably the newcomer.

We well know the terms used by the professional community "substance abuse" and "chemical dependency" Patients, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic are introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings on the "outside" when they leave. This despite the fact that while anyone is welcome to attend open A.A. meetings, only persons with a drinking problem are encouraged to attend closed meetings or become members. We can make available our many pamphlets which include but are not limited to, "Is A.A. for You?", Problems Other Than Alcohol", "A Newcomer Asks"; and Information on A.A." (a white paper). These professionals may come to realize we are not equipped to handle other problems at group or meeting level. It's just that simple. Some of us may share the "other problem" and may be willing to talk about it before or after the meeting on a one-to-one basis, but as AA we are ill-equipped. We don't turn them away from open meetings of A.A., we just insist that they confine their discussions to their problems with alcohol. To quote Bill W. from a couple of Problems Other Than Alcohol excerpts; "Sobriety - freedom from alcohol - through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps is the sole purpose of an A.A. group." and "We must accept the fact that no nonalcoholic, whatever his affliction can be converted into an alcoholic...and an A.A. member."

An Area in Missouri found out that the probation officers and counselors in that state must undergo extra training sessions twice a year. When the CPC representative approached them they were receptive to the idea of a orientation session and offered full cooperation. What a wonderful opportunity to inform a large group of professionals.

In North Dakota the fellowship included in their State Roundup a hosted luncheon for their Professional Friends from law enforcement, education, treatment facilities, medicine, the clergy and more. The speakers included two delegates from A.A. and Al-Anon respectively and a local clergyman familiar with A.A.'s spiritual program. Also invited was a local newspaper reporter so that they might share with the public and hopefully reach some suffering alcoholic readers. Because they took the time to 'meet and inform,' the writer gained a real understanding of A.A. Nobody's identity was made known in the article; and he wrote knowingly about A.A.'s Anonymity Tradition and the fact that alcoholics have an illness 'for which there's no cure...recovering will always be the word to describe them'.

One panel shared the real need for A.A.'s to attend treatment facility meetings. This creates an early bonding between clients, contacts and the fellowship. Because of current economy and other influences, many treatment facilities have reduced the in-house programs from longer periods to just a matter of days. Shorter programs spell out a need to have A.A. close at hand for those who choose to join us. One panel related experiences dealing with clients coming from treatment who may not be alcoholic. It is not our place to judge or prescribe, but a contact person may discover that A.A. is not what a particular individual needs. At this point, the panel concluded, we need to stick to our single purpose and remember the words of our preamble. Although it is tough not to try and help all that come to us, we can't "fix" everyone; we are a support group for alcoholics and we can help the person find the right program.

Speaking of panels, while in Irvine at PRAASA, I heard some great stuff from the many folks gathered to share in this general service capacity we have become involved in. Gems, like; the treatment facility that uses the term, "A Drug is a Drug, only has one van.." ... And "I have alcoholism. I need to identify and share with other recovering alcoholics in order to stay sober. If I need an ambulance, please do not send the ice cream truck because " a ride is a ride is a ride." But the one that speaks the loudest to most of us is the one I heard from our own Ruth J. and that was "I would rather have 1 or 2 in the rooms that may not belong there than to have one left outside that does belong in there."

"I like to think that every little bit of communication helps."

Ten years ago in an article in;

About AA, a newsletter for professionals "I am mindful", he says, "that A.A.'s strength depends greatly upon reaching the sick alcoholic through our professional friends in the community. We are grateful when these friends recommend us, but at the same time we need to be sure they know who and what we are when they make referrals. As is written in so much of our literature, 'When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that I am responsible,'

2. POLICY/ADMISSIONS: (vote needed)

F. Consider request for additional delegate area by Area 15, South Florida, Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands & Antigua.

Pros and Cons discussed and sense of the Assembly was to allow Delegate to Area 42 the complete Right of Decision.

3. LITERATURE: (vote needed on all items)

C. Recovery literature for young people:

3. Consider suggestion that the trustees' Literature Committee develop comic books for the new and younger members in the Fellowship.
4. Consider request to develop a booklet for teenagers similar to the booklets Living Sober, Came to Believe, and A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate.

Pros and Cons discussed and the sense of the Assembly was that each C3 and C4 was passed favorably

4. LITERATURE: (vote needed on all items)

C. Recovery literature for young people:

1. Consider suggestion that Publications rewrite the pamphlet "to Young?" with changes to layout and style as determined by the Publications Department.
2. Consider suggestion that Publications update and shorten existing stories, wherever appropriate, in the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." and that the trustees' Literature Committee add new younger stories solicited from the Fellowship to reflect current experience of young people.
- J. Consider request that the trustees' Literature Committee develop a Conference approved pamphlet on "service sponsorship."

Several presenters discussed the pros and cons of the above issues and all three C1, C2 and J items were approved.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM ALLOWED BY AREA CHAIR – Rick W. expressed a concern about the ability of the Tonopah Convention Center to facilitate the Assembly given the expected and continued growth of Nevada both North and South. An Ad-Hoc committee was formed by Area Chair with Rick W as the Chair to report back in the Fall any findings. Volunteers for the committee were recruited.

Conference Agenda items continued

5. GRAPEVINE: (vote needed)

B. Review proposed revisions to the "The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print" pamphlet to include references to La Vina and La Vina representatives where the Grapevine magazine and its representatives are mentioned.

Elizabeth S. presented information on topic and Assembly sense was to approve the changes

6. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS: (no vote needed)

E. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums.

Michael McC. Discussed ways to improve attendance at Forums and what exactly they were.

7. INTERGROUP PAMPHLET (vote needed)

Would a pamphlet for Intergroup be needed?

Roger presented the case and the Assembly gave a positive response for the Delegate

8. REPORT AND CHARTER AA DIRECTORIES (no vote)

Are the AA directories which are published yearly by region useful?

Lauren presented the case for and against continuing to publish and the Assembly discussed.

9. TREATMENT FACILITIES (no vote)

C. What are you doing to reach Treatment Facilities in your area?

Joe R. presented various useful ways Northern Area and NNIG are working to improve communication and provide better service to treatment facilities and gave suggestions for continued improvement.

ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED – DAY'S BUSINESS COMPLETED AT 5:00

Sunday, March 28, 2004

Assembly opened with Serenity Prayer and dates were given for several upcoming General Service events; Regional Forum in Portland, OR. On July 16-18 and Fall Assembly, in Tonopah, on September 16-18.

Conference Agenda items continued.

10. LITERATURE – (No vote)

Should special introductory statement be added to Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions clarifying Bill's writings.

Roxanne Z presented pros and cons and brief discussion ensued with Assembly giving Right of Decision to Delegate.

End of Conference Agenda Items

Area Officer Reports

Area Chair Barbara M shared experiences over the past few months including PRAASA and thanked everyone for help.

Alternate Chair Steve H thanked the Assembly for sending him to PRAASA and opportunity to serve Area 42 – he is moving to Colorado and will need to elect a replacement to serve out term as SAGSC chair but will return for Fall Assembly as alternate.

Delegate Kathy S. reviewed past year's activities and thanked Assembly for hard work. Is chair of Policy and Admissions Committee and is honored. Grateful for Class A and B Trustees who are so dedicated and has learned a lot about how the Conference works.

Alternate Delegate Joyce P states service fills a void for her. Condolences to family of Craig of District 16 and congrats to PRAASA presenters @ PRAASA. Reviewed years activities and stressed need for workshops. Mentioned upcoming Native American Conference.

Area Secretary Nothing to report that is new. Reviewed current assembly rates at Tonopah hotels and asked to compare with what they are being charged.

Alternate Absent – no report

Area Archivist Roger read Jack F(alternate archivist) report reviewing activities in the South. Mentioned need for groups history reports for good area representation at International in Toronto. Mentioned note to Bill and Lois from 1960 International – now in archives.

NAGSC Chair Rick W reviewed activities of NAGSC including inventory process taking place. NAGSC has Spanish translation at all Northern area meetings. Also mentioned the presence of a “trouble-maker” in North always wanting to change things.

Area Treasurer Byron F explained the breakdown in different entities to which groups make contributions. He reiterated the desire for a “transparent” budget and treasury and invited all to ask questions. Area treasury currently at about \$9700 and in good shape to budget. Gave Area Treasurer’s permanent address as PO Box 70171 Las Vegas, NV 89170-0171. Will respond to emails but needs to recognize “subject line” as Area 42 in order to screen emails.

SAGSC Treasurer Byron read report for Terri K who was absent. Contributions are ahead and expenses are less than projected.

Alternate Treasurer / NAGSC Treasurer Ray G. stated account balance was good at \$7959 not including some outstanding invoices from PRAASA and Area Assembly. Funds are available for partial funding to assembly for GSRS who should see their DCM.

Area Registrar Ed dP reported for Susan that the DCMs should keep group information current so GSO can more effectively do their job.

Alternate Registrar Absent

Special Needs Absent

Standing Committee reports

Treatment (N) Bill F is working well with DCMs and NNIG to have more effective program with Treatment in North.

Treatment (S) Known as H&I Cathy reports for chair that they have about 35 meetings per week covered. She also reviewed area activities.

NAGSC Secretary Sophie K talked “lovingly” about her experience without a computer in her position and that it is not a requirement for the position and she spoke about the spirit of rotation.

Grapevine (N) Elizabeth S enjoyed PRAASA experience and reviewed activities and successes.

Grapevine (S) Jim T reporting for chair said they have about 20 groups represented and are available for presentations.

Intergroup Liason (N) Paul E reviewed past year in position and recounted successes in North with NAGSC and NNIG

Intergroup (S) Roger announced Gratitude Ball

Public Information (N) John D gave a report which included current activities, what steps are next for his committee, funding and materials inventory.

Public Information (S) Absent

CPC (both N and S) Absent

Corrections (N) Robin M has core group in C, T and BG which meets monthly at Central Office and learned a lot of useful information at PRAASA roundtables and things starting to “click”.

GENERAL SESSION ENDED WITH RESPONSIBILITY PLEDGE AND MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO STAY FOR PANEL OF PAST DELEGATES AND ASK-IT-BASKET TO FOLLOW.

Panel included: Ruth J, Kathy S, Joan M, Kevin D, Marita H, Ray R, Roberta L.

Questions in the basket included;

1. Why as recovered alcoholics should we pray to the Great Spirit?
2. What if we outgrow Tonopah? Where would we go?
3. Why the long wait between Sunday breakfast and start of program?
4. How often should we contribute to District and Area?
5. The term "spirit of rotation" --- where is this found in AA literature?
6. Small percent of groups participate – how do we get more involved in General Service?
7. Is there crying in AA?
8. Is H&I and Corrections and Treatment the same?
9. What is the meaning of life?

Assembly concluded.

Respectfully submitted

EdP

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