

Area 42
Spring 2006 Assembly Minutes

Friday March 24 2006

Assembly opened by Mike D. with the Serenity Prayer. Byron F. read the Preface to the Service Manual. Concept 1 was read by Jason C. Mike made introductions for Greg M. General Mgr at GSO; Phyllis H. Pacific Regional Trustee, Joyce P. Area 42 Delegate, and Roberta L., our future AAWS non-trustee Director.

Website report postponed until Saturday

DELEGATE'S OPENING REMARKS: Joyce P. Welcome. Phyllis, Greg, New GSRs, past delegates. Please introduce yourself, share questions & concerns with them. Congratulations to Roberta on her nomination for AAWS non-trustee director. Joan M will be placed for regional trustee. Phyllis is rotating out; this is her last area assembly as Trustee. Encouraged GSRs to set aside some time with their home groups, districts, and sponsorees to discuss and explain our Traditions, specifically the importance of personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film. GSRs are the keepers of our traditions. Deadline for stories for Spanish 3rd edition Big Book has been extended to June 1. Stories no longer than 3500 words. Districts 21 and 22 are encouraged to submit a story. Special Native American gathering May 20 and 21 at the Morongo reservation in California. Regional Forum is scheduled June 23 thru 25 in Seattle. PRAASA 2007 will be in Portland OR March 2-4. There were 1312 registrations; Area 42 had 67 in attendance. Please participate fully in the Round Table discussions. Your input is invaluable. I will take your good orderly direction with me to the conference. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Panel 55 delegate.

AREA OFFICER REPORTS:

ALT DELEGATE REPORT: Byron F. Conscripted "volunteers" for round table moderators & presenters last week. Thanks to all those conscripted; there was not a single refusal or complaint.

ALT AREA (AND NAGSC) CHAIR: Jason C. Has learned a lot from serving in this position. GSR Trainer for southern NAGSC & IG Liaison positions are open. Attended District 16 Christmas affair where the Basics of the Home Group were discussed. Attended Treatment workshop on 1/14. Last NAGSC meeting: Agenda items were discussed in RT format, with 3 rotations.

SECRETARY: Marion T. Packets have new copy of guidelines. Please 3-hole punch these and keep them in a binder so changes can be done by replacing pages, not entire set of guidelines. Major overhaul was done to guidelines regarding spacing and outline format to bring them into uniformity of style and facilitate. Topic headings have been added to items 5.0 through the end, to make the format uniform with items 1-4. Table of Contents has been updated. No changes have been made to the content of the guidelines, except those needed error corrections as discussed at the September 05 assembly.

ALT SECRETARY: Mark C. Sept 2005 assembly literature sales totaled \$103.30. Reordered Spanish and English service manuals (cost \$168). Current cash balance \$37.05

Thanks to Bob K for helping with lit this weekend, as Alt secretary will be needed to take notes in Marion's absence Saturday and Sunday.

TREASURER: Ed DeP. \$5000 prudent reserve put in CD. We had an unanticipated expense of \$1033 to reinstate our status as a non-profit with the State of Nevada. This underscores the need for a Position Changeover Guide for all chair positions, to prevent this kind of oversight. Currently we have \$1100 in savings and \$24,000 in working capital., much of which is the result of a contribution from IAAWC. Other sizable contributions were made to LV Intergroup and SAGSC.

ALT TREASURER: Pat G. Thank you to groups including their identifying information with contributions. Written SAGSC treasurers reports are on the table. SAGSC treasury balance as of 3/13/06 was \$25,245.82.

AREA REGISTRAR: Sophie K. As of 12/05 there were 386 active groups in Area 42. Thank you for your patience in the new Assembly registration process, which should help us to accurately determine the number of voting members present as the assembly.

ALT REGISTRAR: Mike M. We are currently updating the group information; each GSR has received a packet asking for the group address, officer, location, date and time of meeting. This is to be mailed to GSO.

ARCHIVIST: Roger L. Drawing up a notarized letter regarding ownership of and access to Area 42 archives housed at LV Central Office. SAGSC has approved \$300 for Archives expenses. Requesting \$500 from Area for Area Archives, and would like to see \$300 from NAGSC for NAGSC archives. Area Archive room at LV Central Office is slowly taking shape. One person attends the Archives meeting 2nd Thurs of each month at 7 pm at LV Central Office. Donations of display cases, books, photos, etc. have been donated.

ALT ARCHIVIST: Roger R. Good response from groups getting their group histories and event flyers in. First Edition, Eleventh Printing Big Book was presented to Area 42 Archives by Carol B.

DCM REPORTS:

Dist 1 Marina B. District has 49 groups registered with NY; 25 with active GSR participation. Monthly District meeting attendance is 15-20. Upcoming Sponsorship workshop at Club 51 on April 15, annual picnic will be October 1 in Boulder City. District Group Inventory taken in February, which helped to re-align our purpose as a district in keeping with the Concepts and Traditions of AA.

Dist 2 Mike McC. Most groups in District 2 have greeters at their meetings and give out Big Books and 12x12s. Newest group is the South Side Group, which meets Mon-Fri with 40-50 in attendance.

Dist 3 Dick J. District 3 will host Founder's Day breakfast in June.

Dist 4 Gretchen Doing great.

Dist 5b Al T. New alternate DCM James. New Registrar Mike T. 62 groups in the area, with 4-5 represented at District meeting. 10 groups contributed to District.

Dist 6 Mac S. Dayton Area group is new. Some groups in the district have had problems maintaining a meeting location, so have joined together under one roof H&I has a daily meeting at the hospital in Carson City. Founders Day picnic will be held in June.

District 8: Joe A

Dist 11 Chuck alt (Steve unable to attend)

District 14: Chris R. Of the 14 registered groups 9 are actively represented with GSRs. April 8 workshop on Spiritual Principles in Relationships, led by Bob D. of Las Vegas. King's Beach will host a secretary workshop on May 21 at 3 pm.

Dist 16 Tonia H. PRAASA inspired District to change business meeting format; will have a presenter speak for 5 minutes on the concept number coinciding with the month (ie: 4th concept presented in 4th month).

District 17: Roxanne Z. Proud to include the lowest meeting in the Western Hemisphere: 200' below sea level. 15 registered groups with 11 GSRs. All service positions are full with DCM, Alt DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, H&I, Hotline, GV, Literature, Meeting List, PI/CPC, as well as seasonal committees for the Lovell Canyon Speaker Meeting, Gratitude/Chili Cook-off, Talent/No Talent show, and Holiday Alcahons. First Hispanic meeting in Pahrump is now being held on Sundays 10 am to Noon at the Pahrump community center, supported by District 21. H&I taking a meeting into Nye County Jail.

District 18 (Carole B. for Annie W.) Hawthorne is still active with 1 meeting/day. Yerington no longer has representation.

Saturday morning: Meeting opened, Don L read Concept III. Minutes of Fall 05 assembly approved.

Website ad-hoc committee report, given preceded by a brief history for the benefit of first-time assembly attendees. Area website proposed guidelines were made available for review, questions encouraged. Joyce P wanted to know the purpose of the Area Delegate's Page; Paul responded that is was a forum for the delegate to communicate with the Area, and present on many of the other areas' websites. Website guidelines were presented as a first reading. Vote to approve first reading.

District 21 (Jose U): District 21 has begun taking Spanish-speaking meetings to Pahrump. Meets on Sundays 10:30 – noon at the Community Center. Group name is Luz de Vina. There is also a group meeting in Overton with 2 new members, and another meeting in Mesquite. In Las Vegas there are 12 groups. Spanish forum will be held on May 14 in Las Vegas.

District 10A: Marsha S. Elko campout planned for July 21-23.

District 13: Kathy Lots of changes in the last 2 years; 3 DCMs

District 12: Jon. 45 meetings in the district. Post office is now closed to meetings, but all the meetings from there are being held at the Nugget.

District 7: Brian B. 21st annual Mt Charleston picnic will be held at the Foxtail Campground August 20 starting at 10 am.

District 9: Andy M. Film festival was held in February, with 25 people in attendance.

District 10-b: Lizz M. Serentiy Seekers in Winnemucca will have Unity Days in August. RAA group in Winnemucca is active and successful at the jail. Battle Mountain had to change location of meeting from church to another location due to schedule conflicts. Both Winnemucca meetings are twice per day 7 days/wk, Battle Mountain meets 5 days per week.

District 22: Carlos C. March 4 has Jose C. from Sacramento share how H&I works in his area. Several groups are celebrating anniversaries in April and May, all will celebrate with a Public Information meeting. Two study meetings were held in the District to discuss the Agenda Items. 8th Hispanic Convention will be July 21-23 at the Airport Plaza Best Western Hotel in Reno.

District 10C: Not present

District 20: Jon M. Meetings are still going strong despite financial struggles. Working on annual campout, several fundraisers have been held to support that. April Men's retreat is almost sold out.

Roundtable Presentations:

Item IV-B presented by Carol B. "Discuss a proposal to replace the word 'donation' with the word 'contribution' in the AAWS literature". Presenter found very few uses of the word "donation" in the literature. Vote: opposed.

Item V Grapevine Agenda item B, presented by Phil G. "Consider a suggestion that AA Grapevine produce an anthology of La Vina stories in the year 2007 or later". Concerns discussed centered on the cost to produce the anthology. A breakdown of the costs showed that the sale of 3200 copies of the anthology at \$5.95 will break even. Presenter suggested that on a national level, sales should far surpass that sales figure.

Consensus of the RT was that this would be a worthwhile venture. Comment was made from the floor objecting to the anthology based on the La Vina's net losses over the past 10 years. Counter from the floor: this is a one-time publication, not an ongoing subscription, that we are not here to make a profit, but to spread the word of AA. Assembly voted in favor of the proposal.

Item VI-C presented by Robin M. "Consider a suggestion to update and expand the pamphlet "AA for the Native American". Suggested that pamphlet should include stories of Native Americans with long-term sobriety. Comment from the assembly: Rather than trying to relate to each of the 600 Indian Nations, we should stick to relating as alcoholics. Another comment: people always object to pamphlets that address any subgroup of AA; however, any piece of literature that is 20 years old should be looked at for updating. Still another comment is transcribed as follows: "I am a Native American. I speak my language, I have a census number, I belong to a clan. I came into these rooms unique. Fortunately, the people I got sober around didn't buy it. They said, "You drank, you got drunk, you got in trouble". They kept telling me that until I finally realized that I am just a garden-variety drunk. At the conference, our delegate went to the conference with a "no vote", but the pamphlet passed. Even with "no" votes from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado delegates. Now the conference is going to vote on updating the pamphlet, What's to update? IF we're going to keep the pamphlet at all, my only suggestion would be to take out the tribes to make it generic. Having the tribes mentioned makes all the other tribes want to be included." Vote was opposed.

Agenda Item VI - D presented by Robin M. Proposal: Consider a request for review of language in AA literature referring to the first 164 pages of the BB (as in the preface to the 4th edition) stating: "therefore the first portion of this volume describing the AA recovery program has been left untouched in the course of revisions made for the second, third, and fourth editions". Proposal presented by the Arizona Group, who contend that this statement is incorrect. Historical background provided by GSO archives: there is no preface to the first edition, and 2nd edition printings 1-16 had essentially the same phrase except the wording "left untouched" was left LARGELY untouched". In printing 1 of the 3rd edition, the word "largely" was removed without a conference agenda item attached to the change. Numerous changes in the first 164 were made between the first and second editions, half a dozen changes from the second to third editions, and one from the third to fourth edition. The Arizona group contends that to say it has been left untouched is untrue, and proposes that the language be corrected, whether by putting the word "largely" in the next printing, or stating "for the most part" in Experience, Strength and Hope. They are also asking that the other literature be reviewed to correct this situation. RT pros: this is a correction, and the change is in the spirit of accuracy and rigorous honesty. RT cons: "what does this have to do with helping the still-suffering alcoholic?" Vote: in favor, no minority opinion expressed.

Agenda Item VI -F presented by John P. Discuss a request to develop an Intergroup/Central Office pamphlet. From 1983, there have been efforts to develop such a pamphlet. Currently there are AA Guidelines for Central Offices, Service Manual page S-27, and in "The AA Group" page 44. Requests have been made for a pamphlet from 17 areas and intergroups throughout the US and Canada. Pros: to get information for central offices in one place for easy access, and an easy form to show at group business meetings to explain the importance of Central Office. Printing of pamphlet might lead to better relations and cooperation between general service and intergroup. Cons were questions of cost. Vote: in favor. No minority opinion given.

Agenda Item VI-H presented by John P. Consider a request to develop an AA history book including the years 1955-2000, or beginning where "AA Comes of Age" concludes. Four different writers have attempted and quit for different reasons. RT question: Have there been any significant events in AA history since 1955 that would warrant the writing of a book? Vote: Opposed. Minority opinion: any history we can keep alive for reference of future AA members would be very important. AA Comes of Age tells the story of what did and did not work in the early days. There have to be things we have tried since 1955 that need to be recorded so we don't keep making the same mistakes. Revote: still opposed.

Agenda Item VI-I presented by Shelly M. Consider a proposal that the pamphlet "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic" be discontinued. Rationale that the pamphlet was written by a non-alcoholic woman for Good Housekeeping magazine in 1954, and that the pamphlet is outdated. Distribution stats have shown a steady decline in sales since 1995. RT votes were 70/30 to get rid of the pamphlet. Vote: Opposed to discontinuance.

Agenda Item V-J presented by Roger R. Consider developing a pamphlet concerning AA, Religion and Spirituality. A group from Area 59 eastern Pennsylvania requested. Court rulings giving AA the same immunities as churches, chanting, use of the Lord's Prayer, have all caused confusion, giving many the impression that AA is a religion. Roger's hope is that the development of such a pamphlet would clarify AA's core values. Much discussion ensued. Vote: In favor.

Agenda Item VII-C presented by Andre C. Review a report from the General Service Board on the feasibility of a more balanced composition / structure of regions. Regions were originally formed in 1962 by Bill W. by simply drawing lines down a map to form equally sized regions. Due to the large population shift to the western states since that time, it is felt that some regions are over-represented and some under-represented, and that re-drawing of the regional boundaries would create a more equitable structure. Vote: In favor by a slight majority.

Agenda Item VIII-C4 presented by Mike M. Consider a request to add a “sexual orientation” category to the 2007 Membership Survey. Pros: Might promote inclusiveness. Cons: data might scare newcomers. Great confusion occurred regarding whether Mike presented VIII C4 or VIII C-3. Vote was not recorded on the tape (sorry!)

Agenda Item VIII-C-2 presented by Amur R. Consider adding two categories to the “Length of Sobriety” section in the 2007 AA Membership Survey pamphlet. Currently the categories are “less than 1 yr”, “1-5 yrs”, “5-10 yrs”, and “more than 10 yrs”. Proposal is to strike “more than 10”, add category “11-20 yrs”, and add category “more than 20 yrs”. Pros are that it would indicate more stability in the fellowship, an effective teaching tool as a PI or CPC person talking to professionals, more identification, provide hope that we can make it the long haul, provide a bigger picture to newcomers of the entire fellowship, not just their “newcomer” group. More accurate, more complete information. Cons: breaking down the “more than 10” group might show an artificial percentage drop. Are we separating ourselves out again? Vote: In favor.

Agenda Item VIII C-3: presented by Amur R. Consider request to add “domestic partner” to the marital status portion of the 2007 membership survey. To add this option might promote identification, present categories only allow “married” persons to indicate they are in a stable relationship (only 38% were married in 2004 survey). Domestic partner is commonly used in the corporate world, not just to indicate a homosexual relationship, but a committed yet unmarried relationship of any kind. Question: is this a special interest group pushing their agendas on us? Maybe we should consider “committed relationship” or “other” as opposed to the term “domestic partner”. Vote: Opposed.

Agenda Item VIII-D presented by Paul E. Consider a request that the list of early symptoms, derived from outside literature on pg 17 item #19 in the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-AA Meetings” be replaced with a list from AA literature. The list was compiled by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction, with appropriate citation in the pamphlet. One concern is that use of the list and citation indicates affiliation with an outside organization, the other that even the NCAAD no longer uses this list. Argument for keeping the list is that it adds credibility when speaking to non-AAAs to cite a respected “authority” on alcoholism. Vote: slightly in favor. No minority opinion was expressed.

Agenda Item XI-B presented by John D. Consider a suggestion to restore the Twelve Concepts for World Service, by Bill W., to its original form as published in 1962. In 1983, a Trustees’ Ad Hoc Committee was formed to document changes, authorized or unauthorized, in the 12 Concepts, and the reasons why. The committee found that most changes were about grammar, capitalization, punctuation, etc; other changes were about statistical information regarding the fellowship. Still other changes were made to the meaning and content of the document. Only the 1962 version was Conference Approved. Background material identifies a total of 71 changes; of those 71, most were grammar & punctuation, changes which had no bearing on the meaning of the Concepts. Other changes included addition of footnotes with statistical information. Vote: Opposed.

Agenda Item XI-F presented by Roberta L. Review background material and experience pertaining to the request that the selection process for Chairperson of the General Service Board be expanded to include past Class B Trustees as candidates. Background: concern regarding the availability and willingness of Class A Trustees to serve in the position of Chairperson, the desire to have the pool of best-qualified candidates, and the question “why not include them?”. Committee was asked to consider this in 1986, resulting in the recommendation of having a Class A trustee serve as Chairperson of the Board continue. 1994 recognized that bylaws of the GS board allow either Class A or B trustee to serve as chair. The question is the wording : bylaws state that Class B trustees are eligible, but not PAST Class B. RTs concluded that at some future time, it might be advantageous to have a larger pool of candidates for chairperson of the GS board, therefore this change in the language would be a preliminary step to having a Class B chairperson, and a good idea. Having a Class B chairperson raises anonymity issues, since the chair of the board is often called upon to be the public face of AA. Discussion revealed that other GS Boards in other countries have Alcoholic Chairs without anonymity problems. Vote: In favor.

Agenda Item XII-B presented by Roberta L. Discuss the report from the Trustees’ Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums, on restructuring and/or increasing Regional/Special Forums. A forum is an opportunity for members of AA to learn first-hand about our service structure. Vote in favor.

Proposal presented by Peter S. The only Big Book allowed inside correctional facilities in Nevada is the soft cover BB. The hard cover version states “This is the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, the basic text for Alcoholics Anonymous”, whereas the soft cover version simply says “Alcoholics Anonymous”. Request is that the soft cover be embossed with the same phrase as the hard cover. Cost of change is not really an issue, since the die used for embossing wears out periodically, and could be easily changed at the next die replacement. Discussion: Pat G objects to changing all the soft cover books just to appease prison inmates in one facility, that they should “get a stamp and stamp it on the inside page”. Vote: Opposed. Minority opinion: Joe A stated that when he takes a new man through the book, he points out that phrase. When working with a new man in prison, the phrase is not there Joe R. Re-vote in favor. Joyce pointed out that the proposal would not be presented as a floor action, but forwarded to AAWS.

Assembly adjourned for naps, Saturday banquet & speaker meeting.

Sunday: Assembly reopened with the Serenity Prayer.

La Vina presentation by Lee Z.: Fiscal losses by La Vina continue to bleed AA, and money could be put to better use in H&I. Lee proposed to "either end La Vina, or revamp it by drastically reducing the production costs by going back to the basics the way Grapevine started in the 40's, going to simple black & white, simple paper, and reducing the cost". He further stated that "Sales need to be squared off, prices need to be increased, and production costs decreased." Comment from floor: La Vina's distribution problems are being addressed, and the per capita subscription rate of La Vina subscribers in the Spanish-speaking community exceeds that of the Grapevine in the English-speaking community. Another comment: Surprised to see a start-up publication in full-color glossy format. Still another comment: Businesses all over America are recognizing the explosive growth of the Hispanic community, and are gearing their sales and marketing to that segment. As that population grows, there will be more need to reach out to them. Potential is there for future profits, regardless of the investment that has already been made. Phyllis H. stated that the issues brought up were things that AAWS and the Grapevine board are well aware of. They are diligently working on a 5-year or longer plan to incorporate the LaVina into the GV. La Vina has been a product of the General Service Board since its inception, and costs have come out of the general fund. It was overwhelmingly decided by the GS Board that we do this project as a service to the Spanish community, and in 2001 that decision was re-affirmed. It has all been through group conscience that we have done this as a service, but that we cannot continue forever as a service, that it should at some point become self-supporting. Motion: to either stop production or reduce production costs of La Vina. Vote: Defeated.

Joyce: Selection of the location for PRAASA 2009 needed. Bellvue, WA, Oahu, HI, or Oakland, CA. PRAASA in Hawaii would need to be one week later. Sense of the Assembly: Washington.

Ruth J: Question regarding Area accepting a contribution of \$16000 from the International AA Women's Conference held in Las Vegas last year. The Area officers cannot decide to return the funds, it is up to the assembly. Ruth suggested that the funds might be used to fund GSRs & DCMs to future PRAASAs & assemblies. Ed D. suggested we might contribute some of the fund to NAGSC. Motion was made and seconded to contribute \$8000 to the NAGSC from the Area. Motion passed. Minority opinion: why shuffle the money around? Why not just raise the amount of funds the area will provide for GSR and DCM expenses? Revote: Motion passed again.

Mac S. proposed that the GSO finalize their yearly agenda proposals at the November meeting so that the area committees will be able to get the proposals out to the DCMs and GSRs by February 1. As it currently stands, the groups do not have enough time to come to an informed group conscience on issues requiring a vote. This was the first reading of the proposal. Vote will be taken at the next Assembly.

Ask It Basket session was held, with questions directed to Past and Present Delegates, Past and Present Trustees, and GS Office General Manager.

Assembly closed at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted

Marion T. – Area Secretary