

Area 69 News & Notes

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Editorial - What do you want from your area newsletter?

Some may ask themselves, what is the Area 69 newsletter and what is its purpose? I have been asking myself this question a great deal these last few weeks. Is it to be a local meeting in print, or a service tool to share about service work here in Utah, or a combination or both? Is it meant to share experience strength and hope? Should it have letters to the editor? Should we write about controversial issues or stick to love and tolerance as our code. **What do you the readers want?**

My mind has been in a quandary. I think that it would be a wonderful

local meeting in print - sharing experience, strength and hope about our recovery. But then I started to put together this issue of the newsletter and was once again reminded of the dilemma that we have each time we try to do this. It is impossible to get our fellowship to write enough articles, letters and stories to fill a single newsletter. So my mind goes to service material. We sure do have enough information to fill a news letter with that. However, I think that there is more to recovery than just service. I tend to think that we need to remember how we got to service and that we must stay sober in order

to be of service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

So there you have it – my thoughts on the newsletter. Let us know what you think. Do you like having the area reports in the newsletter? Would you like to see something change? If you would like to see more personal stories, please submit them. I am looking forward to your input.

LeAnn L. – Newsletter Editor
area69newsletter@utahaa.org

Are the Personal Stories Important?



Yes



No

I have often heard advice given to the newcomer to read the “first 164 pages” as if the rest of the book was an after thought, placed there to make the alcoholic feel like he got his money’s worth. Years ago, when we encountered an undecided newcomer, we recommended that they start by reading the stories first. Then, being convinced, proceed to read the remainder of the book. The “Doctor’s Opinion” made a great deal of sense having first read about the phenomenon of craving and those strange mental twist described by the authors in the personal stories. Here are some more reasons why the stories are important to newcomers and long-timers alike:

Pg xi - But the chief change was in the section of personal stories, which was expanded to reflect the Fellowship's growth. Because each group is autonomous, your home group may or may not be a direct re-

flection of AA as it was intended. By reading the stories, you can get a feel for the fellowship as a whole. Some of you may say that the stories in the back of the book were placed there based on the opinion of the first 100 sober alcoholics. However, in May of 2001, the collective group conscience of approximately 1.7 million recovering alcoholics voted for the update of the 4th edition. 1.7 million people thought these stories were fitting examples of recovery. The first 164 pages contain plenty of instructions, but damn few examples. Our personal stories help to provide the examples.

Pg xii - If you have a drinking problem, we hope that you may pause in reading one of the forty-two personal stories and think: "Yes, that happened to me"; or, more important, "Yes, I've felt like that"; or, most important, "Yes, I believe this program can work for me too." The personal stories were meant to be the primary

source of self-identification. If you have any doubts, the stories will remove them. Wouldn't it be sad to say the one thing that could have save your life you ignored!

Pg xviii - In the spring of 1940, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gave a dinner for many of his friends to which he invited A.A. members to tell their stories. News of this got on the world wires; inquiries poured in again and many people went to the bookstores to get the book "Alcoholics Anonymous." By March 1941 the membership had shot up to 2,000. It was through “story telling” that our society gave birth and grew. We eventually learn to tell our own stories by thorough contemplation of other people’s stories and sharing at meetings. Armed with AA’s message, and our personal experiences, we are ready to carry it to others.

Pg xxvii - Later, he requested the privilege of being allowed to tell his

story to other patients here and with some misgiving, we consented. The cases we have followed through have been most interesting; in fact, many of them are amazing. Story telling is at the very heart of our program, the vessel of our recovery. It is something to be studied and learned.

Pg xxxi - What is the solution? Perhaps I can best answer this by relating one of my experiences. Dr Sillkworth thought that personal stories were so important that he offers one of his stories about his experience with Hank P. ("The Unbeliever," pg 194, First Edition) as proof of his theories.

Pg xxxi - When I need a mental uplift, I often think of another case brought in ... Dr Sillkworth thought that personal stories were so spiritually uplifting he offers one of his stories about his experience with John "Fitz" M. ("Our Souther Friend", pg 208, 4th Edition) as an example of hope.

Pg 29 - Each individual, in the personal stories, describes in his own language and from his own point of view the way he established his relationship with God. These give a fair cross section of our membership and a clear-cut idea of what has actually happened in their lives. In the appendix on "Spiritual Experience" it refers to a slow "educational variety" of spiritual experience developed over a period of time. Here, the Big Book includes stories expressly for the purpose of providing an education of various approaches to the same spiritual End.

Pg 35 - Our first example is a friend we shall call Jim. Bill uses excerpts from the personal stories to make point. Here he uses a portion of Ralph Furlong's story ("Another Prodigal Story," pg 357, 2nd Edition) to demonstrate "What sort of thinking dominates an alcoholic who repeats time after time the desperate experiment of the first drink?"

Pg 39 - Fred's partner in a well known accounting firm To drive home the point that a real alcoholic will be unable to stop drinking on the basis of self-knowledge, Bill uses a portion of Harry Brick's story ("A Different Slant", pg 252, 2nd Edition)

Pg 50 - In our personal stories you will find a wide variation in the way each teller approaches and conceives of the Power which is greater than himself. Here, it is assumed that you have either already read the stories, or will in the near future. There is no indication that the stories are to be skipped.

Pg 50- On one proposition, however, these men and women [the writers of the personal stores in the back of the Big Book] are strikingly agreed. Every one of them has gained access to, and believes in, a Power greater than himself. These stories are not a collection of opinions, not a rambling mess of drunk-a-logs, and not a filler to make the book sell. These stories have a point, a direction and a purpose to all readers, whether they are new-comers, old-timers, bleeding deacons or elder statesmen. Consequently, you must develop your own story to be of use to others.

Pg 58 - Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it, then you are ready to take certain steps. The stories are the basis for making the critical decision to recover (accept spiritual help pg 25). Some may say that the stories being referred to here are the stories told at AA meetings. However, when this book was written, the book went out on the world by itself, many people sobered up solely on the literature, and without the benefit of face-to-face fellowship.

Pg 60 - Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after make clear three perti-

nent ideas: Where did the three pertinent ideas come from? The A B C's? They came from Chapters 3, 4 and the personal stories at the back of the book.

Pg 60 - Being convinced, we were at Step Three, which is that we decided to turn our will and our life over to God as we understood Him. This statement assumes that you have already read the personal stories (the source of the ABC's above) and, being convinced, are now ready to proceed. Again, there is no indication anywhere in the Big Book that these stories are to be skipped.

Pg 112 - Show him your copy of this book and tell him what you have found out about alcoholism. Show him that as alcoholics, the writers of the book understand. Tell him some of the interesting stories you have read. Again, the Big Book assumes that you have read the stories. But it goes one step further, it assumes that you have studied the stories sufficiently to retell the stores and the lessons you gleaned from the stories.

Pg 153 - Our hope is that when this chip of a book is launched on the world tide of alcoholism, defeated drinkers will seize upon it, to follow its suggestions. Amongst the myriad of suggestions, is the suggestion to read the personal stories. Yes, taking the steps and reading the stories are suggested, but here you are told to take the suggestions.

Pg 162-163 - Thus we grow. And so can you, though you be but one man with this book in your hand. We believe and hope it contains all you will need to begin. Here is the proof that the authors of the Big Book thought that the book contained all you needed to get sober and stay sober. When the Big Book refers to "*in our personal stories you will find*" or "*our stories disclose in a general way*" or "*our personal adventures before and after*", they were referring to the personal stories in the back of the book, not the stories we hear at our local A.A. meetings.

Pg 164 - Still you may say: "But I will not have the benefit of contact with you who write this book." The book was a guarantee. The Fellowship is NOT always a guarantee. Here the old saying of "A bird in the hand [the Big Book] is worth two in the bush [the scattered fellowship of 1939]" rings true. I draw upon my own experience when I was sent to a part of the world where there weren't any meetings and there wasn't any fellowship "Ninety meetings in ninety days" was impossible. I was not there long enough to be placed on the "Loner's List." All I had was the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

with some wonderful stories to light my way.

From the book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, pg 164, Bill Wilson writes:

"We had not gone much farther with the text of the book when it was evident that something more was needed. There would have to be a story or case history section. We would have to produce evidence in the form of living proof, written testimonials of our membership itself. It was felt also that the story section could identify us

with the distant reader in a way that the text itself might not."

Your Own Personal Story - When called upon to share at meetings you do so cheerfully. One, because the new comer needs to see it. Two, the practice of telling your story is humbling, gaining a clearer insight into what and who you really were, often followed by a sincere attempt to become what you could be. And three, if you don't learn to share with another alcoholic, the day may come when your very life will depend on it, and you won't know how.

If you do not read and study the stories, here are some wonderful tidbits of wisdom that you will be missing out on. One of these could even save your life.

Money / Liquor / Sleep	175
The "Beer" Experiment	177
Gratitude - Why I Do it	181
The 12th Step Example.....	186
Entirely Willing.....	189
Other Sins.....	190
Pass it on	199
The Vanishing Point	204
No Religion - Freedom.....	206
Thrill Helping Others	207
Bottom - How it Feels	215
Controlling Work.....	224
Talking to One Another	227
60 People Write Big Book	229
God - as I Understand Him	229
Give it Away - Get it	230
No Human Power Could	238
Power of Sponsorship	243
The Decision	249
Prayer	250
Fear Doesn't Rule Me.....	256
Defeated / Fatal / Hopeless	261
6 Step Program	263
Program First.....	264
AA - A Way of Life	275
In Love with Booze	283
Bigger and Better.....	288
I'll Never Do it Again.....	293
Insufficient Substitute	299
Power - No Human Power.....	308
For People Who Want it.....	315
2 Most Important Things	317
Life Time of Daily Living	317
Lost Nothing but Myself.....	319
Bottom - When it Happens.....	325

Unity, Recovery, Service	336
No Questions	337
Disease, Not a Sin.....	344
Attending Meetings.....	356
Sobriety First.....	357
Act as If.....	366
No Barrier to Spirit	374
God Wants You to Be	381
Everything Is Alright.....	381
Power	386
Out of Control.....	400
Power over Alcohol.....	403
Acceptance.....	417
Focus on the Good	419
Serenity Expectations	402
Alcoholic vs Non-alcoholic	423
Bottom - What it Looks Like	425
Defects Replaced	426
Sobriety a Life of Its' Own	450
A Brand New End.....	457
Building a New Life	468
Gift from God.....	484
Out of Myself.....	491
More Faith - Less Problems	499
Do What They Did	508
Gratitude Is Demonstrated	510
Continue / Improve / Practice.....	511
Seize the Moment.....	517
Courage	526
Do Not Stand Still	534
Resisting Change.....	541
Lack of Emotional Growth	547
One Good Drunk	548
Resentment - Pray for Them.....	552

**AREA 69 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
May 2008 – December 2008**

May 16-18, 2008	Post-Conference Assembly	District 1
June 21, 2008	Area Bridge the Gap	District 8
Aug. 16-17, 2008	Pre-Assembly Workshop	District 3
Aug. 29-31, 2008	Pacific Region Forum	Spokane, WA
Sept. 26-28, 2008	Fall Election Assembly	District 10
Nov. 1-2, 2008	Fall Workshop	TBA
Dec. 6, 2008	Pass the Gavel	District 7

Are Newcomers and Visitors Footing the Bill?

Isn't that an interesting question? How many times have we been at a meeting and heard the phrase "Newcomers and visitors need not contribute"? Probably so many times we hardly pay attention any more. And yet, if I understand the information I've heard and read lately, that's exactly what they are doing. Maybe they don't contribute at meetings, but what about all those literature purchases? For the past couple of years, contributions and self-support have been part of our Conference Workshop topics. If I understand our current information correctly, member contributions account for less than one half of our yearly income at AAWS, the balance comes from sales of literature.

If that is true we, as members, have to understand we may not be contributing our fair share for the services we've asked GSO to provide. My objective is to point out that even though proceeds from literature sales rightfully belong to us as a fellowship because we own the copyrights, it is a passive contribution. And I'd also like to point out the contribution doesn't come from us as individuals; most of us have nothing to do with writing or publishing the materials. Our biggest contribution in that respect may have been to buy a Big Book for someone or to put money in the "Pink Can".

Even then it was just one of the many "tiny contributions" Bill W. talked about. The "real contributors" nowadays are the still suffering alcoholics and those who care about them, the same ones we ask not to contribute at meetings.

The bottom line is, literature sales are keeping this boat afloat. We depend on our literature to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic, whether it's a Big Book, a pamphlet, or any other publication. What we are doing is making them, or those who care about them, pay for our services, experience, strength, and hope. It would take surprisingly little from each one of us if we wanted to change that. Here are some numbers. According to last years' conference report, to eliminate the need for literature profit it would take an additional direct contribution of \$5.30 per member per year. That's \$6.9 million divided by 1.3 million, or the gross profit from sales of literature divided by the estimated number of members in the U.S. and Canada. Can you believe it? If everyone sent in a birthday contribution we could probably eliminate the need for literature revenue. Since we want all our ventures to be self-supporting we could still expect literature to make a little profit. So, just round out the additional amount to five dollars per member. In the early

days of the fellowship, members were asked to contribute one dollar per year to the Alcoholic Foundation. Seventy plus years later that same dollar must be worth more than the five dollars needed now.

The bigger decision lies in the Spiritual nature of contributions themselves. Aren't we supposed to contribute because we can? Would we even be alive today or have any money at all if we were still drinking? Five dollars isn't that much. I'll bet we spent more than \$5.00 each time we drank. Are we meant to contribute with the goal of just reaching a specified amount and no more? Wouldn't it make sense to contribute for the sake of being able to contribute? What do you suppose the Conference and GSO would do if they had even more money in the budget than they have now? Wouldn't they be able to spend more and provide even more services? Reach even more still suffering alcoholics? Maybe they could lower literature prices. We might be able to distribute more literature. And if we all gave a little more, maybe the newcomers and visitors would not need to contribute. Besides, it feels good.

Bruce I.

Come visit us on the web at www.UtahAA.org

Delegate's Report

Good morning, everybody! My name is Julie S. and I am a very grateful alcoholic! My sobriety date is February 7, 1995, my home group is the Hurricane Firehouse Group, and I am extremely privileged to have the opportunity to serve you as your Panel 57, Area 69 Delegate. Thank you!!!

I would like to extend a special welcome today to Tony T. and Dave F., the Panel 56 and 58 Delegates from Idaho who are visiting to see how we conduct our Pre Conference Assembly. Tony was really a great support for me last year at the Conference and I hope maybe I can pass a little of that along to Dave this year!

Since we last met, I was able to participate in a joint district venture in Salt Lake where we spent 4 hours on a Saturday going through the conference agenda items. We got through all the items with perfect timing, had some good discussion and great food, or maybe I should say great discussion and good food, and I really appreciate the effort that was made to put this together. I hope that this may be continued in the future, and maybe spread to other districts, as having an extended meeting like that was far more informative and interactive than trying to "fully inform" a district about the agenda items in 20 or 30 minutes at a regular district meeting. I want to extend a special thanks to Wade J., Karen C. (and Karen's non-AA husband) for their efforts!

The next weekend was off to Anchorage for PRAASA, which we'll be reporting on tomorrow, so for now, let me just say that it was an inspiring and informative weekend.

The next function after our Assembly today will be the 58th General Service Conference being held in New York City from April 27th through May 3rd. Actually, my agenda starts on April 26th as my secondary committee, International Conventions/Regional Forums will be meeting all day Saturday to hear presentations by area delegates and convention and visitors' bureau personnel from the seven cities currently under consideration as sites for the 2020 International Convention. We will be narrowing this list from seven to three locations. The seven cities currently under consideration are: Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans and Vancouver.

So much for the one day I was going to spend with my non alcoholic son and daughter in law who are going with me this year and will be celebrating their 10th anniversary that week. They are especially looking forward to karaoke at our regional outing Tuesday night thinking a bunch of ex-drunks at a karaoke bar ought to be very entertaining. Hmmmm, I'm not sure what I think of that sentiment, even though I know that they're right!!

The roll out date for the new website (www.aa.org) has been pushed back to late May, which is supposed to be a hard date. It seems that the copyrighted material on the

new website will be in a read-only .pdf format that will not make it available for printing the pamphlets, etc. I'm sure there is good reason for this change, but I have appreciated being able to go to the website and print a pamphlet on occasion in the past.

After the 2008 General Service Conference, the A.A.W.S. Board will be accepting applications for two new non-trustee directors to replace Jane Tolar and George Martin. There will be an announcement in Box 459, but consider this a little advance notice. Qualifications will primarily be experience in legal, business or publishing and solid A.A. experience. A strong background in the service structure is not necessarily a requirement though, in my opinion, it is very desirable. Keep these openings in mind and if you know anyone who is eligible, talk with them.

In Archives, under the solid leadership of our GSO Archivist Amy F., the department accomplished a great deal in 2007 in preserving and processing of our backlog. They are currently completing 2007 projects regarding the General Service Board minutes and the Nell Wing collection. They have scanned all minutes from 1938 to the present and now have to provide index information for the earliest minutes and perform quality control on the scans, and they are finishing the processing of Nell's files.

Cooperation With the Professional Community: The Fall 2007 issue of *About A.A.* was published and mailed and included articles on the alcoholism training program that pairs first-year residents with A.A. members, new trustee Judge Rogelio Flores and pamphlets targeted to specific groups of people such as young people, African Americans and women. The CPC desk arranged for Alcoholics Anonymous to have an exhibit at 43 national professional conferences in 2007.

Corrections: In 2007, the Corrections desk linked 1,607 inmates with an outside contact through the Corrections Correspondence Service. This amounted to 1,184 male contacts and 423 female contacts. At year's end, there were still 52 male inmates waiting to be linked to an outside A.A. member. The first couple of weeks in January resulted in many male outside A.A. members responding to an article in the Holiday 2007 issue of *Box 4-5-9*. Until the day you are done with me at the Area, I'm going to continue trying to convince you that if you aren't involved in corrections at some level, you are missing out on a 12th Step service opportunity not to be missed! If you are unwilling or unable to participate in taking meetings inside the walls, please consider the corrections correspondence program. It seems there are always more male inmates on the inside than volunteers on the outside wishing to correspond. While there isn't currently a backlog of female inmates, I still encourage you women to also get on the list to correspond with a female inmate as the opportunity arises.

The old version of the book, *Inmate to Inmate*, is available for \$5.00 a case (20 books), which basically just covers shipping. They want to get rid of the old inventory and this is a great opportunity to get some literature for institutions at a great price. There is no limit so buy them up. Madeleine was kind enough to bring 2 cases of the books for each of the delegates at PRAASA, and I have a few remaining copies here if you are interested.

Literature: The February/March 2008 issue of *Box 459* will feature an article on the history of the Spanish Big Book and process of development of the Third Edition. You may recall I previously reported that a complimentary copy of the 3rd edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* was being sent to all authors who submitted stories for the 3rd edition and also to the GSR or mail contact of all Spanish speaking groups listed in the US and Canada. In addition, each Spanish language Central and Intergroup Office in the U.S. and Canada will receive a complimentary case of 20 books.

Public Information: A statistician is currently compiling the results of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey. We have learned that our 2007 P.S.A. is getting air-time on CNN, en español.

The A.A. Videos for Young People Project has had approximately 550 accounts created to upload videos but only 4 valid submissions have been received. The deadline for submissions has been extended to September 1, 2008. This project is an opportunity to provide the fellowship a voice in expressing their stories and to avoid having videos that are outdated before they are two years old. The guidelines for submissions are on the GSO website in addition to our Utah Area website. Please encourage the young people that you know to participate in this project.

Speaking of young people, our regional trustee has been contacted by the current ICYPAA host committee who is looking for people who started out involved in YPAA's and were later involved in general service. If you or anyone you know fit this description, please let me know.

Regional Forums/International Convention: Registration information has been posted online for the two Regional Forums being held in the first half of this year; the other two will be posted six months out. We also received a request for a Local Forum from the International Conference of Young People in A.A. (I.C.Y.P.A.A.).

Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM): The long-awaited LIM Directory is now available. The confidential directory was mailed to approximately 700 LIM participants at the end of December. The Fellowship New Vision data storage system currently in use at the office now allows for this directory to be created in-house at a sizeable savings.

Publications: Several projects are in the process of being converted to CD or DVD formats or have been completed in the last year. Books on CD format are *Alcoholics*

Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and *Living Sober*. Films on DVD format are *Markings on the Journey*, *Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions*, *Bill's Own Story* and *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*.

Total distribution of all books in January was down about 5%. Sales of Big Books dropped from 103,047 in January 2007 to 100,416 in January 2008. Gross sales were about 2% under budget and were also below 2007 sales figures. Non-A.A. sales accounted for only 13% of January numbers. Strong February sales appear to be balancing out the lower January numbers to bring us back close to budget.

The Publications Committee decided not to pursue a joint catalog with the Grapevine, as had been requested by an A.A. member, as there is too much difference between the products, ordering systems, etc. for this to be practical at this time.

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee reviewed a request to require areas to secure written permission to reproduce and/or alter the Final Reports of the General Service Conference for anonymity purposes before posting on Web sites. The committee noted that the Conference Final Report is a "confidential" report per the 1975 Advisory Action and agreed to discuss, at its June 2008 meeting, the possibility of publishing in the future a condensed, anonymity-protected version of the General Service Conference Final Report which could be posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. website. The committee also requested that G.S.O. staff prepare a comprehensive paper reflecting shared experience on electronic posting of published reports, documents, etc., adapted to protect anonymity and provide pertinent information on obtaining permission to reprint A.A. publications.

Finance: The annual amount needed to support each registered group is \$146.00. The average amount received from each registered group is \$92.00 per year. This means the amount needed from each AA member to support GSO is \$0.54 per month. The average amount received is \$0.35 month. Wouldn't it be awesome if group contributions reached the point where our literature could be sold at cost?

Last month I reported the specifics regarding 2007 Finances ... what I didn't know at that time was that a preliminary review of group participation suggests that the number of groups able to send contributions to the General Service Board in 2007 was virtually the same as in 2006. Just in case you're aware of any groups who don't send contributions because of the cost of postage or because they don't have the address, or if you just want to help out your secretaries and/or treasurers, I have a case of postage paid envelopes with me today that I'm hoping I'll go home without! Please take what you need for your groups and districts!

January contributions were down a bit from \$585,970.88 in 2007 to \$553,250.04 this year. Budget for this year was \$616,776.39. February contributions appear to be up, hopefully enough to counter the lower January numbers.

Special Needs: A Special Needs Assignment Update was mailed to 39 Area Special Needs Accessibilities (SN/A) Committee chairs, 127 district and other Special Needs Accessibilities (SN/A) chairs and all Conference members. Formats of recovery material are being reviewed to encourage prioritizing American Sign Language (ASL) material in accessible formats, e.g., DVD Big Book and 12x12.

At PRAASA, our regional trustee, Madeleine, reported to us that she has made 23 trips since PRAASA last year. This last year, she served on numerous committees of the General Service Board and AA Grapevine. On the GSB, she serves on Archives, Nominating and Corrections, serving as chair of that committee. She also serves on 3 sub-committees of the General Service Board being Compensation, Audit and Retirement/Medical Benefits. She attended 3 board weekends, along with a Strategic Planning Weekend. The additional board she now serves is the AA Grapevine, Inc. Regional trustees are asked if they will serve on one of the corporate boards in years 2 and 3 of their term. This means going to New York 4 additional times each year for planning meetings. She also serves on several committees on the AA Grapevine Board, those being Finance and Budgetary, Risk Management and Nominating, which she chaired this last year. All of the work of these committees is done by conference call in between meetings in New York; they only meet to review business. And I thought I was too busy!

Included in the things our Tradition 8 special workers at GSO do on a daily basis, in 2007 GSO staff mail amounted to 13,706, e-mail of 24,021 and faxes of 206 for a total of 37,933 correspondences answered. This does not include all of the telephone calls coming in to the office. If you consider holidays and the occasional day off, this averages about 152 items responded to on a daily basis. Our Conference Coordinator recently sent out a reminder of GSO's policy of many years to accord all communications, including email, with the same priority by the order in which they are received and to respond to communications within a maximum of 10 business days. They make every effort to respond to all communications as soon as possible but the volume is generally heavy and it may require some additional time, in a few rare instances the full 10 business days, to get back to an individual. Please be aware of this and have a little patience if you should contact GSO and not receive an immediate reply.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you, and for giving this former suicidal drunk, a life worth living. I'll never be able to pay back the debt I owe Alcoholics Anonymous, but thanks for helping me try!

Julie S. – Delegate, Area 69

Immediate Past Delegate

PRAASA Report – Anchorage, AK,
March 7-9, 2008

I'm an alcoholic and my name is Mike O. My sobriety date is August 23rd, 1985 and my home group is the Happy Destiny group in West Valley City. I am privileged to serve you as your Immediate Past Delegate, Panel 55, Area 69 – State of Utah.

This PRAASA was the 16th PRAASA I've attended. It may possibly be number 17. When I was an "AA visitor" in good standing in the 1970's, I recall attending an event in 1975 at a downtown Salt Lake City hotel. Not coincidentally, that is the first year Utah hosted a PRAASA. I believe today it is highly likely I was at that first Utah PRAASA and had no clue what a miracle I was witness to.

One purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and Areas of the Pacific Region.

At the 1988 PRAASA in Salt Lake City, I was in attendance as a GSR for my home group and I had the humbling opportunity to be a presenter on the 8:00 AM panel Saturday morning. I remember, like it was yesterday, how terrified I was to address the 400 hundred or more people at that morning session. That terror soon turned to a great sense of belonging, a sense of being a part of, as I began to experience the unity that binds us together through participation and communication.

From that day to now, I have watched the development of this greater unity at many PRAASA's in virtually every Area in the Pacific Region. More importantly I have been a participant in this development as a reader or round table moderator or a presenter or a timer or whatever I've been asked to do.

Another purpose of PRAASA is to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences.

At the Kailua-Kona PRAASA in 1999 I was serving as the Area Literature Chair. Our Literature roundtable was combined with the Grapevine. Our discussions on Friday and Saturday included the trial period of La Vina and how well it was doing in other Areas. We discussed the 4th Edition of the Big Book and the submission of personal stories for inclusion. We also discussed the need for a pamphlet to assist us in reaching the Black African-Americans dying all around us. Today we have the 4th Edition of the Big Book, we have that pamphlet to reach those suffering alcoholics in our Black African-American communities and La Vina is alive and well !! Communication and participation and the exchange of ideas and experience have paid well.

At the Spokane PRAASA in 2001, I was assured by every other Area Secretary in attendance that I was not going to spend every moment of the next two years behind a keyboard in a failed attempt to document every word spoken at every Area meeting wasting reams and reams of paper. With gentle persuasion they shared in the discussion there, and via mail and e-mail over the next few months, their experience with "Editorial Liberty" and changed my life forever. Through this exchange of ideas and experiences, I now cherish the opportunity and learning experience I had to serve as the Area Secretary.

At the Reno PRAASA in 2003 I had similar experiences attending as the Area Chairperson for Panel 53. The exchange of ideas and experiences with all the other Area Chairpersons was invaluable. I gained a huge appreciation for making every minute count at our Assemblies, Workshops and Committee meetings.

Again and again, sharing experiences and ideas with those doing similar service commitments at PRAASA has made every position I've held open new horizons for me in all three legacies.

PRAASA has another purpose and that is to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA.

At this PRAASA in Anchorage, there were five Panels addressing topics such as the Importance of the Service Structure, Service Sponsorship, On-Line Intergroup, Preserving our History, Home Group Participation in General Service, Active Home Group Members, Selecting our Leadership, The Group Inventory, "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs", The 12th Tradition in Action, An AA meeting not a meeting?, Building a strong committee structure, Knowing where the money goes, Are technology skills a requirement,

Funding GSO solely by the 7th Tradition, Is your A.A. a respected community member, Reaching out to youth, *Bridging The Gap*, PSA's, and many, many more interesting and informative topics. At each of these panel presentations a generous amount of microphone time was allocated to allow the attendees an opportunity for questions and comments on the topics.

On Sunday, seven of our Past Trustees were presenters on a panel to share their experience, strength and hope. They addressed many different topics pertinent to our A.A. Fellowship. Our current Alternate Delegate, Monte S., had the unique and awkward opportunity to be the timer for the panel. I won't try to describe the proceedings, but I strongly urge you to ask Monte to share his thoughts on this once in a lifetime session.

Another highlight for me personally and a pat on the back (so to speak) for the Area 69 Service Structure was an item discussed in the PRAASA business meeting on Saturday. Last year in Portland, Shirley made a motion in the PRAASA business meeting concerning the content of the financial report. She asked in the motion that all monies distributed to upcoming PRAASA committees be noted on the report. The report only indicated finances distributed from the previous year committee. In practice, most PRAASA committees get distributions from 3 or 4 previous PRAASA's before their event actually takes place. The report does not reflect the grand total of all these distributions. At this year's meeting Phyllis H. read the motion and opened the floor to discussion. No one came to the microphone. Phyllis asked for a vote of approval and 100% of the members present voted for passage of the motion. In my many years attending PRAASA and the PRAASA business meetings, I don't remember any motion that wasn't discussed and re-discussed and discussed again. I like

to believe Shirley has set a record and some others I have talked to agree with me.

Moving on, I attended the Past Delegates roundtable on Friday night. Everyone that shared reported on what they are currently doing to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. What each of us had contributed in the past in our service as Delegates was not at all as important as what we are doing today to serve the Fellowship and carry the message.

And lastly, I stepped in for Steve R. and attended the Corrections roundtable on Saturday evening following the banquet and speaker meeting. In the week following our return to Salt Lake I was able to get the notes I took to Steve so he could report on the roundtable to the Trusted Servants of District 10. I believe he also intended to share the information with Renae, our current Area Corrections Chairperson. Thank you Steve for this rare opportunity to serve in a different capacity than that I had planned.

If you've not attended PRAASA, I hope and pray what I've shared about my experience has inspired you to think about and hopefully start planning for PRAASA 2009 in Oakland, California. The time spent sharing the Recovery, Unity and Service Legacies of A.A. with members of the Pacific Region, the Western Canada Region, the Trusted Servants and Staff from our General Service Office in New York and A.A. members from all over the world is a spiritual journey that defies description. Please do everything you can do to become a part of this magnificent journey.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you these many years.

Yours in Service,

Mike O., Immediate Past Delegate,
Area 69

Area 69 business documents are available on the web at www.UtahAA.org

Alternate Delegate

2008 PRAASA – Great source for information and understanding.

‘Service is the Secret’ was the topic for the Thursday night AA meeting and one of our Past Trustees emphasized that the key to the “Service Secret” in both recovery and service is repetition, repetition, repetition, repetition, like reading the 5th Chapter at meetings, over and over and over and over.

Ken K., PRAASA 2008 co-chair, said that coming to Alaska for a service event is like going 300 miles beyond any length. Anyone traveling to Alaska was aware of how travel expenses reflect the high cost of unity. Still 600 people pre-registered and the total grew to 752; 350 were from Alaska, doubling their 1994 count. There were AA’s from Canada, Japan, Australia, Eastern Siberia and throughout the Pacific Region. An International PRAASA if you will. According to my notes the AA message to Eastern Siberia was started in 1994 by Air Force people from Alaska, that the Tokyo Intergroup uses USA/Canada resources to produce their PSA’s (Public Service Announcements) and Ollie from Australia was attending his 3rd PRAASA. Although Alaska and Hawaii are remote, BC/Yukon may have more to overcome in dealing the expenses associated with carrying our message over long distances, in all types of terrain to a sparse population. BC/Yukon’s 900,000 square mile of geography almost doubles Alaska’s 586,000 square miles. Each of us became aware of how our 7th tradition impacts our unity.

As Pacific Region Trustee, Madeleine P. welcomed us she said that PRAASA is like an AA college. Mike D. from Nevada reminded us that the purpose of service is not to teach but for us to be able to learn. AA is not an academic program it is a spiritual program that we come to for understanding not education. So when it comes to sources for understanding PRAASA is in a sense an AA college.

Following are some of the ideas and lessons I learned and brought home to share.

Guidelines, guidelines and more guidelines, while tinkering with the process are we losing sight of our purpose? Are we becoming rigid?

When it comes to General Service in the home group, a few people wear lots of hats.

Personalities can keep us from accepting a good idea because of dislike for a person or allow acceptance of a bad idea because of friendship.

Understanding the traditions, like sobriety, cannot be done by ones self.

Giving an announcement to the group secretary before the meeting is more effective than a general announcement from the floor.

Grapevine Subscriptions are around 107,000 and LaVina around 10,000.

There is an Area in California that has 15 Standing Committees - 11 have bi-lingual co-chairs.

The acronym R O O T S stands for Remember Our Old Timers Stories.

From Doug R. Area 69; He reminded us that people are our greatest resource. He made us all laugh.

From Nadine N. Area 69; She described how Hugs are parts of technology not to be overlooked. She made us all cry.

Tony S. From District 2 sets a fine example as ambassador from Utah. His friendly personality was evident everywhere he went.

The strongest committee structures come through communication and compromise.

Room rates for PRAASA in Hawaii are set at \$225.00 per night.

Some Area orientations include new GSR/DCM’s in the morning and new Area officers in the afternoon.

AA’s are more likely to contribute to the 7th tradition if they know where it is going.

We might try avoiding pushing all AA meetings to become AA groups.

It’s not easy being the timer for the Past Trustees Panel, but it is an honor.

As AA’s we don’t care for unresolved situations.

When considering AA service commitment remember to try and serve AA as a whole not as an a-hole.

We have an extreme responsibility to include new people to general service.

By the time PRAASA 2008 came to a close on Sunday, 752 AA’s had heard from 32 panelists and innumerable comments from the floor on topics taken from the General Service Conference agenda, the current year’s themes and workshop topics. I am always impressed by quality of the questions brought up at PRAASA and this PRAASA reflected an increasing quality of research for answers. The

effort and results that Alaskan AA's and participants put into PRAASA 2008 were evident throughout the weekend. And the final tidbit of food for thought came from Co-chair Amy when she said in her closing remarks that she is old enough to know that the answer is more sleep not more coffee.....

Thank you Area 69 for allowing me to serve you as Alternate Delegate and for sharing your 7th Traditions with those

of us who were able to attend PRAASA 2008. The Alaskan I-Did-A-PRAASA was my 17th. Hope to see some of you in Oakland California in 2009.

Happy Trails and God Bless,

Monte S. – Alternate Delegate, Area 69

Area Secretary

Grateful to be here now.

As I have reflected on the past years since my last drink, I've had a struggle trying to figure out where to start and where to end. I would like to say that without any questions in my mind one of the things I am most grateful for is the opportunity to serve with all the absolutely wonderful people in General Service. My first experience was at the Pre-Conference Assembly in March 2001. The Big Uglies Group had just agreed to let me represent them as their GSR even though I didn't meet the suggested 2 years sober requirement. I had 18 months at the time and felt it was another act of God to let me do this. I was excited, but had no idea what the impact of that day would do to me, and how it would have a major life changing affect.

Before I became one of the blessed few to make it through the doors of AA, I was very lost and spiritually dead. I was married for 32 years and during those years my husband and I kept thinking that if we just kept moving it would certainly get better. Different reasons of course. We moved from a house that had mushrooms growing out of the carpet. (Beer, wine, alcohol, pot and water are the combination for this lovely living condition.) We moved to another state. We moved in with in-laws more than once because we didn't have rent money. You know the story. We moved 29 times in 32 years. Of course drinking was always first and most important.

My last drink was on the night of May 19, 1999. I had started to learn about the disease 5 months prior through a family support program at Olympus Hospital. I was attending because my husband had admitted himself. I didn't have a problem of course, but I started hearing all about me. I didn't understand about being powerless. I started trying all those things it talks about in Chapter Three of the Big Book. The night I took my last drink I saw and heard the powerlessness. My first thought was fear and I knew I was done, but I didn't think I would qualify for Alcoholics Anonymous. I didn't know if I could join AA. I know today that not only did you let me join you; I am part of you and your lives. I divorced my husband 5 years sober after surrendering to a losing battle of trying to convince him to join us.

At my first AA meeting I heard two things I needed to hear. I heard that if I was in that meeting there are no mistakes. I was supposed to be. In my head at that time I was given permission to stay. I also heard to stay until the miracles happened. Today I get to see, feel, and experience not only my miracles, but yours too.

I immediately got a sponsor and started working the steps. I waited for 18 months and then was granted the privilege of serving as a GSR. I have also served as a DCM, Area Treasurer, and today have the honor of serving as your Area Secretary. We are told about Recovery, Unity, and Service. As I stated in the begin-

ning I KNOW that my sobriety has been enhanced by the friendships and the fellowship I have received from serving on this level. I have heard comments and stories about how service was before my time, or how some perceive service today, and sometimes I just wonder why I am so blessed.

I have friends from all over the Pacific Region who have made an impact in my life. I have learned so much about Alcoholics Anonymous. I have learned about what the Traditions mean. I am not only learning every day, but I can honestly laugh at myself and look at myself and be OK. I love this program with a real passion and I get to watch you live the steps in your lives. I hear your honesty. I feel your tolerance and compassion, and you continually teach me by example.

Today I have a Sponsor and a Service Sponsor. I talk with another Alcoholic probably every day. I am working with other Alcoholics and have to practice the principles of this program everyday. Some days are easier than others, but I do the best I can and not only do I try to work it, but it works for me.

I don't know how to express the overwhelming gratitude and love I feel for my friends and family I have been blessed with, so I will just say I love you and thank you.

Sheri P. – Area 69 Secretary

Treasurer Report

Hi All: I'm Nadine and I'm an alcoholic. I'm grateful to be sober and have the opportunity of being the Area 69 Treasurer. The recording of group contributions and tracking of budgets is going well. Thanks to all of you that are putting your group numbers and district numbers on your contributions. I had no idea that we have so many duplicate names in the state. I just found another Primary Purpose Group in yet another district. Charlie G., our registrar is a great resource when I need help to identify which group to credit the contribution to. It's getting easier and I'm grateful to have this service position.

Nadine – Area 69 Treasurer

Area Registrar Report

Greetings fellow trusted servants & interesting AA's

Buenos Dies mi Compadres, Soy Alcoholico, Mi numero es Carlos.
Good day my good friends, I am an Alcoholic & my name is Charlie.

PRAASA 2008 in Anchorage was a real Spiritual Experience. There were 13 people from Area 69 in attendance & Approximately . 758 total registered for the event from 15 Pacific Region Areas.

The lady from Siberia & the people from Canada & Australia also added to the international fellowship of this service event.

Have distributed Group Information sheets for inclusion in the Western Regional AA directory and received info from Districts 1, 10, 11, 7, 2, 3,

4,5, 6, 8, 9,& 12 are here & will be being given out this weekend. I have also printed 175 Area 69 Directories that will be available here for you this weekend.

If you have not received yours for the GSR's or DCM's please see me, also I have copies for all District & Area standing chairs.

The FNV Database is a real work in progress; the time it takes to update & maintain the records is becoming an additional full time responsibility. Your continued help with the information is greatly appreciated.

At PRAASA I learned that they will be releasing Phase 2 & 3 later this year on the FNV database. More on this to follow as it becomes available.

We had a great Registrars roundtable in Anchorage & the General Manager, Greg M. was there to help answer questions and assist the new Registrars from the Pacific region.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about group, GSR or Standing chair registration. If you would like me to give a Registration presentation in your district or just attend your meeting to answer Group Registration questions please feel free to call or send an email.

In service I feel you are all sponsoring me & I hope my example may in some way inspire you or show you how rewarding General Service can be & how we can pass it on...

Yours in Love & service, always...
Charlie G. - Area 69 Registrar

Upcoming Deadline from G.S.O. Records Department!

Each January for many years the GSO has sent group information sheets out to each of the 93 areas. The group information sheets provided a way for areas to review the status of groups throughout the districts in their areas and update the information in preparation for the coming years A.A. Directories. This year the entire process will change, for the better.

With the inception of the FNV-Fellowship New Vision database it is no longer necessary for the annual group information sheet exercise. The FNV database allows Area Record Keepers to continuously update and change group information 24/7; making the information in the database

on-line, real- time and more current than ever before.

Once the Group Information sheets are updated it is strongly advised that they be returned to you-the Area Record Keeper for updates and changes.

Using the above process can eliminate the use of "snail mail" to send hard copy updates/changes to the GSO, having to allow 3- 4 weeks for the updates to take place and another 2-3 weeks after that for welcome packages to be delivered to new GSR s and DCM s and will assist in greatly reducing issues falling through the cracks.

Of course the GSO recognizes there are Areas that do not use FNV data-

base for their area records and for that small group, a different process will be put in place to assist them with Area updates for the 2008-2009 directories.

Group information records for the 2008-2009 editions of the US/ Canadian directories will be retrieved from the database on April 15th, 2008. Information entered into the FNV database after that date will not be reflected in the upcoming directories but will be available in FNV to view and change.

Charlie G. – Area 69 Registrar

Ad -Hoc Committee Report

Finding ways to free up time and enhance business timetables

Hello fellow servants and friends,

My name is Ed and I am an alcoholic, I also serve as chair for the Ad-Hoc committee. The committee has not met since October as there have been many obstacles, but we will resume meeting monthly beginning in 2008.

In my last report on the progress of the committee (see last newsletter!), some of the areas we looked at were the use of Friday nights to hold an overview briefing for the GSRs and DCMs on the upcoming business. We felt this would facilitate more understanding of what business is at hand and what is expected of them in turn. Perhaps many questions could be answered then instead of during the business meeting.

Also in conjunction with this could be workshops on making motions and giving short, concise reports.

There were some suggestions made about the need of the Districts to get the DCMs more active and responsive to their groups so that the “sense of urgency” can be restored and the GSRs can regain their sense of importance to the group, the district and the Area. This would also help facilitate the GSRs being better “trained” and prepared for district and Area meetings.

One of the BIG discussion areas was concerning the location of our 3 day events...Get ready for it...here comes the hornets nest, the pot stirring... it has been discussed to consider moving all the 3 day events back to the Wasatch front in an effort to increase attendance. We would still hold the 1 and 2 day events in the out lying districts. We weighed many of the pros and cons from travel to costs to the possible concentration of Area officers and chairs. We felts the pros

outweighed the cons along with the fallback that if it didn't work out has hoped, we could always change back.

To date, neither I nor members to the committee have had any feedback from the last report. I hope that during this gathering, some open mic time will be provided so that we on the committee can hear from you and gather you thoughts along with ours for our next meeting.

As always, any input and or comments would be greatly appreciated and if you would like to join the committee, there's always a chair open for you.

In Love and Service to the fellowship,

Ed. C.

Archives Conference Committee

Draft copyright language: The committee approved the new language designed o help foster awareness of copyright issues relevant to A.A.'s archival collections and requested that this text be included in the next printing of the Archives Workbook.

Review Workbook

The committee approved the new language designed to help foster awareness of copyright issues relevant to A.A.'s archival collections and requested that this text be included in the next printing of the Archives Workbook.

What is Copyright?

Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of federal, state, and local governments to the authors of any “original works of authorship” so, these laws generally apply to woks such as books, pamphlets, letters and emails, memos, newspaper and maga-

zine articles, photographs, sound recordings, web pages, artwork, and more – even doodles and scribbles are protected by copyright. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works.

Today one does not have to register a work's copyright, nor print a @ symbol on the work, to receive copyright protection. Protection automatically extends to any qualifying work, whether published or not, and whether created in the U.S. or in almost any country of the world. Generally, you should always assume that a work is copyrighted.

Rights of Copyright Owners

Copyright laws generally give the copyright owner the exclusive right to do (or to authorize others to do) the following:

Copy or scan;

Prepare derivative works (for example, translate into another language, create a musical version of the work, create an abridged version, etc.);
Public performance (for example, showing a movie at a public event, Performing a play or song, etc.); and
Public display.

It is illegal for anyone to violate any of the rights belonging to the owner of copyright. Some possible violates include photocopying/scanning; uploading to websites; copying software; sharing or selling audio/video files; putting on public film exhibitions; etc. In most of these cases you must have the written permission of the copyright owner before you can legally do these kinds of activities.

Who owns Copyrights?

Ordinarily, the author or creator of a work is the copyright owner. Sometimes it is easy to determine who owns the copyright – for example, if

you have a letter in your collection, the author of the letter owns the copyright. In the case of a photograph, the photographer is the copyright owner.

Sometimes it is more complex. In the case of a taped talk, many people may be considered "authors" and all of them would have some right to the work: the speechwriter, the speaker, and the person taping the event.

There are exceptions to this, however. For example, if an employee creates something in the course of his/her employment, generally the employer is then the copyright owner of that work. Also, an author can transfer copyright ownership to your archives, but this requires a signed, written document, and a certain amount of legal formality.

Copyright Protection Lasts Many Years

Most copyrights today last through the life of the author, plus 70 years. When a copyright dies, the copyright continues as part of his/her estate.

Most works that have remained unpublished (manuscripts, letters, etc.) are

subject to the basic protection of "life plus 70 years."

Works published before 1978 can have copyright protection for a maximum term of 95 years, though some have shorter copyright periods, and, for some, copyright restrictions that existed earlier may have already expired. Eventually, a copyright will expire and the formerly protected work will fall into the "public domain," where it can be used without restriction. But for materials relating to Alcoholics Anonymous, in many cases, works will remain copyrighted for many years.

Can You Use Copyrighted Works without Infringement?

The rights given to copyright owners are not unlimited. The laws include numerous exceptions to the rights of copyright owners, and many allow certain uses for education and research.

The best known exception is the doctrine of "fair use," which permits works to be copied for purposes such

as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research. Fair use may be described as the privilege to use copyrighted material in a reasonable manner without the owner's consent. Examples of activities that may be excused as fair use include: distributing copies of a section of an article in class for educational purposes; using an excerpt of a film in a film review; or creating a parody of a song. However, there are no hard and fast rules about which kinds of use are "fair" and which uses may be "infringing," so relying on fair use as a justification for copyright infringement can be risky.

Other exemptions permit libraries and archives to copy some works for their customers on a limited basis, and for the purpose of preservation. There are many other exceptions as well.

The information above is copied from the background material, Agenda Item A: Review Workbook Trustee's Archives Committee report, February, 3, 2008

Corrections Report

Dear Fellowship;

Area 69 Corrections committees have been hard at work these past few months opening new dialogue with a number of correctional professionals, making presentations, opening new meetings in lock down facilities, and putting on workshops for inside AA members.

What a tremendous opportunity it is so carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to people who might otherwise not get a meeting without this kind of service work being done behind the scene! There are many service opportunities for outside A.A. members to volunteer for at correctional facilities throughout the state of Utah. You can contact your District Corrections Chair or the Area 69 Corrections Chair for more information on how you can get involved. We need you!

A substance abuse conference is being sponsored by the Sevier Valley Substance Abuse Council (SVSAC) in Richfield, Utah on April 18 & 19, 2008. The SVSAC is work-

ing closely with city officials and community leaders in providing a venue where a variety of people may gather to address drug and alcohol addiction problems in our homes and communities. Alcoholics Anonymous has been invited to participate by having a booth/display throughout the day on Saturday and providing information to anyone who wishes to learn more about alcohol addiction and recovery from alcoholism. The Area 69 CPC and Corrections Chairs will be working together to man this event and are looking forward to going to District 6. If anyone is interested in participating please contact Jared or myself at www.utahaa.org and click on CPC or Corrections, or through the Area 69 telephone directory.

It is always an honor and a privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 69. Thank you for the opportunity!

Respectfully,

Renae H. – Area 69 Corrections Standing Chair

Literature Report

Hi, my name is Pete G. and I am a grateful alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve you as the Standing Chair for Literature. In the short time since we met in Roosevelt, I have been a little busy, scattered and blissfully married. Thank you for all the warm wishes for our happiness.

At the committee meeting in Roosevelt, over \$70 dollars of literature were acquired by members at that meeting. The majority of that literature was in the form of service material. I have brought a new supply of service manuals, pamphlets and workbooks in the hopes of helping your groups carry the message. At Roosevelt, it was discovered that the pamphlet Understanding Anonymity was being discussed and I do have a fresh batch of these pamphlets available.

I have had the opportunity to attend meetings in District 2 and District 7 since our February meeting. District 7

took the opportunity to meet for an entire afternoon to discuss the agenda topics. Literature, finance and treatment items were discussed at length and we came away from that meeting with a group of energized GSR's and standing chairs and had a very good lunch also. District 2 was interested in the self-support item along with corrections and Bridging the Gap information.

The literature agenda items are very light this year. Work continues on the AA for the Native North American with a draft of the pamphlet available for the delegates at the Conference. The two topics that brought the most discussion were the Letter to a Woman Alcoholic re-instatement and changing the title of 44 Questions to FAQ. In all groups I encountered, this brought insightful discussion. Please be sure to voice your conscience on these items today.

Beyond this assembly, there is still much work to do and I want to let you know that I am available to provide to you whatever literature that your group may need. Please take a moment to visit the literature display and take note of anything that might be helpful to your group in carrying the message. Tapes, workbooks and CD's make an excellent meeting for corrections and treatment facilities and we have those available.

I am very happy to announce that I will be a permanent member of District 7 in April. I look forward to it. My contact information will stay the same throughout April and my phone number will not change. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any requests or questions.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Pete G. – Area 69 Literature Standing Chair

Communications Report

Greetings Fellow Servants,

Welcome to the 2008 Pre-Conference Assembly. For those that are new to general service I would like to inform you that the Area has an official website; utahaa.org.

Before I carry on about the website I would also like to explain what the Communications Committee is. In Kanab at the 2006 Fall Elections Assembly the body created the Communication Committee with the following motion.

“That the Area 69 Web Servant position and Newsletter Standing Chair position be joined to form a Communications Standing Chair position. Where the Communications Standing Chair would be the Area's Web Servant / Newsletter Editor and would be responsible for three sub-committees; the Web Committee, the Newsletter

Committee, and the Translation Committee.”

The area's website has many features and functions including the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and accurate A.A. meeting list of Area 69, which is the state of Utah'

You can search for meetings by geographical area such as northern, eastern, central, etc. Each of these meeting results can be further refined by city, day, and whether it's on open or closed meeting. These results list all have a printer friendly page that removes the graphics and condenses the information so most lists can be printed on a single sheet of paper.

You can also search for meetings by city, day, type (Speaker's, Beginner's, Women's, etc.), as well as

Wheel Chair accessible. You can also get a list of meetings that are within a particular district. The results pages (those pages that display the list of meetings) now retrieve their data 75-80% faster.

I would like to thank all of those DCMCs, DCMs, and Central Offices who help keep the area's meeting list up-to-date and accurate. Great job!

Some of the other major features include a calendar of service events, a calendar of A.A. gatherings (which there are several listed), areas with information for newcomers to A.A. as well as newcomers to general service. There are areas for each of the Committee Chairs as well as one for the Area's Delegate. These areas are blogs that contain addition information that the area servants feel is pertinent to their committees.

We have created a display where you can pick-up a "Site Features" list. It lists everything that is available on the website. GSRs please bring at least one of these back to your group. This list is also available on the website itself.

We will be doing a "full featured" presentation on what's available on the website at the Post-Conference Assembly in May. I hope you can all attend!

Grapevine Report

Greeting Fellow Servants!

What a wonderful experience it was to be able to attend the Area Committee Meeting held in Roosevelt on February 23rd. Many trusted servants braved the considerable elements and learned, once again, the value of being "willing to go to any length."

The group assembled for the Grapevine roundtable discussion was a small one, but some big ideas worth passing on were shared. One participant talked about how her home group purchases back issues of the Grapevine on e-Bay. The group members then replace the staples with stitching and take the stitched magazines in to the local jail. The roundtable group members liked the idea of having the Grapevine magazine being produced with stitching instead of staples on an ongoing basis rather than just once a year.

District 1 Report

Greetings Friends - My name is Vicky and I am an alcoholic. I currently serve you as District 1 DCMC.

We want to thank the committee for all their love and service in hosting this event.

This last month has been a busy one for District 1. Our last District Meet-

The Communications Committee continues to meet monthly. We have approved and implemented a new Special Needs / Accessibilities page that lists on-line meetings, telephone meetings an on-line discussion forum sponsored by Area 49. (www.utahaa.org/Accessibility.php) We've also Implemented some cosmetic changes that we feel make the site more appealing.

The other main topic discussed was how the Grapevine could better carry the lifesaving message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic. One young woman was very passionate about the Grapevine making every attempt to keep pace with the changes in technology. She talked about the importance of making sure that new members were made aware that the Grapevine magazine is available in an audio format. AudioGrapevine can be downloaded to a desktop computer, MP3 or CD player. **How do you G.V.?**

Since my last report in February, I sent some old Grapevines to our new friend, Tony, in Kenilworth (District 5). Tony wrote a most heartwarming letter of thanks and was very grateful to receive the old copies. He said all of the old Grapevines he receives "will go to very good use in the remote areas of Southern Utah many people don't get to visit, like Mexican Hat." Tony said he is coming up on

ing was held on March 13th and we were surprised and delighted to have many of our Area folks at the meeting. Our great pal Lewis treated us all to pizza. We spent most of the meeting discussing the agenda items and motions. It was very helpful to have Monte, Andy, Sheri, and Charlie there to provide all their experience and knowledge. Charlie gave a short

The Committee is looking for an Alternate Webservant. If you know HTML (basic web page creation) or know someone that does, please have them contact us. This has been given to the DCMCs to announce at their GSR meetings as well.

Thank you all for allowing me to service this incredible fellowship!

Doug R. - Communications

20 years of what he calls "sober time." If anyone would like to send our friend Tony a note, please see me for his address. I'm sure he would welcome any sort of communication and opportunity for sharing with others involved in service.

I'm happy to report that the supply of old Grapevine magazines we had on hand has been depleted. The back issues are being used in all areas of service work all around the state. There are order forms available at the Grapevine table if you or your group would like to get a box or two of the back issues. Passing out old Grapevines is a fun and easy way to carry the message.

Thank you all for this service opportunity.

With gratitude,

Sheryl T. - Area 69 Grapevine Chair

presentation on updating information for GSO and the directories. Andy talked about being willing to stand for service positions and what service has done for him. Thank you all for your time and support. Our own Tom T stood and was voted in as a new DCM. We received the OK from the Rocky Mountain Round-up to set up a table with service information

and gathered the needed literature. Eddie was gracious enough to say he'd man the table. We have been working to set up AA info at the Health Fair at IRS in Ogden and have rounded up a video to show. The district is also busy getting ready for the Post Conference in May. The District is still operating out of their prudent reserve which means every penny we

spend must be voted on. I should be so smart as to do that with my own budget. Lewis represented our district at PRAASA in Alaska and we are looking forward to hearing more about his experience. I was very disappointed at not being able to attend. I had to cancel my trip at the last minute. AA has taught me where I truly need to be and I was so grateful

to all of you for your love and support. Anyway the meeting went a half hour but was so great not a single person walked out.

Thanks for allowing me to be of service – it has saved my life and my sanity.

Vicky – DCMC District 1

District 2 Report

My name is Wade J., DCMC

Firstly I would like to take the time and thank everyone for being here and taking part in my sobriety. I am so pleased to announce that at the G.S.R. meeting we had two people show up and stand for the B.T.G. position and an Alt. D.C.M. position.

The workshop that was hosted by Districts 2, 10 and 11 had a great turnout and I would like to personally thank Julie S. for coming and giving her report. I would also like to thank all of the committee members for all of their time and effort for making this conference as enjoyable as possible - thank you. I am so blessed to be

given a second chance in life and to be surrounded by such wonderful people like all of you.

Thank you for my sobriety.

Love in service,

Wade J. – DCMC District 2

District 11 Report

Greetings from District 11. We hope all is well with you in your location.

For the moment, all of our District positions are filled, including one we added in December. Susan M. is our new BTG Coordinator. Three inmates have asked to participate in the program and several people in the District have shown interest as volunteers. Duane F. has also joined us as our CPC Chairperson. Duane has been taking meetings to the Job Corps and is now getting ready for his CPC commitment. Grapevine Chair, Michael O. has been visiting groups in the North and reports 75% have GVR's. He has experienced interest in GV materials he purchased from the Area. Alan H., Corrections Chair, is coordinating efforts at the Davis County Jail. He reports we need female volunteers to hold women's meetings.

Pete M., P.I. Chair, has been developing a plan to approach businesses and schools. He is hoping to attract interested A.A.'s and to form a committee. No report received from Literature. Gary J., Treatment Chair, is busy as usual. His newest project is a Treat-

ment Center which he reports has never held AA meetings before. They have agreed to hold one meeting every other week. Our Secretary Sue S. asked to step down in January. We want to thank her for her many efforts serving the District and wish her all the best. Fortunately for us Jamie Y. heard about the vacancy and agreed to stand for the position. We have four new GSR's. Chris C., Matt D., Nicole W., and Aaron H. We want to welcome all our new committee members and let them know how excited we are they have chosen to join us in service. Only two of our registered groups are now without GSR's. We are a small District but currently enjoying nearly full participation.

We have an active Guidelines Committee working on a major revision. It is an energetic group and they seem determined to complete this arduous task. We currently need a great deal of description and clarification to improve what we already have. It is clear the committee members are all very dedicated and sincere in wanting the best for District 11. We want to thank all the other Districts who have

shared their guidelines with us. We are borrowing heavily from their ideas.

A recent highlight for us was a workshop we held in January. It was titled AA Service, Our Third Legacy. Mike and Shirley O. along with Monte S. joined us and presented round table discussions about different levels of service. Pete G. brought his traveling display of literature. Andy B. was there for support. We want to thank all those who contributed their time and efforts, both the presenters and the workshop committee. It was very successful in terms of participation, enlightenment, and enjoyment. Interested A.A.'s represented about one third of those in attendance and two of them have now joined us in service as part of the District Committee. Adrian and Coop, our DCM's, continue to serve their groups and GSR's. We are looking forward to the rest of this year and this rotation to accomplish the goals we've established. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be of service.

Bruce I. – DCMC District 1