

Opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer (Perry G, Chairman.) How It Works, read by Dave D. 12 Traditions ready by Taylor H.

DELEGATES REPORT: Estelle G, Panel 56;

I am honored to serve Area 63 as your Delegate. I would like to, for the benefit of any people or 1st timers to AA service, what a Delegate is and how it connects to other service entities. To do that, I would like to define a few terms:

- Panel 56 represents the number of General Service Conferences held since 1950, the year of our first GSC.
- Area 63 includes all of South Dakota.
- Trustees include Regional, At-Large, Class A (non-alcoholic) & Class B (alcoholics); to avoid confusion Trustees are like a “standing committee”, (serving 4 yr terms). Agenda item ideas go to the Trustees committee, then to the appropriate committee or they are 86’d.
- General Service Conference, usually held the last wk in April in NYC, is where Delegates, Trustees, and GSO staff take ideas from groups, individuals, districts, and Areas and decide issues for Alcoholics Anonymous.
- General Service Conference Agenda item deadline for the GSC is January 15. Ideas submitted go through a Trustees committee and then either on to the agenda or are scraped...The final agenda is mailed to the Delegates by February 15th.
- West Central Region includes 8Areas: Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, No Dak; So Dak; and 2 in Minnesota, (Northern & Southern Areas)

March 3-5th we attended the West Central Regional AA Conference in Minn. Presenters from Area 53 included Bob M. and Brian U. from Spearfish, and Chris D. from Rapid City and Rita N. from Aberdeen served as moderators. Thanks again guys! We had long, exciting, painful, funny, joyous, humorous, drawn-out...(I think you get the idea)..discussions regarding the General Service Conference Agenda. We will over those in more detail after the “formal” delegates’ report. The regional also had interesting break-out sessions on topics like Service –responsibility and accountability; literature, DCM, PI/CPC etc. What we do at the Regional is similar to what happens in our Area assemblies. It is my hope that we will encourage our Area officers and Committee chairs to attend future Regional. I have brought a list of every registered group-with GSO and what they have contributed in 2005. Please take time to look at where your group falls in. Good news: we increased our **contribution** % from 37% in 2004 to 40% in 2005!! Good job everyone. Please remember that even if \$1.00 is contributed from your group, it helps raise the overall percentages. It is not the concept of “how” much is given, but rather in the spirit of where money and spirituality meet. I also was sent 2 very large boxes of contribution envelopes in every language imaginable. I will enlist the help of our new Treasurer John T. to distribute them out to each group or district. I’m available to give a Delegate’s Report after the General Service Conference (April 23-April 30) to your groups & districts.

If there is anything that is in this report, or something that you don’t understand this weekend...please make sure to ask someone.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS - Filled (3) vacancies: 1. Web Master: John E. 2. CPC : Todd T. 3. Remote Communities: Jim K. Nominations were taken for each of 3 vacancies and votes were taken for webmaster, as there were multiple nominations. The Area appreciates all those who allowed their name to stand for a position.

AREA COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS WERE HELD.

SERVICE PANEL - Presented by District 9 a topic on: *History of AA.*

Jim K began with the pre-history of AA. Our legacy of service to one another links several organizations to ours. He discussed the Oxford Group, Salvation Army and YMCA and how their founders influenced those that ultimately touched our founders. Jim respectfully reflected on Bill W’s intense desire to preserve our fellowship through the 12-traditions and 12-concepts for world service and the Gen Service Conf structure as well as Dr Bob’s humble suggestion that we keep things simple and not “louse up this thing”. Leslie continued with a delightful presentation w/ pictures of those that were influential in our development. We heard about Ebby, Bill & Bob, Mrs. Siberling, Sam Shoemaker, Dr Tonks, Dr. Silkworth, Mr. Rockerfeller, and Ft Dowling. She accounted for our time line and our progress as a fellowship that burst onto the scene in 1939 with the publication of our book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. George completed the presentation with a reflection of our fellowship today and how we continue to write our history with each conference meeting. He encouraged the use of our conference advisory action book as a source of documentation for every action we have taken since the first conference. George suggested we learn from the past and the documentation of ideas that didn’t work; as well as our successes. George pointed out the responsibility each member of AA has to participate in our organization. He indicated that that the groups need to support the GSR and DCM in participating in Area and Regional Meetings.

Reference material included *AA Comes of Age*, *Doctor Bob and Good Old Timers*, and multiple web sites.

DISTRICT REPORTS

DIST 1. No Report.

DIST 2: Anne F, DCM. Located in western SD, including Rapid City, east to Wall. There are approx 25 registered groups. 8 votes. District 2 has implemented the committee system, modeling the General Service Conference model. More than 40 were present at the

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last district meeting to organize the committees. The new phone line is functioning well. Literature is well stocked and corrections and treatment center meetings are well attended.

DIST 3: Lloyd S, DCM. Located in southwestern SD, including Martin, Mission, White River, St Francis, Kyle, Wamblee and Parmelee. There are 7 registered groups, 5 active. 2 votes. St Francis held a Christmas speaker meeting. Martin had its 3rd anniversary speaker meeting. White River had an anniversary speaker meeting. Issues facing the district include being unable to get GSRs together to conduct district meetings.

DIST 4: Bob G, DCM. Located in southeastern SD, including Yankton, Vermillion, Freeman, Tabor, Tyndall and Springfield. There are 10 registered groups, 10 active. 3 votes. District is carrying the message to the Gateway Treatment Center on Thursdays. Issues facing the district include being unable to get GSRs together to conduct district meetings. The district asked that our groups bring our meeting list when we attend institutional meetings in Yankton.

DIST 5: Joan G, DCM. Located in East Central SD, including Sioux Falls, Madison, Chester, Salem and Flandreau. 5 votes. They are hosting the 2007 Spring Conference at the Oaks Hotel (Howard Johnson). Tentative dates are June 1-3, 2007. District is planning a workshop on history of spirituality presented by a past chairperson and historian from GSO. Watch for a date. Participation by more groups could be better.

DIST 6: No Report.

DIST 7: No Report.

DIST 8: Sally S, DCM. Located in East Central SD. Six registered groups active in district, with 2 groups meeting, but not active in district. Three groups are registered but inactive. There are 4 district meetings per year, rotating in location. They hold a round robin in alternating locations, monthly excluding Nov & Dec with a speaker and potluck. Miller's round robin had 25 in attendance with 301 years sobriety present.

DIST 9: Leslie D, DCM: District includes Brookings, Clear Lake and Watertown with 8 registered groups. Clear Lake is carrying the message by contacting local libraries and donating Big Books to them. They are hosting the 2006 Spring Conference in June. Flyers have been moved out. District meeting attendance is low. They hosted a mini-conference in Feb, which boosted attendance.

DIST 10: No Report.

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. 5 votes. Meeting in district have good attendance, except Alcester, which has disbanded. Beresford started a 12x12 step meeting. The district donated a case of books to the prison at Springfield. They are also providing the Grapevine to Woodfield Center. And volunteers are carrying the message to jail meetings in Elk Point and Springfield. Issues facing the district include low or no contributions from some groups to GSO. They are going to encourage the birthday envelope contribution form for contribution increase to GSO.

DIST 12:

DIST 13: Karla M, DCM. Located in northern hills, including Spearfish, Sturgis, Deadwood, Lead & Belle Fourche. They have 8 registered and active groups. 6 votes. The district hosted their annual New Years Eve gathering with potluck and dance. The groups continue to grow with a strong belief in sponsorship. They have a few groups not participating in the district meetings. The district is hosting the 2nd Annual Paha Sapa Mountain Conference July 21-23.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT & CHARTER (Policy Admissions) - Chris D chaired with 6 in attendance. Anne F was our secretary.

1. Reviewed the previous minutes, with no changes noted.
2. Discussed the mailing list for Area 63.
3. Reviewed the General Service Conference agenda items and some background information.
4. Reminded the assembly that even districts should elect their officers in even years and odd number districts should elect in odd

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years. The reason for this rotation by year is to ensure that the assembly participants are consistently mixed between newer GSRs & DCMs and veteran GSRs & DCMs.

RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING (2) ACTIONS FOR GROUPS TO DISCUSS & VOTE ON:

1. A motion is made 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 secretary would have permission to remove the names of those whom do not return the card. This would clean up the number of names that have accumulated on our mailing list and give the servants of our fellowship an opportunity to opt for email contact, lowering expenses.

BACKGROUND: The area mailing list has approximately 230 names. This is an accumulation of GSRs, DCMs, Group Contacts and past Area Officers. Many of the persons named are no longer involved in Area meetings. The current DCMs are able to confirm their district GSR information for current listings. But we have no way to know who on the list would opt to receive email or not to receive mail at all. The intent of the motion is not to obstruct the number of persons receiving the mailings, but rather to streamline and confirm the effectiveness of the mailing. Ideally, the Area mailing list would include all current GSRs, DCMs, Group Contacts and Area Officers and past delegates. GSRs would receive the mailings and make additional copies for posting at their home group. Minutes are also posted on the web site for all members to view and print. This would make the mailing list shorter and more cost effective. CONTACT CHRIS D for additional information or background.

*2. A motion is made 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.*

BACKGROUND: The GSC Agenda is made available around February 15. The West Central Regional Service Conference is held in early March each year. This allows the Delegates, DCMs, GSRs and all members of the fellowship an opportunity to discuss the agenda and review the background information. There is not enough time between the WCRSC and our Area Assembly to allow that background information to be reviewed and solicit an informed conscience from each group. Mailing the agenda would give the Area fellowship an opportunity to discuss and request background information, encouraging better input from our Area members.

CORRECTIONS / TREATMENT FACILITIES REPORT - Dean B Chaired with 11 in attendance.

1. Reviewed the General Service Conference agenda items and some background information.
2. Request that the committee budget be raised back to previous level or higher.
3. Suggested that each group use the pink can.
4. Discussed possibility of holding two workshops east/west river at conferences or Area Assemblies.
5. Dave D, Alt chair, reported that committee has distributed literature when requested and pamphlets to GRS on bridging the gap.

CPC (Cooperation with Professional Community) - Todd T.

1. Reviewed the GSC agenda items to discuss with our delegate. Support for CPC videos to be made available via AA's website.
2. Discussed how best to utilize Area 63 CPC resources and to carry the message to professionals in SD.
3. Reviewed the Chairperson & committee responsibilities / job description.
4. Reviewed content of CPC workbook & kit.
5. Reviewed CPC literature requirements & how to accommodate the Area's needs.
6. Discussed need to establish an Area policy regarding expense reimbursement for Fall & Spring Conference CPC luncheon.

RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FOR GROUPS TO DISCUSS: (NO MOTIONS WERE MADE)

Recommend amending the existing Chairperson/Committee roles & responsibilities to include coordinating CPC information packets for districts. And, recommend providing Area 63 districts with a "how to" info packet to help carry the message to professionals to help those in need of AA's message.

POLICY/ADMISSIONS - Norm G chairperson with 7 members in attendance.

1. Discussed developing a policy handbook for Area 63.
2. Discussed need for a transitional meeting when chairperson change following our elections every 2 years.

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3. Discussed and established dates for the 2007 Spring workshop (March 24-25) & 2007 Summer workshop (August 18).
4. Reviewed GSC agenda items.

LITERATURE - Lori P chaired with 8 members attending. Ryne C will be the alternate chair. Joan J will act as secretary.

1. Considered downsizing the wooden pamphlet display to folders.
2. Discussed GSC agenda items for literature.
3. Discussed need to inventory the literature displays.
4. Discussed purchase of pamphlet folders and hole punch.

ARCHIVES - Darla J chairperson with 6 members in attendance. Leslie is the secretary.

1. Reviewed previous committee recommendation to have a permanent Area 63 archivist. Current committee does not support idea at this time due to additional expenses involved in having another Area officer.
2. Considered idea of mailing form to each group in Area 63 to request they write down history of their group for our archives.
3. Discussed need to go through the archives to confirm contents. Currently they are stored in Mitchell SD storage unit.
4. Discussed need to research the need and expense required to professionally preserve artifacts from permanent deterioration. The committee will consider the costs involved and the scope of items that need protection before submitting.
5. Discussed need to order workbooks for the committee.
6. Reviewed GSC agenda item B. The committee agreed to encourage the GSC committee to review needs from archivist.

CONCERNS: The committee requests that our delegate, Estelle G, confirm that the archives at GSO are available to any and all AA members who wish to review them or copy them (at their own expense).

PI COMMITTEE - Terry M, Chairperson met with 5 members.

1. Consider developing guidelines for event flyers that are submitted for posting on the Area 63 web site.
2. Discussed ways the Area can better carry the message of recovery into assisted living & nursing homes for elderly alcoholics.
3. Reviewed how the Area is helping to distribute literature throughout our communities.
4. Discussed means of getting public service announcements to the media in our Area.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE - Jim K chaired, met with 6 members..

1. Renae B. was elected to serve as RemCom secretary.
2. Discussed changes to the Comp/Scope/Procedure document and the Committee Chair Responsibilities document.
3. Reviewed the completed Remote Members Survey sheets and the Special Needs Survey sheets. GSRs are asked to continue to compile this survey with their groups.
4. Committee met with the Delegate and discussed the 2006 Remote Communities Breakout to be held prior to the General Service Conference.
5. Committee received Big Book cassette tapes and 12x12 cassette tapes that were ordered last Assembly.
Reviewed contents of the committee binder.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE: John J.

About the first of the year, I received an email from the newly elected web manger stating he would not be able to take on the posting due to personal reasons. Since then, I have been maintaining the website until such time as I can pass the job on to the new Web Manager elected today. I'll be working with John E. closely until the website is in his capable hands. The website continues to be a resource for seeking info about AA meetings and happenings in SD. We have had numerous email requests for meeting locations, Conference flyers and AA contacts. I want to personally thank everyone who emailed asking for the minutes to be posted on the website. Your vigilance is gratifying, and shows that there are some folks who really care about AA in Area 63. Its been a privilege to serve Area 63, an experience I am glad I did not miss. Thank you for my sobriety. Respectfully, John J

FINANCE COMMITTEE - John T, Chairperson and 6 members met.

1. Discussed process of Area reimbursement for the CPC luncheons that occur during our Spring & Fall Conferences.
2. Discussed need to amend the 2006 budget, including increase in rent of Chamber hall and portable PA system.

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3. Reviewed (2) treasurer's reports for: Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2005 & Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2006.
4. Audited the committee's workbook.
5. Discussed need to pass basket at this Area Assembly to cover additional cost of the rent and PA system.
6. Discussed idea to lower CPC expense item to \$200 and add 2 line items for \$250 each for East and West River CPC luncheon.

RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING (4) ACTIONS:

1. *A motion was made 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. The budget of \$600 fell short in 2005 by \$275 and the delegate in 2005 did not incur cost to attend WC Regional Forum as it was held in Rapid City. In 2006, our delegate has already traveled to Minneapolis and will need to attend a meeting in Nebraska later in year.*
2. *A motion was made to increase the budget for Corrections & Treatment from \$250 to \$500, restoring the budget from previous years. This would allow committee to distribute more literature (books & Grapevine) to institutions.*
3. *A motion was made to change the CPC budget by reducing the expenses from \$550 to \$200; to add (2) line items under CPC in the budget to reflect \$250 Area 36 budget for East River and West River CPC luncheon held at each conference.*
4. *The basket was passed for members to contribute to AREA for additional cost of the meeting hall and portable PA system. A total of \$143.61 was collected.*

MISC ASSEMBLY ACTIONS: Basket passed to contribute to GSO with \$101.61 collected.

CONFERENCE REPORT

2006 Spring Conference: June 02-04 Watertown Best5 Western Ramkota Inn

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. (Date & location need to be verified.)

2007 Winter Workshop: March 31 - April 1, 2007, Chamber of Commerce building, Pierre SD

2007 Spring Conference: Sept 11-13, 2007, Sioux Falls, SD - (Date & location need to be verified.)

2007 Summer Workshop: August 18, 2007, Chamber of Commerce building, Pierre SD

2007 West Central Regional Forum: Sept 7-9, 2007 Omaha, NE. (Date & location need to be verified.)

2007 Fall Conference: Spearfish - (Date to be announced.)

AREA OFFICERS & ALANON MEETING: Chaired by Perry G, our officers met w/ four reps from Alanon.

1. We changed our proposed dates by a week for Winter 07 Assembly to accommodate Alanon's Regional Delegates meeting.
2. Alanon has a web site: <http://www.sdal-anon.org/>
3. Alanon is bidding for the Regional Service Seminar to be held in September 2007. They will keep us posted on results.
4. Alanon requested the host committees for our Area Conferences try to keep agenda open for their 2 meeting times:
Saturday & Sunday mornings at 8:30 am and Friday & Saturday afternoons at 4 pm.
It was recommended that Alanon work with the committee hosting each conference to coordinate need for rooms, etc.