

AREA 63 SPRING CONFERENCE BUSINESS ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Perry G., Chairman opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. How It Works, the 12-Traditions and the 12-Concepts were read by Heather N., Jeff B. and Terry M. respectively.

DELEGATES REPORT: Estelle G, Panel 56. (Attached to minutes)

AREA COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS WERE HELD

DISTRICT REPORTS

DIST 2: Anne F, DCM. Located in western SD, including Rapid City, east to Wall. There are 28 registered groups, with 10-12 active in District meetings. The committee system is working well and the proposed budget passed. District meetings average 20-30 active members. The new hotline system is functioning well and several groups have hotline chairs. Corrections & Treatment are fully staffed for local meetings and literature is being disseminated.

DIST 4: Bob G, DCM. Located in southeastern SD, including Yankton, Vermillion, Freeman, Tabor, Tyndall and Springfield. There are 10 registered groups. Hosted potluck for delegate's report. An issue facing the District is having GSRs show up at District meetings.

DIST 5: Joan G, DCM. Located in East Central SD, including Sioux Falls, Chester, Madison, Brandon, Salem and Flandreau. The 2007 Spring Conference at the Oaks Hotel (Howard Johnson), June 1-3, 2007. The committee is in place for hosting. Their inter-group has a website.

DIST 8: Sally S, DCM. Located in East Central SD. 6 groups are active. They have 4 District meetings per year. The District hosts a round-robin speakers meeting & potluck that rotates each month, except for Nov & Dec.

DIST 9: Leslie D, DCM: District includes Brookings, Clear Lake & Watertown with 8 registered groups & 3 active. Brookings Original Group will host a sponsorship workshop June 25. The District would like more participation from the groups at their meetings. They are discussing a new literature committee to be formed in District. Watertown has a new building at 1836 14th Ave SE., which is handicap accessible.

DIST 11: Susan J, DCM. Located in southeast region, including Beresford, Centerville, Parker, Irene, Alcester, Elk Point and surrounding towns. They have 6 registered groups, 5 active. Meetings have good attendance. They take meetings to institutions including, Woodfield Center, Springfield prison and Elk Point jail.

DIST 13: Karla M, DCM. Located in Northern Hills, including Belle Fourche, Deadwood, Lead, Spearfish & Sturgis. They have 7 registered and 5 active groups. There are 2 upcoming weekend activities including Black Hills Girl Talk and the Paha Sapa Mountain Conference. The District will be hosting meetings every 3 hours during the Sturgis Rally & Races. A traditions workshop at the Serenity Building in Sturgis will be held on Sept 16.

DISTRICTS 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15. No Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES - Darla J chairperson with 6 members in attendance.

1. Reviewed a letter received asking how the Area conducts the archive committee. Darla will respond.
2. Reviewed budget & recommend no changes at this time.
3. Continued discussion of how to preserve the archives. Committee members will gather more information.
4. Considering need to move archives to new location that would be "climate controlled", unlike the current location.
5. Considering idea to digitally scan archives and make them available to the membership at cost.
6. Considering need to have a permanent position of "state archivist".
7. Considering if there should be a once per year traveling display to cut down on the handling of the archives.

CORRECTIONS / TREATMENT FACILITIES REPORT - Dean B Chaired with 8 in attendance.

1. Discussed 'Bridging the Gap' contacts & forms that give clearance.
2. Discussed the "pink can" plan for Area 63.
3. Discussed hosting a one-hour workshop to be held during the Spring Conference.
4. Recommended "pink cans" be used at conferences, workshops and roundups to gather funds for corrections.
5. Considered BTG forms and fact that they are available on-line.

CPC (Cooperation with Professional Community) - Todd T Chaired with 3 in attendance.

1. Reviewed definition of what, when, who & how much the CPC "How To Guide/Information" package will be distributed to Area 63 contacts.
2. Reviewed the proposed 2006 Budget and recommend accepting as is, without change.
3. Considered creating a CPC starter kit for districts and/or strong home groups in non-active districts. The committee will create and approve a sample prior to the August meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - John T, Chairperson and 8 members met.

1. Reviewed treasurer's report and audited check book.
2. Discussed mailing info with next minutes regarding self-support and supporting Area 63 & the AAWS.
3. Discussed alternative sites for workshops and agreed to continue discussion at Summer workshop in Pierre.
4. Discussed power point presentations on self-support that was presented by Area 76 at the West Central Regional.
5. Discussed opening an Area Treasurer's email account.
6. Discussed proposal to increase stipend by \$25.
7. Discussed combining committee expense reports for Area Chair, Secretary and Alternate Delegate.
8. Review pending action on literature for Delegate expense, CPC, C&T.
8. Discussed raising the regional conference presentations from \$225 to \$300.

LITERATURE - Lori P chaired with 5 members attending.

1. Reviewed proposed budget with recommendation to accept as stated.
2. Reviewed the inventory of the order just placed.
3. Discussed pamphlets and looked at AA website for information on literature.

PI COMMITTEE - Terry M, Chairperson met with 4 members.

1. Discussed ways that the PI can better distribute information to the Area.
2. Discussed means to get the PSA (public service announcements) to the media outlets in our Area.
3. Considered sending a letter to DCMs asking them how they distribute literature in their district. As well, asking the DCMs to determine the type of formats that local media will accept for PSAs.
4. Discussed compiling information from the districts and redistributing the information within the Area on how districts effectively distribute literature.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE: John J. (by report)

John thanked the Area for allowing him to serve as webmaster. There are numerous new postings on the website, including "Events" page and updates to the "AA Meetings" page. He is considering an update to the entire web site, but any changes will be worked through the committee system before action is taken.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS - Norm G chairperson with 4 members in attendance.

1. Reviewed the Area 63 Policy handbook that is currently being created.
2. Considered creating a conference sub-committee handbook. Will discuss further at Summer workshop.
3. Considered changing the structure of the conferences.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE - Jim K chairperson with 4 members.

1. Reviewed and added newly revised documents and returned them to the workbook.
2. Reviewed the survey sheets and plan to compile the data received into a report.
3. Considered idea to raise awareness via the Area website of special needs and meeting accessibility.
4. Recommend that conference planning committees consider special needs and accessibility issues when planning conferences and workshops and that pre-registration forms include a section where special needs can be identified by members.

REPORT & CHARTER (Policy Admissions) - Anne F chaired with 3 in attendance.

1. Discussed agenda item concerning mailing postcard related to Area 63 mailing list and email.
2. Discussed agenda item concerning mailing the GSO agenda items yearly.
3. Reviewed discrepancy between the minutes and the Area 63 map and the actual number of districts. Area minutes indicate 13 districts but the Area 63 maps shows 15.
4. Consider future recommendation to change map (redistrict) to 13 if necessary.

WORKSHOP BUSINESS MEETING - 136 people registered.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *The assembly APPROVED the motion (32-0) to increase the delegates' travel expense budget from \$600 to \$1200 to account for self-support sending our delegate to the WCRSW and Regional Forums.*
2. *The assembly APPROVED the motion (31-0) to increase the budget for Corrections & Treatment from \$250 to \$500, restoring the budget from previous years.*
3. *The assembly APPROVED the motion (31-0) to change the CPC budget: \$350 chair stipend; \$200 expenses for committee; \$250 each for the East River & West River CPC luncheon, increasing the net expense for the committee by \$150.*
4. *The assembly APPROVED the motion (33-0) to direct the Area Secretary to mail a post card to everyone listed on the current mailing list, requesting return of the card be confirm their information and give the option to receive minutes by email or regular US postal service. The assembly noted that those registered at this current workshop not be mailed a postcard.*
5. *The assembly APPROVED (32-0) to direct the Area Secretary to mail out the General Service Conference agenda items to our DCMs and Area Officers as soon around February 15 *(when the arrive from the General Service office). They would then be copied by the DCM and distributed to the GSRs for review & discussion.*
The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.

CONFERENCE REPORT

- 2006 Summer Workshop:** Aug 19, Pierre SD Chamber of Commerce building. (Hosted by District 11)
2006 Fall Conference: Oct 20-22 Rapid City Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn. (Chair person, Todd T.)
2007 West Central Regional Workshop: March 2-4, 2007 Lincoln, NE. **** NEED TO CONFIRM DATES**
2007 Winter Workshop: March 24, 2007, Pierre SD Chamber of Commerce building.
2007 Spring Conference: June 1-3, 2007, Sioux Falls, SD
2007 Summer Workshop: August 25, 2007, Pierre SD Chamber of Commerce building.
2007 West Central Regional Forum: Sept 7-9, 2007 Omaha, NE. **** NEED TO CONFIRM DATES**
2007 Fall Conference: Spearfish - (Date to be announced.)

Delegate's Report

From General Service Conference-April 23-29, 2006 NYC

First of all let me say what a privilege it is to service Alcoholics Anonymous in any capacity. Having the experience of the General Service Conference really confirmed what a truly wonderful organization we are a part of. There were many things that happened over the week, and I will try to summarize the main points. If there is something you have a question on, or would like more information about...please don't hesitate to call, write, email or just holler and I will be glad to give you all the information I can.

Sunday morning began with a Delegates only committee session on Remote Communities. A "Remote Community" is defined as anywhere it is difficult to carry the message of AA due to language, culture or geography. Lord knows, Area 63 has plenty of those spots ☺ We had a round table discussion with several Delegates and discussed what things they were doing to carry the message and what things we as a fellowship could do better. As with any method to carrying AAs' message, it begins with 1 person or a group.

Some of the suggestions: work within the existing structure-don't try to go into a new cultural area and immediately change things; Bring plenty of literature, but make sure it is understandable to the people you are bringing it to and invite members of the remote community to other meetings in your area. I discussed the fact that we have put out a survey in our Area and are anxious to see how the results turn out. If your group has not filled out a survey, please see our Remote Communities Chair Jim K. I have copies of the newsletter specifying w/Remote Communities if you would like to take a look.

After the Remote Communities meeting, we went right to work with our designated committees. The committee I was assigned to was Corrections. We had 3 agenda items and went right to work. The committee sessions are very similar to what we do in Area 63. We read over our agenda, discuss possibilities, then change our mind, then start over....a GSO staff member serves as our secretary; our committee was honored to have Mary D. she is originally from Montana and knows our region quite well. **side note: GSO staff members switch assignments every 2 yrs**

Monday were started bright and early with more committee sessions. In the early afternoon, I gave our Area highlights. Basically all new incoming Delegates give a 2 minute (and not a second more than 2min) presentation about their Area. I think it's giving those who are a little "mic shy" a chance to get used to speaking in front of the assembly. For those of you who know me, that usually is not a problem-haha.

Through the next couple of days, various reports were presented to us. Here are some of the highlights:

General Service Board Report

On Monday Leonard Blumenthal, a Class A (non-alcoholic) trustee and also Chair of the General Service Board have his General Service Board Report. I have the full report in detail, but in the essence of helping to keep things simple, I will summarize: The International Convention held in Toronto brought in 44,000 people. The 25th MILLIONTH Big Book was presented to San Quentin prison. There was a sub-committee assigned to study the possibility of moving the General Service office out of New York. There were 3 cities studied: Los Angeles, Dallas, and Indianapolis. I have the full 20 page report that looked at everything from office space to salaries for employees. Basically, we would not be saving the fellowship money by moving GSO. There have been no recommendations on this issue; it is still in the information stages. The Big Book is now translated into 52 different languages. In addition to the Big Book other pieces of our literature continue to be translated to help the still suffering Alcoholic across the globe. Last summer when Hurricane Katrina hit-there was an overwhelming need for literature and meetings in the Gulf Coast. GSO doesn't earmark funds for disasters; however Delegates, Trustees and other members from that region pulled members together to make sure AA remained alive and well.

Directors Report

Gary K. Class B (alcoholic) Trustee and Chairman of the AA World Services reported: AAWS is basically the publications/group services provided by GSO/ and other activities linked directly to AA's primary purpose section of the Trustees. GSO welcomed 1,818 visitors to the office. And let me tell you, when a member of AA comes to the office, they are treated like royalty. It is truly a wonderful experience to see that the NY office is not far away. A total of 1,100 new AA groups registered with GSO in 2005 Group records: Plans are underway to rewrite the Fellowship database—simply put, we will be able to update information online vs. having to send in things via paper. Point of interest—The 50th anniversary of Bill Wilson turning the responsibility for AA's future to the General Service

DELEGATE'S REPORT CONTINUED:

Conference was celebrated in St. Louis, November 2005. Greg M. General Services Manager and Dorothy W. Trustee at Large (and another great lady previously from our Region) were in attendance. AA Website: there were over 3 million visits to the Web site (up 27% from 2004). Online literature ordering: the fellowship is able to order on line—to be qualified to order on line a group/district/area needs to order \$25,000/year.

Financial: 25,067 Groups/members contributed \$5,282,000 in 2005—to compare that is approximately 43.2% of the 58,067 groups registered with GSO. So basically 43% of the groups are contributing to GSO. If you are wondering how your group fits into that figure, I have the numbers from 2005 and the first quarter of 2006.

Just what does it take to help make AA at the world services level self supporting:

Each member: \$6.14/year (or \$0.01/day)

Each group: \$136.85/year (or \$0.37/day)

--not to sound like a commercial for starving children around the world, but it is staggering to realize how many groups do not contribute to AA as a whole.

---Total operating expenses for GSO: \$11,126,900 (approx \$32,000 over budget). So where's the other money come from??? Literature. On July 1, 2005 the \$1.00 increase on all books and the implementation of a 10% service charge on all orders of <\$250 (minimum \$3.00) became effective. If we all were self-supporting...the service charge would not be a necessary thing.

Grapevine: Very cool—in 2006 over 120,000 people visited Grapevines redesigned Web site. 3590 subscribed to the Digital Archive, now the really cool part 1,600 listened to MP3 recordings of the Grapevine. They had an example set up for people to try out the MP3 player—it really is cool, even for the soon to be aging crowd ☺

---LaVina is 10years old...

---Based on an advisory actions from the 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, & 90's, I am now going to put out a challenge to our past Delegates. It was advised that Past Delegates are fully vested Grapevine reps. (I think we are going to shake the dust off of them...and put 'em to work).

Committee summaries.....

Advisory Actions:

Agenda:

Theme for the 2007 General Service Conference be: "Our 12th Step Responsibility-Are We Going to Any Length?"
Workshop topic for the 2007 General Service Conference: "Spiritual Value of Our AA Dollars."

Archives:

New Archivist: Amy Filiatreau; Huge discussion on making a list of available to the fellowship; CD of Bill's talk

CPC

3 short video segments- can be accessed on GSO's AA Website; directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields (with total cost not to exceed \$60,000)

Corrections:

Yeah!! My committee..(sorry had to do that); Training video for corrections officers and personnel; AA in prison: Inmate to Inmate—new look different stories.; Discussion on next year changing title to get rid of "inmate"

Finance:

"donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" ; Failed: the current small-order freight charge policy be replaced with a policy of charging shipping on all orders; 7th Tradition Card- to be produced as a service piece

Grapevine:

No recommendations

DELEGATE'S REPORT CONTINUED:

Literature:

Revised draft "Too Young"; Revised draft "It happened to Alice"; "AA for the Native North American" be revised; Preface of 4th edition revision: "therefore, the first portion of this volume, describing the AA recovery program, has been left *largely* untouched in the course of revisions made for the second, third, and fourth editions." ; "Young People and AA" pamphlet revisions; 3rd Edition *Alcoholicos Anonimos* be brought back to 2007 GSC: -currently 146 stories sent in -"Letter to a Woman Alcoholic" is history...-Add'l committee: no action on AA History Book

Policy/Admission:

Lotsa discussion and cool amendments to amendments...; Visitors from other GSOs etc...; 59th General Service Conference—April 26-May 2, 2009

Public Information:

Public Service Announcements; AA membership questionnaire change; Marital status to include "other". ; Return to 2007 GSC with updated version of "come rap with us" for young people; Look at other media sources for ways of getting information to public.

Report/Charter:

"Inside the AA structure" symbol put back into the Service Manual; Statement in AA Directory-basically stating that the groups are listed under their own request.

Treatment Facilities:

The word "institutional" be deleted from the committee scope and replaced with "non-correctional"; Committee did not follow suit with the Corrections committee by deleting "facilities" from their committee title.

Trustees:

New Trustees; Use 3rd Legacy procedure—just like is outlined in the Service Manual and the way our Area elects its trusted servants; Newly elected: Madeleine Parmley-from Area 18 Idaho (after 2nd ballot); Newly elected: Denis Vezina-from Area 87 Southwest Quebec.

International Conventions/Regional Forums:

2010-San Antonio, TX; "Get in the bus..." No committee recommendations

END OF DELEGATE'S REPORT

SUMMER WORKSHOP AGENDA
AUGUST 19, 2006
PIERRE, SD,
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING

8:30 - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 - 9:45 am	Delegate's Report
9:45 -10:00 am	Break
10:00 - Noon	Committee Breakouts
Noon - 1 pm	Working lunch
1:00 - 1:30 pm	District Reports
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Committee Reports
2:30 - 2:45 pm	Birthdays
2:45 - 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 - 4:30 pm	Old Business / New Business
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Conference Reports
5:00 - 7:00 pm	Supper Break
7:00 - 7:45 pm	GSRs & DCMs meeting and the Officers meet w/ Al-Anon
7:45 - 8:00 pm	Break
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Speaker Meeting

E-MAIL REQUEST FORM

The Area 63 Minutes and Treasurer's report are now available via email. If you wish to receive your copy of the minutes and other Area 63 reports, please email the Area 63 Secretary, Chris Doyle at:

the_doyles @ yahoo.com

If you wish to be removed from the Area 63 mailing list entirely, please contact the Area 63 Secretary, Chris Doyle, at 114 E Texas Street, Rapid City SD 57701, email or call: 605-716-7168.

You do not have to do anything if you would like to continue to receive the Area 63 minutes by regular US Postal mail service. This is a request form only for e-mail service in the future.