

AREA 69 NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2018

AREA 69 FALL (ELECTION) ASSEMBLY

VOLUME 3

2019 General Service Conference Theme:

“Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages”

The 2019 General Service Conference

Discussion/Presentation topics are:

- a. *“Yesterday’s World – Our Legacies Begin”*
- b. *“Today’s World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service”*
- c. *“Tomorrow’s World – Courage to be Vigilant”*

2019 Workshop Topic:

“Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings”

“Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need”

(Excerpts from Bill W.’s article in the April 1959 Grapevine. See Concept IX, page 36 of “Twelve Concepts for World Service” for the full article)

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: “Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example.” In effect, we are saying to them, “Act for us, but don’t boss us.”...

Therefore, a leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgement of his own---well, he really isn’t a leader at all....

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plan for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source....

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can obtain, sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided, of course, that such action be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility....

Another qualification for leadership is give-and-take, the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us all-or-nothing drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot,

Editor’s Comments

••• My name is Renae H., I am an alcoholic and Area 69 “News & Notes” newsletter editor. I want to thank all those who have contributed articles to Volume 3 sharing their personal stories, experience, strength and hope.

Included in this issue are the 2019 General Service Conference Theme, Discussion/Presentation Topics, and the Conference Workshop Topic for Fellowship-wide sharing throughout the U.S./Canada General Service Conference Structure. These topics are great for discussion and general sharing in your groups, districts, area meetings, workshops, etc. What are your experiences, strengths, thoughts, hope and reflections as members of A.A. and in relation to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole?

How do you spread the message of hope, recovery and unity to those beyond your home group? Are you ready to be of service on an area level? Contributing to the Area 69 News & Notes publication is a rewarding way to be of service and to share with fellow members around the state. Simply contact your newsletter editor, with your article or photo by emailing: area69immediatepastdelegate@utahaa.org (See additional News Letter article submission information on the back page of this Volume)

however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take...

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always the constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship. *Copyright by The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.; excerpted with permission Page S52 "The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service"*

2018 Area 69 Fall Assembly
Area 69 / Panel 69
2019-2020 General Service
Committee Elections

At the Fall Election Assembly of each even numbered year, elections are held to select a Delegate to represent the Utah Delegate Area 69 at the annual General Service Conference. Elections of other Officers of the Area Committee and Chairpersons of Assembly Standing Committees are also held to coincide with the Election of the Delegate.

Area 69 Officer Service Positions:

Delegate; Alternate Delegate; Chair; Secretary; Treasure; and Registrar

Electing Area Officers

Eligibility – All present or past members of the Area Committee who have/will have served at least

one full two year term as an assembly member and have a minimum of five years current and continuous sobriety are eligible to stand. It is suggested that all candidates for Area Officer have sufficient general service and/or practical experience appropriate to the position they may be elected to serve.

(Page 20 "General Service Structure Guidelines Revised September 21, 2018)

Area 69 Standing Committee Chairperson Positions:

Agenda/Assembly; Archives; Communications; CPC (Cooperation With the Professional Community); Corrections; Grapevine; Literature; Public Information (PI); Treatment/Accessibilities

Electing Area Standing Chair Persons

Eligibility - All present or past members of the Area Assembly who have/will have served at least one full two year term as an Assembly member and have a minimum of three years current and continuous sobriety are eligible to stand. It is suggested that candidates have some prior service experience appropriate to the position they may be elected to serve.

(Page 20 "General Service Structure Guidelines Revised September 21, 2018)

"The Spirit of Rotation"

I have always loved this time of year as we approach this season of gratitude, thanksgiving, and abundance. I tend to reflect more on the many gifts and blessings my Creator has given me; primarily - my sobriety - and secondly, a life worth living in gratitude and being of service to my fellow human beings.

Just as Mother Nature paints our landscape in vivid color and her

leaves begin to fall in preparation for new life and growth---so it is, as we transition into the spirit of rotation - anticipating new energy, growth and service into Alcoholics Anonymous.

We get to participate in the spiritual process of choosing our *leaders* through A.A.'s "Third Legacy Procedure" - often considered unique to Alcoholics Anonymous.

The A.A. Service Manual suggests that we carefully consider the qualifications and scope of each positions' responsibility when selecting our future leaders. Concept IX reads in part:

"First let's remember that the base for our service structure rests on the dedication and ability of several thousand General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s), several hundred area Committee Members, and nearly 100 Delegates. These are the direct agents of the A.A. groups; these are the indispensable linkage between our Fellowship and its world service; these are the primary representatives of A.A.'s group conscience. Without their support and activity we could not operate permanently at all.

When making their choices of G.S.R.'s, the A.A. groups should therefore have such facts well in mind. It ought to be remembered *that it is only the G.S.R.'s* who, in Group Assembly meetings (or in caucus) can name Committee Members and finally name the Delegates. Hence great care needs to be taken by the groups as they choose those Representatives. Hit or miss methods should be avoided. Groups who name no G.S.R.'s should be encouraged to do so. In this area a degree of weakness tends to persist. The needed improvement seems to be a matter of increased care, responsibility and education.

As the G.S.R.'s meet in their Assemblies to name Delegates, an even greater degree of care and dedication will be required. Personal ambitions will have to be cast aside, feuds and controversy forgotten. "Who are the best qualified

people that we can name?" This should be the thought of all.

Thus far our Third Legacy method of naming Delegates by a two-thirds vote or by lot has proved highly satisfactory. This system of choosing has greatly reduced political friction; it has made each Delegate feel that he or she is truly a world servant rather than just the winner of a contest. In Committee Members and Delegates alike, our Third Legacy methods have generally produced people of a high level of dedication and competence. In this area of service we are in good shape. Our Area Assemblies need only to continue to act with care and selfless good spirit." *"The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service"* by Bill W. Page S34-35

A.A. service, to me, means that I get to give back to Alcoholics Anonymous what was already here and given to me when I first entered the rooms. The opportunities for service in A.A. are broad and vast, and each job (whether it be the home group coffee maker or a Delegate) teaches me how to shed my selfish-self a little bit more each day, striving hard to practice the principles of A.A. in "all my affairs."



We build upon and grow each other when we rotate in service. We pass on the knowledge and our experience like we would a football on the field. We are each carrying and adding our gifts and talents to the table with one ultimate goal in mind --- to move the ball forward in progression toward reaching the "never-ending" end zone...the

Alcoholic who still stumbles in the dark.

I have no doubt this effort will continue seamlessly as we enter into the next rotation, and that the love, dedication, and commitment to exploring and improving communication and outreach to the next generations of alcoholics, will be as diligent and passionate as ever.

Love and Service,
Rena H. Area 69 Panel 65
Immediate Past Delegate

"Notes from the Delegate"

As I sit and reflect the previous year and thinking about all the amazing things we have been a part of: the implementation of translating Agenda Items and background material into French and Spanish; the Navajo big book in video and voice; all the new pamphlets that should hit the press and be available soon; the first National Corrections Workshop; and the increase in attendance at our Area Assemblies and Committee meetings. Each time I have the gift to spend time in the different Districts listening to all the work being done to help the still suffering alcoholic in our communities. I am so blessed to serve this Area as your Delegate, words cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity you have given me...and the life I have, because of each one of you.

Love in service,
Wade Jensen
Area 69 Delegate Panel 67

I want to take this time to thank the Districts and the meetings I have had the pleasure to share a small bit of my time with and how you have touched my life in so many ways.

As I look at my sobriety and my membership in AA, I always come back to realize the gift is, and has always been, you.

Everywhere I go, there is always a "you" in my life; at home, at work, at my Home group, at District and Area events. This room is full of "you"--- thank you for being you and sharing your life with me.

Love in Service,
Wade Jensen
Area 69 Delegate Panel 67



"Red Road to Recovery"

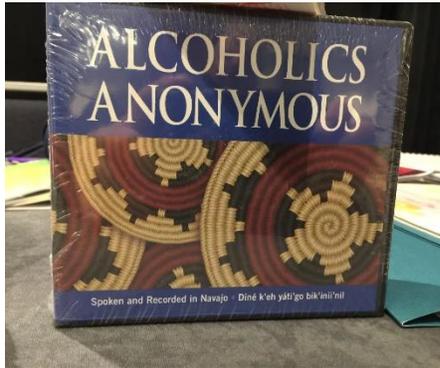
I have always felt a connection with other beings whether it be through laughter and sadness or love and compassion, I believe we are all part of the same spirit we just come in different disguises. Evolved through time to adapted to their proper settings and environments. Unfortunately for the Native Americans, native to these lands on this continent (not a dirt lot in New Mexico), haven't really been drinking alcohol as long as other cultures. This idea was explained to me that some cultures have developed a tolerance to fermented and or distilled spirits over thousands of years - as to the Native

American culture, maybe a couple hundred. I don't think it was meant to be a part of the Navajo diet.

The first day of the convention was a similar start to regular AA assemblies; speakers, panels, and meetings. But these guys stepped it up a notch. Drum circles, singing and dancing...truly an honor to be a part of the ceremonial dance, circle of life. Talk about a spiritual awakening! Sounds of the drum pulsing through the veins, the chants, the cries...I could feel that connection. I could also feel the sadness. The pain that alcohol had caused ripping through the lives of the Navajo nation as it does with any nation. A non-discriminating force, cunning and baffling.

Day 2, the presentation of the "Big Book" translated into the Navajo spoken language. Navajo language can only be learned by speaking, there is no lead and eraser involved. I believe this process took decades, from 1998 – 2018 alcoholics worked on this service piece. The president of the Navajo nation was presented with an audio disc set that morning. His words, "We finally have a tool to wage war against alcohol", and it was a war. He also said that 80% of all crime and violence on the reservations were connected to alcohol. The stories were all the same, "death on the res."

I will say that the laughter, the giggles, were one of a kind. Afterwards, driving home, I felt a sense of relief. There was a solution; the Navajo Nation finally had the gift of Alcoholics Anonymous - the same opportunity that every alcoholic has - if they're willing to work for it. Always Love,
It's easier,
Evan J.



Area 69 Upcoming Service Events



November 3-4, 2018

**Fall Workshop
Logan, Utah**

December 1, 2018

**December Committee Meeting
"Pass The Gavel"
Springville, Utah**

February 26, 2019

**February Committee Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah**

March 1-3, 2019

**Pacific Region AA Service
Assembly (PRAASA)
Irvine, California
Area 09**

April 5-7, 2019

**Pre-Conference Assembly
Hosted by Districts 11 & 12
Salt Lake City, Utah**

June 7-9, 2019

**Post Conference Assembly
Vernal, Utah**

May 19-25, 2019

**General Service Conference
New York, NY**

For More Information Visit:

www.utahaa.org

Editor's Note

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