

Area 42 Newsletter

Winter 2008 Confidential Alcoholic Anonymous Document

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

PRAASA 2008

March 7,8,& 9,2008

Egan Convention Center
Anchorage, Alaska

Area 42 2008 Spring Assembly

Friday, April 4
at 6:30 p.m.,

Saturday April 5th ,2008

Sunday

April 6th adjourning
at noon.

Pacific Regional Forum

August 29-31 2008

City Center
Spokane

Doubletree Hotel
Spokane , WA

Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our Fellowship.

(Twelve Concepts for World Service)

Greetings!

It is informed group conscience season. We are stepping up, preparing to fulfill our Concept One responsibility via the 58th General Service Conference in New York City in late April.

The final 2008 General Service Conference Committee agenda items arrived in our delegate's e-mailbox on February 15 and were distributed within Area 42 on February 16. All members of the Area Committee as well as GSRs for whom we have a valid address were sent a copy.

Four of the Area officers have scrubbed the confidential background material of all personal information and summarized the 400+ pages so that it can be shared with elected trusted servants in Area 42. The agenda items and summaries are confidential and are meant to be used in A.A. group business meetings only. In the spirit of the Twelfth Tradition, thank you in advance for handling all of these documents with care.

The conference final agenda items, summaries and agenda items selected for roundtables within Area 42 will be sent out before March 1, 2008. Please contact your DCM if you did not receive them.

Thank you for your service, and I look forward to seeing you at a roundtable somewhere in Nevada very soon.

In service,
Sophie K.
Area 42 Chair

Dates to remember:

March 7-9, 2008 PRAASA in Anchorage, AK. For those not able to attend, any new info presented there will come to you via your DCM.

March 16, 2008. NAGSC/SAGSC pre-conference roundtables

April 4-6, 2008 Area Assembly, in Tonopah, NV

April 27 – May 3, 2008 General Service Conference in New York City.

Conference Agenda Items: What's Important and What's Not? An Approach to Prioritizing Conference Agenda Items for GSRs

Many of us are stymied by the volume and seeming obscurity of the Conference Agenda Items. How are we supposed to approach the members of our groups with this? And how can we ever hope to get an informed group conscience on even a few of them?

The following are suggestions only; if they are helpful, they are yours.

1. Look at the first word for each item. It will generally be one of three things: review, consider or discuss.

“**Review...**” items (such as “...contents of kit and workbook.”) is an annual maintenance item for each committee. In my memory, our Assembly has not addressed “review...” topics. (re-view: to examine again)

“**Consider...**” items (such as “Consider a suggestion”, “Consider a proposal” or “Consider approving...”) could be looked at more closely.

“**Discuss**” (“Discuss recommendation...”, “Discuss selection...” Same guidelines as for “Consider...”

“**Approve...**” is indeed asking for a vote. Does the item affect the Conference as a whole or is it a piece of internal business for the conference? (as in: “Approve invitation for two observers...”)

2. RE: anything that isn't a “review” item: is the item a bit of “housekeeping” for the Conference or does it relate to AA as a whole? If it pertains to a video or piece of literature, has it been released to the membership yet? (If it's being developed, it hasn't been released, and there is no way for us to view or comment on it.)

We might exchange views or information about a topic; we are not being asked to make a decision.

RE: anything that affects AA as a whole: look for items that group members will most relate to (new publications? discontinuing a book or pamphlet? changes to the Grapevine? anything affecting finances?) It is most likely that these kinds of items will be discussed in Tonopah; therefore, they are topics to discuss with your home group.

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 April 15th, 2008. Please submit to area42newsletter@gmail.com

Area 42 Pre-Conference Assembly
Preliminary Agenda
April 4-6, 2008
Tonopah Convention Center, Tonopah NV

Friday, April 4, 2008

3:30 p.m. Registration opens
6:00 Assembly opens
Moment of silence, Serenity Prayer
Preface and reading
Chair's welcome and overview
of weekend
6:25 Delegate's opening remarks
6:30 GSR Orientation to the Assembly
Area Committee Meeting
7:30 Break
7:45 Proposals:
Assembly location: 1st reading
Permanent Archivist: 1st reading
Election Procedures: 2nd reading
& discussion
8:15 DCM and Area Committee Member
Reports (2 min. ea.)
9:00 Adjourn for the evening

Saturday, April 5, 2008

7:00 Open A.A. meeting
7:30 Registration opens
8:30 Assembly opens
Moment of silence, Serenity Prayer
Preface and reading
Approval of minutes from Sept. '07
assembly
8:45 Explanation of roundtable process
8:50 Presentations #1 through #10
(1-5 and 6-10 in separate locations)
9:30 Roundtable session #1
9:55 Break
10:10 Roundtable session #2
10:35 Roundtable session #3
11:00 Roundtable session #4
11:25 Roundtable session #5

11:50- 1:20 Lunch
12:10 -1:00 Open A.A. Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2008, cont'd

1:20 Roundtable session #6 (as needed)
1:45 Report-back #1 and sense of Assembly
2:00 Report-back #2 and sense of Assembly
2:15 Report-back #3 and sense of Assembly
2:30 Report-back #4 and sense of Assembly
2:45 Report-back #5 and sense of Assembly
3:00 Break
3:15 Report-back #6 and sense of Assembly
3:30 Report-back #7 and sense of Assembly
3:45 Report-back #8 and sense of Assembly
4:00 Report-back #9 and sense of Assembly
4:15 Report-back #10 and sense of Assembly
4:30 Additional needs of the Delegate?
4:35 Adjourn for the afternoon

6:00 Banquet
7:15 Open A.A. meeting
Speaker
8:30 Sobriety Count up and count down
9:00 Close for the evening

Sunday, April 6, 2008

7:00 a.m. Open A.A. meeting
8:30 Assembly opens
8:35 DCM and Area Committee Member
reports (2 min. ea.)
9:20 Ask It Basket w/esteemed Feather
Dusters (past delegates & trustees)
10:00 Break
10:15 Area Treasurer re: expenses for
Area Archives
10:45 Area inventory follow-up ad hoc subcommittee
reports (5 min. ea.) and discussion
11:30 Planning for Fall '08 Assembly
11:40 Adjourn

The following proposal will be discussed and voted on at the Area 42 2008 Spring Assembly in Tonapah

Proposal to Change Election Procedure in Area 42 Guidelines

As a result of our September elections, I felt disenchanted with the process in which 5 out of the 10 positions were obtained unopposed. Upon discussion with others I brought my concern to District 6 and was encouraged to investigate and write a guidelines change proposal.

I discovered by just going back to our past 2 election assemblies that 9 out of 20 of our Area Officers were elected unopposed. That is 45%! I was also encouraged to read our General Service Manual. In Chapter 6 "The Delegate", page S47, titled "Geographical Rotation within the Area", the manual states:

Some areas have adopted their own policy of "rotation" from rural to urban sections or from one part of an area to another, to avoid domination by one or more heavily populated locations. However, no well-qualified A.A. should be passed over in the interest of geographical rotation.

Therefore District 6 proposes this Guideline change:

The text in the box below was read at the March, 2007 assembly.)

3.1 Area Officer Elections

C) Nominations from the floor will not be accepted for Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson unless there are fewer than two names remaining after all those eligible and present have been announced and those wishing to do so have withdrawn. **Proposal to add: In such case, nominations will be open to all members who are eligible in Area 42 (South and North). This will not effect rotation as specified in Area 42 Guidelines section 3.2.**

E) The voting body will have a choice of at least two candidates for each office, whenever possible

Proposal to add: (1) If an officer is elected out of geographical rotation per 3.1 (c), and as a result, the SAGSC/NAGSC committee lacks one or more officers, the position(s) will be filled by election within the SAGSC/NAGSC membership.

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What follows on the has been added to answer questions raised during discussion of the proposal at the March assembly.

Because of our north/south structure, this proposal also includes amending the following sections of the guidelines:

3.2 Area Officer Rotation

3.2 (B) The Delegate, Treasurer, and Registrar will be elected from one section of the area and the Chairperson and the secretary from the other. **Proposal to add:** *This officer grouping would not apply in those cases where out of normal rotation officers are elected under paragraph 3.1C.*

1.4 Area Officers

1.4 (B) Duties of the Alternate Chairperson

(3) Serve as the Chairperson of the General Service committee in the section of the area (Northern or Southern) in which he/she resides. If he/she has already served a two year term as Chairperson of this body, **proposal to add: or is elected out of normal rotation under 3.1C**, the General Service committee may elect a Chairperson from among its membership.

(4) Appoint a Grapevine Representative **proposal to delete: from the section of the area (Northern or Southern) in which he/she resides.**

1.4 (D) Duties of the Alternate Delegate

(2) Serve as the Chairperson of the General Service committee in the section of the area (Northern or Southern) in which he/she resides. If he/she has already served a two year term as Chairperson of this body, **proposal to add: or is elected out of normal rotation under 3.1C**, the General Service committee may elect a Chairperson from among its membership.

(3) **proposal to delete: Representative Appoint a Grapevine from the section of the area (Northern or Southern) in which he/she resides.**

1.4 (J) Duties of the Newsletter Editor

3) This position will be a two year commitment and will rotate in the section of the area (Northern or Southern) in which the Area Chairperson **proposal to delete: and Secretary** resides.

5) **proposal to delete: This will be an appointed position by the Area Chairperson and the Newsletter Editor will be from the section of the Area (Northern and Southern)**

4.5 Other Funding

proposal to add: (F) If the NAGSC/SAGSC is at any time unable to fund an officer elected per 3.1 (E) 1 to an Area Assembly, the NAGSC/SAGSC Treasurer must request funding of the area Treasurer at least 60 days in advance of the Assembly.

The following two proposals will have their first reading at the Area 42 2008 Spring Assembly in Tonopah

10/16/2007

To: General Service Assembly, Area 42

From: District 6, as per requested from the South Shore Group

Re: New Locations of the Area Assembly semi-annual meetings.

It has been proposed by the fellowship of the South Shore Group that Area 42 consider the possibility of changing meeting places to involve more members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This action would add to the Delegate Area 42 General Service Assembly Guidelines, under "Preamble" section 1.2 Meetings: A.

The proposal is as follows:

The Assembly Area meetings could be held each year once in the north (even numbered district i.e. Reno Dist. 2) and once in the south (odd numbered district i.e. Las Vegas Dist. 1). One year the meeting in September could be held in the north, and in March be held in the south. The following year the meetings would reverse and the south would host September's Assembly and the north would host the March meeting.

Please note Reno and Las Vegas are used only as examples. We would not need to limit ourselves to a certain city. Reno and Las Vegas are used only for their ability to accommodate large groups.

This proposal is based on the following conditions:

1. We are out growing Tonopah and last March it was standing room only for most of the Assembly.
 2. We could encourage newer members from our local areas to attend the Assembly and learn how AA works at the Area level. (Promote services)
 3. It would help cut down on the travel for GSR's within smaller groups, so they can afford to send a representative. To at least one Assembly a year, if not both.
- Finally, as much as I like Tonopah, the possibility of have good recovery visiting other areas and carrying the message of service would be a great service to our fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted
Rich B., GSR, South Shore Group.

Unanimously Approved through District 6
Kevin B, DCM District 6 Area 42

• **Proposal to Create Permanent Archivist Position**

- As the Area 42 Archivist I would like to propose that Area 42 have one permanent archivist – someone very knowledgeable of the history of Area 42.
- We would still keep the rotating 4-year archivist and alternate. The permanent archivist would pass on his knowledge and give direction (if wanted). They would also be available to help identify material, people and stuff given to Area 42 archives.
- The permanent archivist would NOT be funded at this time.
- Thank you.
- Roger L.
- Area 42 Archivist

How Your 7th Tradition Dollars Work for You and Your Group

When we consider money and AA, we usually think of Tradition 7 which states: “each group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”. On the surface, this means that each group pays for its own place to meet, and purchases its own literature, books, and other supplies. But let’s take a look at what each group does and how they are able to do it.

Tradition 5 states that “each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”. How do we accomplish that? How are newcomers coming in contact with our groups?

Many come to us because they called a hotline. Hotlines are usually provided by a Central Office. Your group’s contributions to Central Office enable them to pay for the telephone equipment and charges, the electricity and rent, and a manager to make sure everything functions.

Some newcomers come to us through treatment centers. Practical experience has shown that treatment and detox centers can help a person dry out. For most real alcoholics, even the most thorough “spin dry” or education program will not help us STAY sober – we need AA. Working together and separately, committees such as Hospitals and Institutions, Treatment Committees, and Cooperation with the Professional Community bring AA’s message into the treatment facility. These committees often provide literature and meeting schedules to help these newly sober folks find their way to the doors of AA and your group. These committees are funded through your 7th tradition dollars. In Northern Nevada, these committees receive their support from the Northern Area General Service Committee (lovingly know as NAGS), and Northern Nevada Intergroup. In Southern Nevada, these committees are supported by SAGSC and Las Vegas Intergroup. In more remote districts, this work is often performed at the District level.

Some folks learn about AA in jail or prison – members of Hospitals and Institutions and Corrections committees bring in meetings and information. Cooperation with the Professional Community committees do their best to inform and educate the Corrections Officers, in-house therapists and caseworkers about what AA does and does not do. This is important work – your 7th tradition dollars make it possible.

Other suffering alcoholics find us though Public Service Announcements – these PSAs are produced through our General Service Office in New York.

Underlying all these are key ingredients: Communication, Literature and Information.

Tradition 1 states: “Our common welfare should come first- personal recovery depends upon AA unity”. We can all agree that it is important for AA to remain vital, alive, and united. Who makes that happen? We do! How do we do that? We attend meetings, work with newcomers, support one another, and generally take the Steps of recovery outlined in our basic text, and encourage others to do the same.

What else do we do? We pray, we think, we decide, and we communicate. AA groups usually communicate through our General Service Structure. Obviously, our literature, pamphlets and books reflect what AA is, and what we are about. Every AA member and group has a voice in what goes into this material, and what is taken out.

Let’s say you, as an AA member, have a concern about a line of text in our literature, or feel that a certain segment of the population is not being reached with the tools we currently have. You bring your concern to your group.

The group may then decide how to word that concern into a usable suggestion, asking the group’s GSR and/or District Committee Member (DCM) for help. Your DCM has had experience at the Area level, and either knows how to present a suggestion to the Area, or knows how to find out. He or she may have come in contact with a similar suggestion in the past, and know what pitfalls to avoid, or how to best word the suggestion so that

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people can hear the MEANING of the suggestion, rather than becoming sidetracked or the suggestion misunderstood.

The suggestion then is presented at the Area Assembly. The Area lovingly discusses the suggestion, and perhaps modifies or improves it before it goes to the General Service Conference Coordinator and is placed on the Agenda for the General Service Conference. At the General Service conference, the suggestion is voted on by the Literature Committee, which is made up of Delegates from around the U.S. and Canada.

What on earth does this have to do with your 7th tradition dollars? EVERYTHING!

- Your group's support of its GSR kept him or her in the information loop.
- Your support of your district helped your DCM to be informed and educated.
- Your district also provides gatherings and functions to keep your group in touch with and part of the larger AA community.
- Your support of your Area made it possible to HAVE an Area Assembly, and supported your Delegate to support your suggestion at the General Service Conference.
- Your support of the General Service Office helped finance the Conference and all the supporting structure that keeps the General Service Office open and available to respond to your needs and the needs of the ALCHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.
- Your General Service Office produced and printed the pamphlets, books and literature that keep your AA group focused on the recovery from alcoholism.

GSO provides a national and international source of information on our program of recovery.

The bottom line is: Your 7th tradition dollars support our General Service structure. Our General Service structure supports your group and AA as a whole with literature, Public Service Announcements, books and information. Intergroups provide a Central Office to facilitate local communication and help alcoholics find a meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Area Committee, or e-mail me:

treasurer@nevadaarea42.org.

In love and service,
Marion T.
Area 42 Treasurer

You can find the minutes for Area 42 Fall
Assembly

@

www.nevadaarea42.org

How Much is Too Much?

I am an alcoholic. I obsess about almost everything so you can imagine how I was when I was drinking. Mostly when I was drinking I obsessed about all the wrong things; work, play, sports, TV, amongst others. I certainly didn't care to obsess about things such as family, true friendships and spiritual fitness. As with my alcohol, I didn't care to change anything until the clock ran out on my obsession and I hit "bottom". When alcohol quit working it was time to change and I sought help and it was in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous that I would find that change meant more than just not drinking a day at a time. It meant changing my outlook and attitude and, my values and priorities.

Although I am only sober today, it is my responsibility to myself to continue to do the things that seem to be working in sobriety to continue to make progress in recovery. Once again the obsessive side of me comes out and I find myself going to lots of meetings, doing lots of service work and working with as many people as need to utilize my experience in recovery. Those who came before me amply demonstrated this as the way to a peaceful and useful existence on this planet. They showed me that service to others was the key to humility and humility was the key to getting out of self which was a foreign concept to me before A.A.

Which brings me to the topic at hand, can one obsess about A.A.? And, can one do too much service? My experience shows me that as long as my activities are not interfering with my commitments to family and employer, I can do as much service as I need, which is a lot for this alcoholic. Keeping my eye on the prize of peaceful and fruitful living, I can very seldom go wrong by helping another alcoholic out or by committing myself to another committee on the General Service or Inter-Group level. Not all members of the Fellowship are so situated as to be able to devote hours a week in service but as my second sponsor pointed out to me, I can find time if I really try.

The expression, "I cannot begin to repay A.A. for what it has done for me.." is in error in my judgment in the respect that the payment schedule is NOW and the completion date of payment is when I leave for the big meeting beyond.

Anonymous

Tonopah Motels

Spring Assembly is April 4, 5, & 7 2008

Hi-Desert Best Western (775-482-3511) \$75.00 single/\$89.00
double

Ramada Tonopah Station (775-482-9777) \$55.00 single and/or
double

(\$59.95 Including Sales Tax)

Jim Butler Motel (775-482-3577) \$45.00 single / \$51.00 double

Silver Queen Hotel (775-482-6291) ~ \$39.00 single/\$53.41 double

National 9 (775-482-8202) \$30.00 single / \$32.00 double

Economy Inn (775-482-6238) \$30.00 single / \$35 double

The Clown Hotel (775-482-5920) \$29.50 single/\$31.50 double

These rates were quoted in 2007

They are subject to change.

Jim Butler is usually pretty well booked.
The Best Western is “flexible” for “walk-ins”

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 Annie W. P. O. Box 1101
Hawthorne, NV. 89415
(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)

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

Las Vegas Intergroup
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)