

Area 42 Newsletter

Fall 2009

Confidential Alcoholic Anonymous Document

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

S.A.G.S.C Meeting
Sunday November 8, 2009

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 6, 2009

Standing Chairs Meet at
12:15
NAGSC Meeting at 1:00
Reno Triangle Club
635 S Wells Ave
Reno, NV

Area 42 2010
Spring Assembly
Tonopah Convention
Center

March 26-28, 2010

PRASSA
Radison Hotel
Los Angeles Airport
March 5th-7th, 2010
Los Angeles, CA

Pacific Region Forum
.Torrance Marriott
Torrance, CA
August 27-29, 2010

Some history our Archivist found

The Nevada Area Assembly Then & Now

Background

Prior to 1972 the Nevada Area of Alcoholics Anonymous held area assemblies only on even numbered years. The site of these assemblies, which were convened for the purpose of electing an area delegate to the General Service Conference in New York, alternated between Las Vegas and Reno. A past delegate recalls that when time for the assembly arrived, ten or twelve members from one end of the state would travel 500 miles to the designated assembly site. In those days members paid their own way, and no more than a dozen people afford to make the trip. With only 15 or so local members joining the visitors, the assembly size did not exceed 25-30 people, he added.

Pacific records show that the first delegate Nevada sent to New York was Larry N of Reno who served on Panel 05, 1955-56. The 1968 assembly was held at Mapes Hotel in Reno and in 1970 at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. In a compromise the 1972 assembly was staged in Tonopah. That year the Tonopah location was recognized as being mutually acceptable to both northern and southern Nevada groups. A decision was made to hold, on a trial basis, an assembly at that location in 1973. Annual assemblies have since been held in Tonopah in early September.

As Nevada Area grew and sought more involvement in General Service Conference process, a decision was made to hold a second yearly meeting. In 1992 a March meeting in Tonopah was held, on a trial basis, for the purpose of discussing agenda items for the forthcoming General Service Conference. The March weekend has evolved into a two-day event with agenda items being discussed on

Ask it Basket

Tonopah Fall Assembly Sept 11-13, 2009

As is tradition with Area 42 Service Assembly that's held twice a year in Tonopah NV; our long term sober servants shared a wealth of knowledge by conducting the 'Ask It Basket' session this September. Ruth J. hosts the forum by gathering the trusted servants (lovingly referred to as Dusted Servants/ Feather Dusters) who've served Area 42 in a Delegate or Trustee capacity.

The Ask It Basket is set up at the front of the assembly room the entire weekend. The purpose is to provide a way new GSR's, or anyone attending, the opportunity to ask any questions they have on any AA service subject. I know for my first time in Tonopah, this was a valuable tool. I was unwilling to let anyone know or see that I didn't know anything about the assembly process, and being a GSR, much less any other service position. This provided a vehicle to ask anonymously without any discomfort, because I somehow felt I should have all the answers. I have since come to understand, there's no such thing a dumb question and the more information and knowledge shared amongst us, the more united we are.

On Sunday morning this panel included, Joan M., Joyce P., Pete L., and Mike D. and Roberta L. Without too much further ado, the information is presented as closely transcribed as possible, so please bear with me and forgive any literary license taken for purposes of length. Submitted by Marina B. Area 42 Secretary.

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Saturday and a meeting of the Area Committee held on Sunday.

In both the September and March assemblies the General Service Representatives (GSR) are most important part of the process. They provide the critical link between members in groups the rest of the General Service structure .

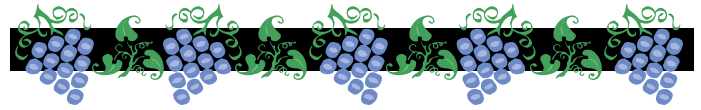
Fall Assembly

During even-numbered years the primary purposes of the area assembly are to elect a new delegate to the two subsequent General Service Conferences and to elect Area Officers. Elections are conducted by Third Legacy Procedures described in the Service Manual. The "election weekend" usually includes: area business meetings, ask-it-baskets, officer and DCM reports, and a Saturday night dinner meeting featuring a service oriented speaker. Non-election year assemblies have agendas which may devote more time to panel discussions for the General Service Representatives. These sessions are designed to familiarize GSR'S with general service basics and acquaint them with activities within the area, region, and General Service Conference. The Fall Assembly, with a voting body to provide group conscience, is the only occasion when area conscience, policy, or decision may be determined.

March Assembly

Initiated in 1992, the primary purpose of the March assembly is to provide the delegate with a sense of how groups and individual members feel about agenda items scheduled for discussion at the April General Service Conference. Although there may be some items such as a need for a new Edition of the Big Book, about which are knowledgeable, many of the agenda items are not widely known until the first weekend on January. During the intervening weeks until the March assembly, background information is collected from any sources, including the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) held during the first week in March weekend. Although the event may stretch out for twodays, many GSR'S attend only Saturday in an effort to minimize group expense. Saturday is devoted to a discussion and "sense" of the area, the Nevada Area delegate goes to New York to seek additional input from the

Conference and to exercise the "right of decision" . Area Committee meetings are also conducted during this weekend during this weekend, but in the absence of a voting body from the groups to voice their conscience, the meetings do not result in area policy or decisions.



*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

You can find the
minutes for the
Area 42 Assemblies
@

www.nevadaarea42.org

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Area 42 'Ask It Basket' Session:

Question #1.

What are panels; what are their numbers and what is their function?

Answer #1. RUTH: We're currently in panel 59. Half the Areas have even numbers and half are odd numbers. Our next panel is 61; we're the odd panel, believe it or not. It started in 1950 with the first conference and it's gone ever since then. If you take the base year; 1950 and add the panel number, you'll get what year they've served. I said I served Panel 29. If you add that to 1950, you'll know I served in 1979-1980. That's how the panel numbers come. It's a way to track when people served.

Question #2. I am new here, 2 years sober and I completely understood when encouraged to put more in the basket. At the Sat a.m. meeting here, no basket was passed prior to the assembly. This seems like the age old adage; Do as we say, not as we do. Why is this?

Answer #2. Joan: The AA meeting prior to the assembly is hosted by a District and is considered part of the assembly. There are really no costs that have not already been provided for in conducting the meeting from the assembly costs already done. There's no reason to take funds.

Question #3.

Did Father Martin sponsor Bill W. at any time?

Answer #3. Ruth: No. Father Martin didn't get sober until the late 50's-60 and Bill was very ill by then, so no he did not sponsor him.

Question #4.

On the subject of 'attraction rather than promotion, tradition eleven. Promotion; Does that mean I can sit back and wait for newcomers to ask me to sponsor them?

Answer #4. Pete: I would say 'probably not'. The history of AA and the stuff I read says; #1. You're assigned a sponsor early on. #2. Best way I've found is to introduce myself to newcomers. I don't make them come to me. You didn't make me come to you. I give my name and phone number to a lot of newcomers. I don't think it's anything to do with

attraction rather than promotion. It has to do with love and service.

Question #5.

If we have a lot of money left in our area treasury, what do we do with it?

Answer #5. Ruth: You don't have to worry about that this year. You OK'd a deficit budget for next year. It would be up to the assembly. It would go into reserve. Twenty years ago in San Diego, Imperial Area they decided to no accept money from anything but AA groups in their Area and to hold a prudent reserve of \$5000.00 or \$7000.00. If it goes over, it goes to GSO. People said your groups will not support your Area. You need the roundups, festivals, conventions etc. It has not been a year since they haven't sent to GSO. The roundup should be a breakeven – they are not fundraisers. If you pay for the service, you're going to pay attention to it. The groups should be responsible for the service they ask.

Question #6.

How do I let go and let God?

Answer #6. Joyce: Do we have a lot of time? I can share what happens for me, it's my opinion only. When I first came in, I'd ask how you do it? People would say, you just do the 3rd step prayer and turn it over. I'd do the 3rd step prayer and I'd still have it. So then, I'd get the hand on the hip and told, Joyce I just don't know why you're not getting it. Get a God box. I got a God box, but you never told me what to do with that either. I finally quit asking you guys about it. I felt less than. You all knew how to do it, you talked about it, you'd snap your fingers: the dog got run over, your wife left you, lost your job, and you just let go and let God. Well I still had it. What I learned for me as I went through the recovery process and worked with a sponsor. We started travelling through the big book. I did that 3rd step that states, to be immediately followed by that inventory process and on into steps 8 and 9. Somewhere along the line in this recovery process, it started to dissipate. It no longer had a hold on me. God removed that. But now I can sit in the rooms and take credit for what my higher power has done. Oh, I let go and let God. Say the 3rd step prayer and give it to God.

Question #7.

I have a question that I think is vitally important to AA. I'd

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like to thank the person who submitted it and because it's a good question and it target an issue, a question that's been presented in General Service Conference that I've been involved with for the last three years. Here's the questions: Is there a movement in Area 42 or AA as a whole to use the concepts out of context; like three and nine to keep our groups and membership in the dark so that those at the bottom of the pyramid can centralize control and horse-trade through specialization thereby inverting the pyramid?

Answer #7. Roberta:

I remember at P.R.A.A.S.A in Bakersfield I was at and I remember the early nineties and there was an undercurrent of New York and General Service Board and General Service Office are trying to control AA. Several people went to the mike and asked questions along that theme. It kind of cast a negative over P.R.A.A.S.A. that year. The last three General Service Conferences have had some people who felt like the General Service Board was somehow trying to usurp the conference right as far as governing and running AA. That somehow there were some secret things going on and bargaining behind the scenes that the general membership was not privy to. I'm going to share just my experience. I know that every committee I've served on the last three years has focused on 'What does the conference want?' We are here to do what the conference voted to do. There's constantly the focus, "what was it that we were supposed to be doing in the interim, to serve AA according to the conferences' wishes?" I'm sure everyone here understands that the General Service Board keeps the wheels of AA rolling in between conferences. It is the General Service Boards responsibility to make sure all the conference actions are implemented in exactly the way the conference intended to be done. I'm currently serving on a committee that's trying to figure out how to do what the conference wanted. The chair of the committee contacted the previous chair from last conference to make absolutely certain that our interpretation of the advisory action was correct and we were not overstepping our bounds. I can assure you that your vote, which is carried to the conference through Jason, is respected and wanted by the General Service Board. I can't tell you the numbers of times in A.A.W.S. Board meetings, staff members have said, "You know, I don't think this is what the fellowship

wants. This is not what I'm hearing from the people who email and call in". So this also helps to guide those of us who are back there trying to make the decisions of your group service and publishing. There is a movement to provide more information to the fellowship. Jason receives information to share all the time. This is something that concerns me deeply. Your wishes and concerns are of the utmost importance. They are at the top of the pyramid.

Questions #8.

Tell me how clubs fit into AA?

Answer #8 Mike:

First of all, clubs are not AA. They are businesses. If they want to keep raising the prices they can. Every group has the right to change their meeting location. There are a lot of places out there to find that will be less expensive because they don't need your funds to keep them operational.

Question #9. I understand a group in Area 42 charges a fee to sign court cards. Is this in keeping with the traditions?

Answer #9. Pete: Before I answer the question, I can only respond with "I wish I'd thought of that". I'll keep it real simple, no. No it is not in keeping with the traditions.

Question#10.

This is a three part q & a, so I'll take one at a time. Is it ok to get into service instead of sponsoring people?

Answer #10. Joan: #1. My answer to that is; service & sponsorship is the same. When you sponsor someone, that is doing service. It's not an instead of thing. If you want to sponsor that's part of service, if you want to do service work, that's service. That's my answer.

#2. Is part of the reason the suggested time in the service manual and the group pamphlet, is to let newcomers time to work one on one with other newcomers?

Answer: Part of the reason service time in the manual for positions in group service: it's so you have had time to work on you through the steps so that you can then give away what you've gotten. You can't keep it, you have to give it away, but you have to find it first.

#3. What's our Foundations tone? Well, it could be a stone in Bills house. I'm not sure. The Foundation of this program is the 12 steps and the Big Book. I have no other answer. Someone else can add to this one. Mike D.: I always heard it was cornerstone instead of foundations. My personal opinion is the Foundation stone of AA is willingness.

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Question 11.

Who can be a District Officer?

Answer #11. Mike:

Anyone sober in AA willing to serve. In order to be a DCM, you've had to serve a term as GSR, so two years serving as GSR in sobriety to become DCM. You don't have to be a GSR to be a group member.

Questions #12.

Do you have to be a GSR to become Secretary of a group?

Answer #12 Mike:

Not that I know of. Not for a group. Every group will have its own guideline structure. You have general guidelines in service manual that will tell you about that.

Questions #13.

Who can attend a District Meeting?

Answer #13 Mike:

This is not a closed meeting, so anyone can attend. The reason to attend would be to learn, understand, and hopefully become willing to serve.

Question #14.

What is a forum?

Answer #14. Roberta:

Having just attended the Regional Forum in New Jersey, this is fresh in my mind. A forum is something that a region requests and is put on by the General Service Board and General Service Office. The people who attend along with all the people in that region interested in attending are; the chair of the General Service Board is Ward Ewing. I can tell you his name because he's a non alcoholic trustee. He's the face of AA when we need someone to be there to have their picture taken.

The General Manager always attends, a representative of the Grapevine Board and Robin, who's the Grapevine Editor or Director, a member of A.A.W.S.B. and several staff people. The forum is a place where anyone can attend and learn what the G.S.O. and G.S.B. provides A.A. The regional trustee attends that forum also. You learn more about the service structure of A.A. and how we function.

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 7th, 2009. Please submit to:

area42newsletter@gmail.com



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:

Area 42 Votes to Send Pacific Region Trustee Nominee Forward to General Service Conference

During the Area 42 Fall Assembly in Tonopah, we chose a nominee for the Pacific Region Trustee position that comes up at Conference this next year. Ruth J. presented the system of third legacy procedure for this vote, and explained what this position means. 'The way that position is elected in fifteen areas of the pacific region, is that each area is allowed to send one member. Those fifteen names go to the conference. All pacific region trustees get to vote, all those on the trustee nominating committee get to vote, all those conference committee members on trustees get to vote, so that there's an equal amount against the fifteen delegates. If they need any extras to make it even, they will pull votes from the hat. It has happened in the past that we've had fewer than fifteen to elect.'

Ruth J. went on to explain a little more about the position and the requirements. 'It's a busy position, you can be gone every other week during the four years of service, Extensive travel is required so you need a flexible job, or retirement, or no job. It is not a paid position, It is volunteer. Your travel expenses are paid. These are the qualification of an Alcoholic Trustee as written in the service manual: Experience has shown that AA trustees are strong in one or more of these following areas and have contributed in matters that come before the board.

- A) The length of sobriety required is ten years is a minimum.
- B) A business or professional background is not necessary, but it has proven valuable for General Service Trustees who deal with business affairs.
- C) Leadership in AA. The qualities of dealing with AA growth and affairs, a minimum of friction, an ability to keep your opinions to yourself. (I added that, but it's true. You hear my opinion all the time after I rotated out, but while I served, you never heard my opinion). Good leaders can bring resoluteness, the courage of convictions good judgment, along with objectivity and the willingness to stand up and express them.

- C) Such candidates usually have the love and respect of AA in their community, state or province and can represent the board and interpret its actions back home.

The common denominator for a successful trustee is an ability to communicate effectively.

Ruth J. facilitated the introductions and voting process. 'There are at least three past delegates available to serve and each one will introduce themselves with length of sobriety and a little bit of their service work. The service resume will go with Jason to New York and it will be more detailed.'

Pete L., Mike D., Joyce P., and Joan M. all stood for Pacific Region Trustee. The first round of votes were cast with 146 voting members. Roberta L. and Julian R. assisted with the counting (non voting members) and Ruth defined voting members to the assembly. Pete L – 40, Mike D. – 28, Joyce P. – 26, Joan M. – 52.

A second round of votes were cast with a total of 138 (anyone less than 20% automatically is dropped).

Pete L. – 50, Mike D. – 12, Joyce P. – 19, Joan M. - 57.

Mike D. and Joyce P. With less than 20% are dropped.

A third ballot was done with the two names, Pete L – 62/43%, Joan M. - 81/57%.

A motion from the assembly to go to the hat was asked.

Joan M. was pulled and will be the Area 42 nominee for Pacific Region Trustee. Joan stood for Panel 51, Area 42; her sobriety date is Jan 7, 1979 and is celebrating 30 years. Her general service work began in 1983 as GSR, DCM of two districts, Alternate Delegate twice, Delegate of Area 42. Joan is retired, hold a Master of Science in Business Management, has been Treasurer of NAGSAC, Area Treasurer, Treasurer of two other non profit organizations, President of Home Owners Association, Is free to travel and she considers it a privilege to stand as nominee for Area 42.

With all our love and respect, we wish Joan all the best in the coming months.

In love and service, submitted by: Area 42 secretary
Marina B.

Information on 2010 International Convention

Dear Friends,

I wanted to give you a brief update on the International Convention. It's been very busy since my September 4 update. Over 20,000 people registered for the International Convention already. However, this does not necessarily mean a larger attendance, just that folks are registering early. As I mentioned in my email to you earlier this month, tying hotels to registration on a first-come, first-served basis really got us off to a busy start.

Hotel Reservations

For this Convention, we anticipated that providing rooms to registered attendees on a first-come, first-served basis would affect the number of people who registered and reserved housing early. The expectation was that we might see a slight increase from the number of early registrants who participated in the hotel lottery for previous Conventions. Personally, I expected that we would see half again as many, at most. For the 2005 International Convention in Toronto, only 3,000 rooms had been requested when they began assigning rooms in November of 2004. So we felt confident that we were in good shape for the opening of registration and housing.

However, after registration for San Antonio opened on September 1, our initial block of hotel rooms virtually sold out in less than two weeks. Most of the downtown core hotel rooms had been reserved within one week. These numbers are unprecedented. While we were able to respond to the demand and almost immediately add rooms and some new properties downtown, these rooms also sold out right away. This total number of rooms, over 8,000, is not historically reserved until the February before the Convention.

Housing Still Available

We continue to expand the selection of rooms in the outlying areas. There are rooms available through the Convention Housing Bureau, and new rooms are added to the reservation system as they come online. We do not expect to have additional rooms downtown available in our block.

Shuttle Service

We will provide shuttle service at no charge to registered Convention attendees. All of the housing booked through the Convention Housing Bureau will be included in the shuttle service.

I hope this information is helpful to you, as you attend assemblies and conferences this fall. We are in the process of updating our Web site with this information. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide more info about next year's Convention. Excitement's rising, and we're looking forward to a wonderful Convention!

In fellowship,
Rick W.
2010 International Convention Coordinator

Pre-Conference Assembly 2010
Timeline for Preparing Agenda Items

NAGSC/SAGSC Agenda Items for Round Tables are to be selected by districts or DCMs, Area Officers, NAGSC and SAGSC Officers and all Standing Committee Chairpersons, North and South. Any agenda item from the Final Agenda for the GSC may be selected. These items will be discussed at N/S roundtables on Feb. 28.

Pre Conference Assembly in March

Public Information Committee agenda items will be presented and discussed at the Pre-conference assembly in Tonopah. In Tonopah, Jason's preference and time available will determine if/when any of the other agenda items will be addressed. GSRs' "right of decision" is critical here.

Sat. Feb 13 (6 - 10 volunteers for summaries + 12 roundtable presenters)
B'ground materials to volunteers for summarization

Tues Feb 16 – Summarizers call or e-mail Jason/Sophie/Marion with progress report – please submit each topic as the summary is completed.

Thurs. Feb 18

Final Summaries to Marion no later than Thursday Feb 18 9:00 p.m.
Summaries received after the deadline cannot be used in the consolidated summary document.

(Logistics: line up 6 roundtable presenters in each North and South)

Fri. Feb 19 5:00 p.m.

Consolidated summary document sent via email.

Participants select, in whatever manner they choose, their "Top Six" agenda items. DCMs involve GSRs in the manner that best works for them

Selections to Jason no later than Sunday Feb. 21, 9 a.m.

"Top Six" lists received after the deadline cannot be considered in the final selection of agenda items.

Sat. Feb 20 (2 English-speaking volunteers + 2(?) interpreters)

Area Committee Member (Alt. Delegate to Dist. 21) visits special district meetings in D. 21 and D.22 to convey summary information through an interpreter. DCMs of Spanish-speaking districts report the "Top Six" lists to Jason by Sunday, Feb. 22, 9 a.m.

(Logistics: discuss idea with DCMs 21 and 22. Confirm date and time for special mtg, arrange interpreters. Secure volunteers to bring summary info.)

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Sun. Feb 21 -- 9 a.m.

Deadline for all selection submissions

Sun. Feb 21 -- 12 noon

Jason sends the top 6 agenda items selected to the area committee

NAGSC and SAGSC Chairs distribute the "Top Six" to the assigned presenters with background material for presentations during Round Tables.

Sun. Feb 28

Roundtables: NAGSC and SAGSC

Fri. Mar 5 – Sun Mar. 7: PRAASA, Los Angeles

Fri Mar 27: Pre-Conference Assembly, Tonopah

Preparing for P.I. presentations at Pre-conference Assembly

Early Feb. (8+ volunteer rusted servants)

Secure as many past delegates as possible willing to study the summaries (or background materials) and present the assigned agenda item(s). Distribute study materials by end of February.

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)