

Area 42 Newsletter

Fall 2010

Confidential Alcoholics Anonymous Document

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

S.A.G.S.C Meeting
Sunday November 14,
2010

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

N.A.G.S.C. Meeting
Sunday December 5, 2010

Standing Chairs Meet at
12:00
NAGSC Meeting at 1:00
Silver Springs
Senior Center
2925 Fort n Churchill St
Silver Springs, NV

Area 42 2010
Spring Assembly
Tonopah Convention
Center

March 25-27, 2010

PRASSA 2011
Honolulu, Hawaii
March 4-6 2011
Ala Moana Hotel

Bill W
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April 1946

Our A.A. Experience

Has Taught Us That:

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

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

Since personal calamity holds us in

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Results From the Fall Area 42 2010 Election Assembly

Delegate (S):

Byron F from the hat after 5 ballots

Alt Delegate (N):

Sophie K after 2 ballots

Area Chair (N):

Carol B after 2 ballots

Alt Area Chair (S):

Andy K after 3 ballots

Treasurer(S):

Cherrie N on first ballot

Alt Treasurer (N):

Phil W after 2 ballots

Secretary (N):

Kevin B on first ballot

Alt Secretary (S):

Rich W after 2 ballots

Registrar (S):

Michele B on first ballot

Alt Registrar (N):

Jeannette B after 2 ballots

(S) From the south (N) From the North

From the Area42 Newsletter Editor:

My name is Mike L and I am an alcoholic. I have been privileged to be serving as Area 42 Newsletter editor for nearly four years. At the time I was appointed by the area chair as newsletter editor I was working graveyard with such difficult hours I was in dire need to find a way to stay close to Alcoholics Anonymous. As I was whining about the predicament another member of AA who was very active in general service suggested that I would be good as the area newsletter editor, the hours would be flexible and wouldn't have to go the general service meetings. First I said to myself I don't know anything about general service, then I said I have never been a newsletter editor though I had some computer skills. I was assured I would get the help I would need. The last four years have had me publish 14 newsletters, gone to every NAGSC meetings, serving on two committees. Attending seven area assemblies, my first PRASSA and my first Forum during this time. What an experience for this alcoholic!! Meeting and working with so many alcoholics in general service has been such a privilege and joy. My love for AA and gratitude for being sober has only grown. In the spirit of rotation it is time to rotate out and be willing to serve in capacity my higher power has in my path. Thank you for letting me serve Mike L. Carol B our new upcoming area chair responsibility is to appoint another Area 42 Newsletter Editor for the upcoming two year term. If you have interest in serving as Newsletter Editor please contact Carol at area42chairperson@gmail.com.



Bring the Grapevine to your home group or speaker event.

Just email to arrange date & time.

Jeannette B. No. Area 42 Grapevine Chair

tahoejj@clearwire.net

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

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

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

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

Our A.A. Experience Has Taught Us That:

1. Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.
2. For our Group purpose there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as He may express Himself in our Group conscience.
3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. Group.
4. With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. Group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.
5. Each Alcoholics Anonymous Group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* --that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. Problems of money, property and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. Group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be so set apart, that if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the Groups. The management of these special facilities should be the

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- sole responsibility of those people, whether A.A.s or not, who financially support them. For our clubs, we prefer A.A. managers. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. -- and medically supervised. An A.A. Group may cooperate with anyone, but should bind itself to no one.
7. The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each Group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous; that acceptance of large gifts from any source or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is usually unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.
 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those full time services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But personal "12th Step" work is never to be paid for.
 9. Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is usually the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central committee, which often employs a full time secretary. The trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation are, in effect, our General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which they maintain A.A. General Headquarters and our General Secretary at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal publication, *The A.A. Grapevine*. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.
 10. No A.A. group or member should ever, *in such a way as to implicate A.A.*, express any opinion on outside controversial issues --particularly those of politics, alcohol reform or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.
 11. Our relations with the outside world should be characterized by modesty and anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.
 12. And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a truly humble modesty. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.
- May it be urged that while these principles have been stated in rather positive language they are still only suggestions for our future. We of Alcoholics Anonymous have never enthusiastically responded to any assumption of personal authority. Perhaps it is well for A.A. that this is true. So I offer these suggestions neither as one man's dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past.

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

Editor's Note :The following article was something that every recovering alcoholic needs to think about from the Oregon Area 58 newsletter

Anonymity in a Digital Age – My Experiment with Facebook By Chase B.

“Chase B***** Has Joined the Group ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’” was displayed on the website. But I am *already* a member of AA, I thought. This was in the late fall of 2009, and, by that time, I had enjoyed membership in AA for almost 15 years, and yet there it was, in all the humble glory and mechanical grace that comes with the digital age – a public declaration of my affiliation with our fascinating 12 Step Fellowship.

It actually started out as an experiment, really. Let me explain. I had been asked to do a presentation at a conference titled “Anonymity in a Digital Age,” So, being somewhat well trained over the years by the GSR’s of Oregon Area, I knew I needed to do some research on the matter. I had been pestered by some of my contemporaries in recent years to jump on the Facebook bandwagon, so I figured I would open an account to explore how, or if, AA members declare or imply their membership while using this popular social networking tool.

My first move was to type ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ into the search box on the Facebook website. The top hit of the search query was titled ‘Alcoholics Anonymous,’ with a button next to it called ‘Join.’ Laughing out loud, I clicked on the ‘Join’ button, and voila, I became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous! They didn’t even ask me if I had a desire to stop drinking! Oh well, *I know* I can’t hold my booze! Now it was time to check out some of my fellow AA members! There was a random selection of members on the screen, so I clicked on one of the full names before

me. I was redirected to the personal page of a ‘Mark H****’ who lives in London, England (name changed to protect the innocent). His page contained his full name, the company he was employed by, and all kinds of other cool stuff, not the least of which was his list of ‘Interests.’ As you might have guessed, his top interest, along with sailing, badminton and music, was ‘AA.’ Well I know that I am always closer to my next drink if I feel self-righteous and indignant, so I quickly acknowledged my offended perspective, and promptly logged off the site and went to a meeting (one that required my physical presence).

The purpose of a social networking tool is to connect with people, either directly, through private messages, or publicly, through published ‘wall posts,’ which are essentially broadcasted messages or ‘status updates,’ that are displayed either to the entire Facebook world of over 500 million people, or to your personal ‘network’ of friends, depending on how you have your privacy settings configured. These status updates can be as benign a statement to the world as “heading off to work everyone, wish me luck,” to a sharper, more precise statement such as “We need a Greeter at the Tuesday Night Men’s Stag, any volunteers?” Does this last statement break one’s anonymity? No, not technically. Does it imply AA membership to anyone that understands some of the keywords? I think it does. It certainly will leave those outside of AA circles who receive your ‘update,’ a bit puzzled about words like ‘Stag’ and ‘Greeter.’ Is this a hunting excursion? Do hunters ‘Greet’ prospective ‘Stags’ before they hunt them down? Hmmm. So many

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Editor's Note:

The Area 42 Newsletter is comprised of service oriented articles submitted by its members. We welcome submissions and suggestions. The deadline for the next newsletter is February 16, 2011. Please submit to: area42newsletter@gmail.com

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questions! Shortly after my big experiment last year, I withdrew my membership from the Facebook AA group. Don't get me wrong, I have no beef with this group, but I grew to enjoy the connectivity that social networking offered me with people in my life, not all of which are AA members; some who may want to hear about my personal life from me directly, not as part of a two-dimensional description of me on a website.

Our 11th Tradition, which states, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films," has certainly not changed. The principle it contains is a reminder of our collective experience with regard to membership equality, personal humility, and staying 'right-sized.' Our historical practice of omitting our last names and avoiding identifiable photographs when disclosing our AA membership publically is still certainly as achievable as ever, but modern technology, including social networking and the sheer power of search engines, such as Google, may leave each of us with a few more hoops to jump through if we want to fit ourselves to adhere to our spiritual principles along these lines.

Whether it be through customizing our privacy settings, or being mindful about what we broadcast so easily to the digital domain, the responsibility—in this alcoholic's view—is up to each and every member . . . So let it begin with me.

You can find the
minutes for the Area 42
Assemblies and updated
Area42 Guidelines

@

www.nevadaarea42.org



Can You Help?

There are cases where sober AAs are unable to make it to meetings. They are in the hospital or physical rehabilitation hospitals or are home-bound while they recuperate.

When you cannot attend meetings do you get 'squirrely' or on edge? Be a part of carrying the message to those shut-ins by joining us as we trudge the road of happy destiny on the

Sunshine Committee!!

Sobriety requirement – 1 year

We will work to your schedule

Call NIIG Central office@775-335-1151



The Archives Corner

Service Opportunities!

Are you interested in local AA history? Do you want to know how it all began? Where have we been? Where are we going?

Being a member of the Area 42 Archives Committee is the best service job in AA – and you are invited to join us! You can:



Put together a history of your home group;



Serve your District as its Archives Liaison;



Have you ever served on an AA committee:



H & I, Las Vegas Roundup, CPC, Founders' Day, etc.? We need those histories, too.



Interview Long-Timers;



Come to Las Vegas Central Office to help sort, catalogue & present Area, District; Group, & Individual stories;



Use your construction & design skills to develop the Area Archives display space at Central Office; or



??? – we're open to suggestions!

For more information, please contact:

North

Area 42 Archivist

Paul E.

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South

Alternate Archivist

Caroline TJ

Area42AltArchivist@gmail.com

I am Responsible
*When anyone, anywhere
reaches out for help, I
want the hand of AA
always to be there.
And for that:
I am responsible*

**Area 42 Current 7th Tradition
Contribution Addresses:**

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

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

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

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

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

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