

AREA 63 FALL CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MINUTES: October 25, 2008

Meeting opened by Area Chair, Chris D. How It Works, and Twelve Concepts were read by Julie and George.

ARCHIVES WORKSHOP: Leslie D., Area 63 Archives Committee Chair, reported on the 12 Annual National Archives Workshop. **Four Founding Moments:** (1) Rowland Hazard carries the message to Ebby Thatcher in August, 1934 (2) Ebby Thatcher brings the Oxford Group tenants to a drunken Bill Wilson in November, 1934, (3) Bill Wilson has a vital spiritual experience in December, 1934; (4) Bill Wilson carries the message of recovery to Dr. Bob Smith in May 1935.

Representing NY GSO Archives: Conley B., SW Regional Trustee/ Trustee of the Archives committee, spoke about how AA started, summarized what could be found in GSO's archives, and how to access the material and rules for using that material. **Value of an Archivist:** Members share their stories about experiences that they have had through working with archives. **Preservation/Conservation Hands-On Workshop: Rules:** 1. Don't throw anything away, 2. Don't do anything that will be permanent. 3. Don't laminate anything. 4. Don't use scotch tape- acid will burn paper. The starting point is to find out first what everyone wants. Protect archives from moisture, humidity, heat, ultra-violet light, direct sunlight. Keep in approximately 68 degree temperature- inconsistent temperatures hurt the most. Protect archives from fire, (no smoking), and metal, (like paper clips and staples). Participants were shown how to remove staples, rusty paper clips, and tape, how to clean paper items, de-acidification, encapsulation, and cording books, and book repair. **Saturday topics:** How to gather oral history from people with a tape recorder and set of questions, trademarks, and copyright laws, how to collect group histories, and how to set up an archive repository (actual place to work on archives, and for people to come and see the Archives), and presentation about Nell Wing- first AA Archivist.

George R. added these comments: "When I'm feeling a far-ness from God, all I have to do is look at the history of AA, and see how God cared about AA...Networking opportunities were extensive. Now it is up to us- how much to we want to preserve? Do we want an Archivist? How much effort do we want to put forth?" Pictures and materials from the trip were available for display.

DELEGATES REPORT: John T., Panel 58, presented the Delegate's Report. He introduced Ken B., West Central Regional Trustee, elected last April at the General Service Conference. Ken explained the structure of the GSO Board with regional, general, and non-alcoholic trustees. The first Board meeting was orientation and introduction to several chairs. The Board meeting next weekend includes selection of trustees for one of the two Corporation Boards. (Ken has been named to three committees: the Trustee Conference Committee that filters most agenda items, the Corrections Committee, and the International Committee that focuses on work of trustees at large as they travel the world.)

Recent happenings: The AAWS Board recently considered increasing the cost of literature, Big Book and/or shipping costs, even though member contributions are up. Trustees were originally called in early to interview General Manager candidates but were recently informed that the Search Committee has selected a candidate. GSO is interviewing now for an Archivist. GSO office renovation will expand the Archivist Room and a staff room. Nebraska, Wyoming, Northern, Minnesota, and possibly South Dakota are bringing forth agenda items for the GSO Conference. Northern Minnesota's proposal is to remove the General Manager from the GSO Board. There has been previous controversy over the term length of the General Manager; there is currently no formal grievance process or way to bring forth a minority voice related to this position. Corrections and CPC both have videos being produced; will be brought to next GSO Conference. An issue is should we use recognizable faces in our PI Videos (they are actors.) One side of the discussion is "Should full faces be shown?" The Corrections Committee brought forth a proposal to add the Grapevine, LaVina, and Corrections

Video to the Corrections Kit. Question what is the cost? (Will be incredibly cheap). World Service Meeting will be held next week-65 or so people from around the world will come to share with Trustees.

John also called on Gary K., Past Trustee from the Southwest Region (2003 to 2007) and past Chair of the AAWS Board. Gary K. expressed "It is critical that we have Trustees from Regions that are from the rank and file, representative of our fellowship. Alcoholics understand minority report, group conscience, and that we are dangerous when we are given concentration of power for any period of time. Non-alcoholic trustees think in academic, business, and professional terms. Bill W. had a 1962 Minority Report that said Regional trustees need to continue to be a link between the fellowship and GSO. This is an inverted triangle. We collectively have a responsibility to participate in this process. We need active, participating GSR's. The Conference and Board has responsibility for oversight so that AA will always be there."

John T. reported: (1) The Final GSC Report and a Special Needs Assessment Workbook are available. (2) Lisa R. from Area 63 has an article in the November Grapevine. (3) The Special Forum will be held Nov. 12, 13, 14, 2010, at the Ramkota, in Rapid City. (4) Minnesota has a booth at the State fair for PI. (We are missing these opportunities.) (5) The West Central Regional Conference will be held Feb. 27, 28, March 1 in Casper. (6) Finances: Third quarter report should be coming to DCM's. 2nd Quarter, Area 63 contributed less than half of \$150 needed to be self-supporting. Talk to your group about their contribution. (7) Delegate's reports have been given in District 2,3,4,5, 9 and 13 and scheduled for District. 8. (8) The new Service Manual is available.

AREA 63 (SD) DISTRICT REPORTS

DIST-1: Northwest SD, including Bison, Lemmon, Cheyenne Eagle Butte, and Faith, no report.

DIST 2: Todd T, DCM; located in west central SD including Rapid City, Box Elder, Ellsworth AFB, Black Hawk, Wall, and Phillip with 24 registered groups, 15 active in our District- 8 votes today. District 2 is an active district that meets the last Sunday every month at the Rapid City Alano Club from 4-6 p.m. We have representatives from primary groups that carry the majority of the workload, and an additional dozen groups who are active in their service contribution to the District. We have a committee structure similar to Area 63 and GSO, and a monthly potluck. Updates: We are actively reaching out to old-timers to help us; mentorship is the focus from those with service experience. We are actively reaching out to groups who are not active in the District. District 2 has prepared a bid to host the 2010 Area 63 Fall Conference to be presented today.

DIST 3: Jodi J., DCM; located in south central SD including Wanblee, Kyle, Martin, St. Francis, and Mission, with 7 registered and 7 active groups and 3 votes here today. Many of the groups in our District have regular birthday meetings. White River Out of Towner's had their annual retreat at Blue Cloud Abbey. Serenity Kayak Club had its first annual kayak trip down the Niobrara River in Valentine, Nebraska. Serenity Club in Mission is planning a Halloween party/potluck/speaker meeting on the 31st. Issues: It is difficult to get representation from all groups. We are about 2 1/2 hours from east to west and include two time zones. A district meeting is planned for early November. Martin will be having an annual potluck/speaker meeting in January. White River Out of Towner's will be having their annual potluck and speaker meeting in February.

DIST 4: George B, DCM; located in southeastern SD, including Yankton, Vermillion, and Springfield with 9 registered and 7 active groups. Laddie C. celebrated 38 years of sobriety on September 22 and left earth for better things on September 30. Laddie was very active in the Fellowship and service work. He is greatly missed. A chili feed will be held November 8th at the 12/24 Club in Yankton with participation from all groups in District 4. District is hosting but everyone is welcome. Sarah S. and The Daily Reprieve Group in Yankton are working to find people interested in taking AA into Yankton County jail-(male and female.) Also interested in finding people interested in taking AA into the Springfield prison facility. District meetings are the last Saturday of each month at 1:30p.m. at the 12/24 Club in Yankton. Generally we have a decent turnout of GSR's and members who are interested in keeping AA strong and growing in District 4. Bart, GSR for

Vermillion Unity Group is working on a CPC meeting to be held at the University sometime in December or January.

DIST 5: Kris R., DCM; located in eastern SD, including Sioux Falls, Chester, Madison, Brandon, Dell Rapids, Tea, Flandreau, and Coleman with 22 registered groups, 12 active at District level, and 6 votes present at the Assembly. The Big Book study held in September was well attended. We had approximately 75 people and the response was great. Brian & Kathryn (our host couple) stayed with Bruce P. We had great meetings and they would love to come back. We had four new GSR's attend the District meeting that month. Issues: We have fluctuation in groups who attend our District meeting. We are hosting the Spring Conference 2009. Pre-register, pre-register, pre-register!

DIST 6: Located in northeast SD, including Aberdeen, Redfield, Webster, Milbank, Big Stone, and Britton. No report today.

DIST 7: Rod B, DCM; located in north central SD, including Mobridge, Harrold, Selby, Gettysburg, Pierre, Fort Thompson, Murdo, Draper, and Vivian with 12 registered and 8 or more groups in total. We have 3 votes today. We have a new group in Pierre, - GSR is Mel J. We have a new Secretary for District 7-Doug S. from Selby. Thanks to the Area folks for attending the Winter Assembly hosted by District 7. We recently had a successful summer potluck in Vivian. Issues: Greater group participation, GSO Contributions, and working and implementing Bridging the Gap program. Special thanks to our enthusiastic Delegate from Area 63. We are looking forward to his report in Pierre later this month.

DIST 8: Mark S., DCM; located in east central SD including DeSmet (Kingsbury Group), Ethan, Mitchell, Woonsocket, Miller, Wessington Springs, Parkston, Emery, and Huron with 9 registered, 7 active groups at the District level. No report today.

DIST 9: Jerry A., DCM; located in East Central region (Brookings, Clear Lake, Lake Preston, DeSmet, and Watertown) with 12 registered groups, 10 active, and 6 votes at the Assembly. Area 63 Delegate, John T. came and talked in Brookings in August, and in Watertown in October. We have monthly district meetings with fair attendance.

DIST 10: Pete M., DCM; Located in the southern Black Hills, including Hot Springs, Custer and Hill City with 5 registered groups. District 10 of Area 63 of Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference has five (5) active and registered groups that hold meetings as few as twice and as frequently as four (4) times per week. Two groups, the Custer Group 112505 and the Big Book Thumpers Group 664119, have identified a General Service Representatives (GSRs). Other groups in District 10 are deciding whether or not to have GSRs. The Custer Group has indicated an interest in public information service work within the community of District 10. The PI information packet from Central Office in New York is being requested by the District. The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Hot Springs, SD has indicated an interest in receiving copies of the *Grapevine* and has agreed to talks by AA members at their facility on alternate Thursdays. The District welcomes recent *Grapevines* from AA members. The VA asked for 12 scholarships to this conference for their patients. The groups of District 10 raised the funds and informed the VA of its actions. 12 patients from the Addictive Disorders Service (ADS) of the VA are attending this conference.

The absence of the District Committee Member (DCM) due to family illness has led to an interruption of District Meetings. The District Groups have decided to meet at the Alano Club in Custer, SD. The DCM has attended and participated in each of the active and registered groups in District 10 and plans to continue to attend each group, every month. As a reminder, the Oelrichs Group 665487 and the Group # 9 Downtown Pringle 601566 have ceased to meet and have not met within the last 18 months. District 10 recommends that

these group no longer be listed on the Area 63 Web Site or in General Service information materials. Efforts to remove the notices for these groups in the local newspapers are in process.

DIST 11: John L., reporting. Located in Southeastern, South Dakota (Beresford, Canton, Centerville, Irene, Elk Point, and Parker. Alcester is closed.) Our GSR, Jeff WB, is doing a good job visiting the town's trying to get a new DCM for our District. Beresford Group is back on focus. We have about 20 at our Wednesday night meetings. They put on meetings at the V.A. in Sioux Falls and at Yankton Human Service Center.

DIST 13: Chris H., DCM; located in northwest SD including Harding, Butte, Lawrence, and part of Meade Counties (Buffalo, Belle Fourche, Camp Crook, Deadwood, Lead, Spearfish, Whitewood, and Sturgis). There are 9 active registered, 1 non-registered and many smaller groups. On October 11, our District (Alt. DCM-Bob M. Chairman) hosted a Traditions Workshop/potluck supper and speaker meeting and Delegates Report at the Serenity Club in Sturgis. Another workshop for January or February is in the planning stages. A CPC Luncheon was held in Buffalo on September 26th with a very good turn-out of professional people from the Buffalo area. Thanks to Wayne K. and Karen S. A Halloween Meeting/ Potluck/ Dance will be held Friday Night the 31 at 7 p.m. at the Serenity Club, hosted by the Sturgis Group. Everyone is invited to attend. Our next District meeting will be held November 3 at 6:30 in Spearfish at the Spearfish Groups location on Michigan Street. Issues: money contributions.

DIST 12-No Report. DISTRICTS 14 & 15 are not currently active at the Area 63 level.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARCHIVES Leslie D. chaired with 8 members present.

1. Reviewed the proposed budget; approved it.
2. Archives had a table top display at one time, but we do not know where it is now. If you have information about this, please contact Leslie. D.
3. Leslie will be returning plastic paper protectors to Office Max due to information received at the National Archives Workshop.
4. The Committee is asking for feedback from groups and Districts about what they would like to have in their archives. At the end of the minutes see "Why Archives are Important" along with a list of some items to consider about what to include in archives. If there is something you would like to see that is not on the list, please write it under the miscellaneous column.

CORRECTIONS AND TREATMENT Dave D. chaired with 8 members present.

1. Reviewed proposed budget.
2. Reviewed what our chair does.
3. What we want to discuss and/or do at Spring Conference, related to Bridging the Gap.
4. Considered getting inside state facilities to "Bridge the Gap", and talking to State officials about getting that implemented.
5. Recommend that the committee promote more networking between the Districts and the Area, network with State Facilities to gain volunteers for Bridge the Gap, and to have the speakers at the Spring Conference discuss how corrections and treatment committee has helped them.

COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES Don F. chaired, with 4 members present.

1. Reviewed how the CPC meeting was held in DeSmet on October 7, 2008.
2. Wrote and approved the CPC Chairperson job description.
3. Considered holding future CPC meetings, including one in December or January in Vermillion.
4. Fielded new member questions about CPC.

LITERATURE AND GRAPEVINE Ervin B chaired with 6 members in attendance.

1. Reviewed duties of Committee Chairperson. Suggest to the Area to have a Literature Chairperson and a Grapevine Chairperson.
2. Reviewed purchasing power of the Literature Committee (savings from buying in bulk).
3. Considered suggesting to Districts that they purchase past issues of the Grapevine to donate to hospitals, clinics, churches, jails/prisons and stamp with contact information.
4. Considered work with the Public Information Committee.
5. Considered pulling together a panel discussion for the Spring '09 Conference.
6. Suggest that the Area compile a Quarterly Newsletter to include personal stories, district reports, and upcoming events.
7. A member of Area 63 had their story published in the Grapevine. Our Committee encourages all members to share their experience, strength, and hope with the Grapevine.
8. Suggest that groups have "Grapevine" meetings.

PUBLIC INFORMATION Danny Irwin chaired, with 5 members in attendance.

1. Reviewed the proposed 800 phone contact service.
2. Considered our proposed budget. Approved as is, pending further investigation of 800 services.
3. The Committee will discuss distribution of public information at county and the State Fair at the Winter Assembly.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES Jody J. chaired, with 5 members.

1. Reviewed flyer about Remote Communities and Special Needs and decided to take them off-line until they are officially approved by the Area.
2. Each member will review an item from the Special Needs Tools Kit.
3. Jim J. will investigate GSO involvement with Loners International Meeting.
4. Considered investigating history of Remote Communities at the GSO level.
5. Considered distribution system and updates for the Remote Communities list.
6. Some Districts have discussed Remote Communities/Special Needs within their Districts.

POLICIES AND ADMISSION Dean B. chaired, with 2 members present.

1. Reviewed Calendar of Events to assure there are no conflicts.
2. Reviewed role and purpose of Policy and Admissions Committee, Guidelines and Committee description.
3. Reviewed first draft of job description.
4. Considered drafting an agenda template.
5. Recommended accepting bids for the 2010 Fall Conference at this area meeting.

REPORT AND CHARTER, Anne F. chaired with 4 members present.

1. Reviewed minutes; agreed on new process to get the minutes out in a timely manner and assure accuracy. Intent will be to get the DCM's a draft within one week so minutes are available for District meetings.; and a draft out to the Area Officers for review at the same time. Final mailing proposed deadline two weeks after the Business meeting.
2. Reviewed the last Conference Guidebook revisions and input received at the August and October meetings; a new revision will be sent out to the Committee for input. We are planning a **sub-committee meeting Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. at the Serenity Club in Sturgis.**
3. Reviewed the Secretary/Registrar Job Description; added qualifications and some additional modifications.
4. Made the suggestion that every Committee and Area Officer work on additional items to put in their "pass-through folder. For example, some committees may want to develop a schedule of tasks that need to be done. Committee will compile all job descriptions received to date and return to appropriate Committees.

FINANCE Tammy F. chaired with 10 members present.

1. Reviewed Treasurer's report.
2. Balanced/audited General Fund, and Conference Accounts.
3. Considered: how to increase group contributions.
4. Worked on job description for the Treasurer; will complete by 2009 Winter Assembly.
5. Will e-mail DCM groups that have contributed in the past but not yet this year.
6. We have envelopes on the back table to send Area 63 Contributions and GSO envelopes.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE Brian U. chaired with 6 members present.

1. Reviewed: There has been a fair amount of traffic since the August meeting. Meeting updates are going well.
2. Considered: Area Committees please remember you have your own page for posting committee information.
3. Currently making updates to District 9 meetings for Vermillion, Yankton, and Springfield.
4. Still working on an interactive area map.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made and seconded to accept bid for the 2010 Spring Conference, June 4, 5, 6 from District 9 (Brooking Original group.) **The motion was approved unanimously.**
2. A motion made and seconded to accept proposed 2009 Budget (see minutes of Summer Assembly). **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. A motion was made and seconded to propose an agenda item for the 2009 General Service Conference: "The functional expenses of the General Service Office should be fully self-supporting through group contributions by 2020." **Discussion:** Area 63, if they propose this, should increase their contributions (we do not meet the national average.)_Not realistic. Wording is too vague. Serves purpose of bringing up the issue._When have we been self-supporting (never). What are the far-reaching effects of this proposal? GSO now has only 8-9 months reserve._ We can't really depend on literature as a source of income now-don't see a way out of this dilemma. Needs teeth to it. Roughly 2 million of budget is made up of literature sales. Expenses are about 8 million, and we collect only 6 million. We could downsize services. If this would pass, price of literature would probably come down. Could be sold at cost eventually- this would eliminate anyone stealing our copyrights. Discussion is the most important issue. Has this motion been made before? Part of the Book proceeds belongs to AA. See Self-Support Discussion in the Final Report. Another Area became self-supporting. The question was called. **The motion passed by a substantial majority.** Minority opinion was voiced but did not change the approval of the motion: Minority opinion: I didn't hear a good solution. Birthday Club could generate a lot of income. We miss out on discussion if we pass it. We should clean up our record in Area 63 and then we could submit this.
4. A motion was made and seconded to propose an agenda item for the 2009 General Service Conference: "To establish a program called Soldier to Soldier, similar to Bridging the Gap, whereby a contact list of service men and women in recovery can be made available to service men and women, including veterans, seeking sobriety. A substitute motion was proposed and seconded that we refer this to our CPC committee for possible study and perhaps a pilot project. **Discussion:** Guys in the military now have a lot of problems with drinking; treatment paid for by military has been scaled back. People don't want to talk about substance abuse issues because it will finish their careers. The original proposal needs much further discussion. My group had a lot of questions. Could lose singleness of purpose by trying to focus on soldiers. **The amendment passed unanimously.**

5. Lisa R. and George R. were nominated to stand for the Trustee at Large position currently open. The Third Legacy voting procedure was used. **After the third ballot George R., received over the 2/3 majority required** (32 out of 43 votes).
6. A motion was made and seconded to review the 2010 Fall Conference bid today and approve or disapprove without taking the motion back to the fellowship for review. **Discussion:** Increased time is currently needed to obtain facilities and make other preparations for Conferences. **The motion was approved with a substantial majority.**
7. One Fall Conference bid was presented by District 2 to host the 2010 Fall Conference on October 1, 2, 3 with a proposed income of \$11,730, expenses of \$860, and a surplus of \$860. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept this bid.**

\$102.30 was collected to send to the General Service Office.

CONFERENCE REPORTS & ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

2008 Fall Conference: Anthony F. Chr.-October 24-26, 2008, Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, Rapid City. 491 registrations so far.

2009 West Central Regional Forum, Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2009 in Casper, Wyoming at the Ramkota Inn.

Important to get room reservations as soon as possible-call (307) 266-6000. See area63aa.org for more information.

Winter 09 Assembly, March 28-29, 2009, Pierre, King's Inn, District 2, host.

2009 General Service Conference, April 26-May 2, 2009, New York.

2009 Spring Conference, May 8, 9, 10 at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls. Pre-register, pre-register, pre-register. Workshop on sponsorship Saturday

2009 Summer Assembly, August 22, 2009, Pierre, Kings Inn.

2009 Fall Conference, October 9, 10, 11, Spearfish Holiday Inn. Theme: "An Experience that You Must Not Miss." Planning meeting Nov. 13, 2008 at 6:45 pm at Sturgis Church.

2010 West Central Regional Service Workshop (location pending)

2010 Winter Assembly-Dates Pending, Pierre

2010 General Service Conference, New York, April 18-24, 2010.

2010 Spring Conference-June 4, 5, 6-Brookings, SD

2010 Fall Conference October 1, 2, 3 at Plaza Holiday Inn, Rapid City.

2011 Spring Conference-bring bid to Winter assembly in March

Area 63 Delegate intends to submit a letter to the GSO voicing a protest about the change in procedure regarding the General Manager candidates unless he hears differently from the fellowship

Why Are Archives Important??

1. Archival service is vital to the survival of the Fellowship.
2. Historic records help us to sift through our day-to-day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past.
3. As we sort out the myth from the facts, we ensure that our original message of recovery, unity, and service remains the same in a changing, growing, expanding Fellowship that constantly renews itself.
4. Archives provide an opportunity for AA members to actively share in our history.

Items to archive:

Books and pamphlets about AA

Documents developed locally to support Twelfth Step work

Photographs

Directories

Meeting lists

Newsletters (particularly those published by your area/district)

Audio recordings

News clippings

Magazine articles

Correspondence

Minutes of service committees

Miscellaneous: (Add your ideas)

Area 63 Treasurers Report

Friends of Bill W & Dr. Bob:

Our approved budget for 2008 is at \$13,500. A \$1,125 per month in group contributions will meet our budget goals for 2008. Our average Year-to-Date group contributions to meet our 2008 budget **should be \$11,250**. We currently **have received** year-to-date group contributions of **\$8,290.95**. This shows a shortfall in group contributions of (\$3,040.05). To close the year and meet our budget, we will need in the last 3 month of 2008 group contributions of \$5,209.05. Then we will have met our target of \$13,500.

That said, again we received \$8,290.95 in group contributions year-to-date. Our committees have been prudent in their spending and therefore our expenses are currently at (\$8,247.00) year-to-date. This shows that we have been self-supporting to this point with a surplus of \$43.95. We will have expenses the last 3 month of 2008. Conference expenses for committee chairs and officers, Achieves expense to travel to New York and any other committee expenses that will be turned in at this conference are expenses we will need to pay, so it probably is not a really good idea to rest on our laurels.

Groups in Area 63 have shown awesome support this year and we would like to say thank so much for your support. I would like to recognize that **SEVEN** new groups were added to our contributions list for Area 63 in 2008. They are:

East Side Nooners – Watertown

Lake Preston Benders Enders

Lemon Aid Group

Murdo AA

Rushmore Roundup

Wagner AA

Winner Westside Group

Thank you again for your support to your Area. Just a friendly reminder, please send your contributions to:

Tammy F., Area 63 Treasurer
840 N Spruce Lot 284
Rapid City, SD 57701

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Winter Workshop 2009 in Pierre. If you should have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at tkf840@rushmore.com or by mail. Thank You.

In Service,
Tammy

Area 63 Delegates Report-11/12/18

Dear Friends of Bill and Bob

I am pleased to report that we had two excellent meetings for Delegate's Reports this past weekend in Districts 4 and 8. Thus far, I have given reports in Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 13 with upcoming reports scheduled in Districts 7 and 10. I still need to schedule Delegate's Reports in Districts 1, 6, 12, 14, and 15. I intend to visit all 15 districts in Area 63 by January 1. If you attend meetings in one of the districts I have not yet visited, please contact me ASAP so we can schedule a Delegate's report in your area.

The World Service Conference was held in New York the last week in October with 59 delegates from 40 countries in attendance. The General Service Board held its quarterly meeting the following weekend. Several items of business are worth noting. At AAWS, literature sales for the first nine months of '08 were at \$9.5 million, which is 2.8% over budget. Group contributions were at \$4.6 million which is on par with the 2008 budget. At the Grapevine, subscriptions for the first nine months stand at 106,000, about 200 below 2007 which translates into a net loss of \$95,000. Let's make sure we are doing our part to support the Grapevine.

The Board has hired a new General Manager for AAWS. Phyllis Halliday, past trustee from the Pacific Region, will replace Greg Muth as the General Manager, starting January 1, 2008. Rev. Ward Ewing, Class A trustee will succeed Leonard Blumenthal as the Chairman of the AA General Service Board following the 59th General Service Conference. Though I am pleased that we have selected a new General Manager and a new Chairman of the Board and wish both Phyllis and Ward the very best in their new positions, I have to report to you that I am not very pleased with the process followed by the selection committees in reaching those decisions.

In the case of the General Manager, upon receiving the resignation notice of the current manager, the Chairman of the Board, Leonard Blumenthal appointed a search committee consisting of six trustees (two Class A, two Class B General Service, and two Class B Regional). The search committee advertised the position and received about 40 applicants for the position. The committee reviewed the applications and narrowed the search to 5 applicants. Interviews and background checks were conducted and the field was narrowed to about 3 applicants. As I understand it, the plan was to have the finalists attend the November Board Weekend to give the full Board of Trustees the opportunity to meet the candidates, ask questions and make the final selection of the next General Manager. The trustees were notified of this procedure and made travel plans to arrive at the Board Weekend a day early to conduct the interviews. The search committee then made the decision to narrow the field from three finalists to one. They were unanimous in their choice and brought forth the name of Phyllis Halliday, Past Pacific Region Trustee as the search committee's choice for the next General Manager. In essence, the search committee became the selection committee.

This process is troubling to me on a number of levels. First, the General Manager works for the full Board of Trustees. Therefore, I believe the full board should be given a choice in the final selection process. Second, the search committee was hand selected by the Chairman of the Board and may or may not be an accurate reflection of the wishes of the entire board. Third, one of the six trustees on the search committee is the current Pacific Region Trustee and at least three of the six members of the search committee are friends of the finalist. Fourth, the current General Manager is a Past Pacific Region Trustee, as was the General Manager before him. Fifth, one of the three finalists eliminated by the search committee was Ted S., a Panel 42 Delegate from Area 63 and a Past Trustee from the West Central Region.

Concerning the selection of Ward Ewing as the next Chairman of the Board; The Trustees Nominating Committee was given the task of reviewing nominees for the position of Chairman and to bring forth one or more nominees for the position. Candidates were to include both current and past Class A and Class B Trustees. The 57th General Service Conference passed a Conference Advisory Action to allow both Class A

(non alcoholic) and Class B (alcoholic) trustees to stand for the position of Chairman of the Board. This Advisory Action was reaffirmed by the 58th General Service Conference. Historically, only Class A trustees have been considered for this position. The Nominating Committee reported to the November Board Weekend with one candidate for Chairman, that being the Rev. Ward Ewing, who just happens to be the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. It appears that there is precedence for bringing forth just one nominee. However, considering the fact that the Conference has been explicit in wanting both Class A and Class B Trustees considered for the position, I believe the full Board of Trustees should have been given a choice in selecting the next Chairman of the Board. At the very least, if the Rev. Ewing was going to be considered as a nominee for Chairman, he should have removed himself from the selection committee.

I have been in communication with Ken B. our West Central Region Trustee and several Delegates concerning this process. The selections for both the General Manager and Chairman of the Board have been made and we need now to give both Phyllis and Ward our full support. However, as your trusted servant, I feel it is my responsibility to communicate my dissatisfaction with the process to the Board of Trustees along with my fellow Delegates to help insure that future selections of General Manager and Chairman of the Board are made using a committee selection process more in line with the principles of our fellowship. To that end, I have made plans to attend the Southeast Regional Forum to be held in Knoxville, TN, November 21 – 23, 2008. I believe at least 8 trustees will be in attendance that weekend, including the current Chairman of the Board. Following that meeting I intend to send a letter to the full board expressing my concerns and will consider whether the submission of agenda items to the 59th General Service Conference regarding the selection processes are in order.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e mail and I will be happy to discuss this or any other matter with you further.

Yours in Service,
John Teupel, Area 63 Delegate

AREA 63 SOUTH DAKOTA – Updated October 25, 2008
Officers, Committee Chairpersons and DCMs
(CONFIDENTIAL LISTING - Please respect anonymity of those listed here)

For additional information www.area63AA.org or area63secretary@yahoo.com

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS / PHONE	PHONE	EMAIL
DELEGATE	John T.			
ALT DELE Policy Adm /Agenda	Dean B.			
CHAIRPERSON	Chris D.			
TREASURER Finance	Tammy F.			
SEC/REGISTRAR Report & Charter	Anne F.			
ARCHIVES	Leslie D.			
CORRECTIONS/ TREATMENT	Dave D.			
CPC	Don F.			
LITERATURE /GRAPEVINE	Erwin B.			
PUBLIC INFO	Danny I.			
REMOTE COMM	Jodi J.			
WEB MANAGER	Brian U.			
DISTRICT 1	Sam S.			
DISTRICT 2	Todd T.			
DISTRICT 3	Jodi J.			
DISTRICT 4	George B			
DISTRICT 5	Kris R.			
DISTRICT 6	Jess C.			
DISTRICT 7	Rod B.			
DISTRICT 8	Mark S.			
DISTRICT 9	Jerry A.			
DISTRICT 10	Pete M.			
DISTRICT 12	Wayne K.			
DISTRICT 13	Chris H.			
DIST 11,14 & 15	Not actively holding district meetings.			
ALANON DELEGATE	Judy S.	Personal Information Not Published on Internet		
ALANON SECRETARY	Raven S.			

**Personal Information Not Published on Internet
Version. Contact
area63secretary@yahoo.com for more
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