



GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE - NYC, NY APRIL 21-27, 2013

My General Service Conference experience began when I saw Rod B. (Pacific Region Trustee) at the gate for the flight to New York City. Rod was at the first AA meeting that I attended (December 26, 1987); in other words Rod has been a part of my sobriety since the beginning. I am grateful that he will be a part of my General Service Conference experience. I could not have asked for a better person to guide me when I am confused or simply too tired to understand what is going on.

Once I arrived at the hotel, my goal was to take a nap and prepare to go to a dinner party that I was invited to by an AA member in New York City. This AA member knew the Area 69 past delegates and normally invited the new delegate to her dinner party. I was too excited to sleep so I showered, got dressed and went to Time Square just outside the doors of the hotel.

Later, Rod and I took a taxi to the dinner party. We did not get a taxi right away but Rod was persistent and finally got one. The hostess answered the door and I felt welcome from the

beginning. The whole evening was very comfortable. Several of the guests I met that evening also attended the General Service Conference so when the conference started I already knew some of the delegates.

The conference started that Sunday, 21 April 2013 with the opening session. What a wonderful opportunity to be a part of AA service. However, by Tuesday, 23 April 2013, I hit a wall; focusing on what was going on became difficult for me. My expectations were too high and they crashed and burned.

But this was my opportunity to grow and I did. During the committee report backs, I saw how an informed group conscience works. I got to see the definition of terms like: floor action, friendly amendment, amendment, additional committee consideration, motion failed, reconsider, motion passed.

Here are two examples:

1. The Trustee Committee did not support the proposed plan for interlocking directorate therefore the

committee took no action. The discussions were emotional and I sensed that the trustees were not happy with the committee's decision. This motion came back as a floor action, which is someone saying I believe we should continue to discuss this motion and maybe vote it in. I learned that floor actions need to be accepted by the conference members before it will be discussed and voted on. The conference members voted not to discuss the floor action. Although the emotions surrounding this topic were highly charged, I believe an informed conscience was made and the outcome was the correct one.

2. The archive committee recommended that a commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of the first edition, first printing of Alcoholics Anonymous be published in April 2014. The motion failed and the minority opinion was heard. The conference members voted to reconsider the motion and the reconsider passed. The motion was discussed again. This time after the discussions the motion passed.

2013 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Hello to the area 69 fellowship.

I just want to express the extreme gratitude to all who attended the 2013 pre-conference assembly in Park City. What an awesome weekend, and what an experience for me personally as I continue to learn, grow, and make new friends in this deal. There is another article in the newsletter from me that was supposed to be in the last newsletter about PRAASA, but I “replied “ to the e-mail that Keith sent out, (hence the new addition to the call out “Please do not reply to this e-mail”) I hope I was not the only one to do that, but if I was then this to shall pass. The information that I got was almost overwhelming as I learn the new area chair position and how we take a group conscience on the agenda items at hand. I know I have to train myself to be a more avid reader on materials and information I get not only from the area but the Grapevine editors as well. I was very grateful that Wade stepped in and explained what the agenda item was in more clarity, and once he did that I as well as the group understood it better and not only did I, but most everyone else changed their vote not to rescind the motion and keep the La Vina as it is now. It may be in black and white but it has increased its subscription rates and that is a step in the right direction to achieve spiritual parody with the Grapevine, and become closer to being self supporting.

Each night as I listened to the speaker, I got an overwhelming calmness about me that reminded me that my Higher Power is with me all the time. I laughed, and even shed a few tears as I took it all in. I pray that all of you got those same kind of feelings. It just reminds me of what this is all about. To carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic, and the only way that I can show and express my gratitude, is to just keep doing what I am doing. I am learning and feeling more the joy I get when I share the message and just let people know that we have a solution, and people don't have to die.

So with that, I would like to extend a very special and heartfelt thanks to all of my fellow committee members, (you know who you are) who helped put this weekend together. For this alcoholic I think it was a terrific weekend, but I say that about all the events I attend. As long as there is some food, and the people I love in attendance, then this guy is a happy camper.

In loving service,

---Mark B.

Area 69 Grapevine standing chair.

PRAASA Boise, ID

Public Information Round-table.

1) Public Service Announcements:

Full faces in PSA's give the appearance of an advertisement.

Actors were used in PSA's and the fellowship first said it was okay but then felt all PSA's should have the faces shadowed or show the back of heads only. (Advisory Action #22 in 2011)

A float in a parade displaying a group name is probably not the best idea for a PSA.

It was also shared how one area paid \$1,500 for 1500 showings of 'Force of Nature' at a local movie theatre when the feature movie was rated Adult. It was discussed how this may appear as a commercial or give the appearance of affiliation instead of cooperation. One point of view stated, "If it is paid for, is it really a public service?" Public Service Announcements are given free air time depending on the amount of air time donated by any one entity. Service announcements in movie theatres were created during World War II by the government to generate support (war bonds) for the government.

2) AAWS using commissioned stores to sale eBooks (Amazon, Kindle, etc):

Non-commission stores take a higher percentage of sales.

AAWS has no control over pricing.

Impression of affiliation vs. cooperation.

Functionality doesn't meet requirements.

Question copyrights.

Would be cost effective for fellowship??

3) Agenda voting item C regarding Tradition Eleven.

Responsibility Statement. I am responsible.for a new member to be better informed on our anonymity at the public level.

I may be tagged in a photo posted on Facebook that implies it is a fellowship event.

The circle and triangle could appear in the photo.

As a member of the fellowship, is this the image that I want to portray?

Am I Guilty by association?

Does the sponsor understand anonymity?

Does the service sponsor understand anonymity?

Have a loving discussion t a meeting using the topic: Pamphlet –Anonymity at the Public Level, not just yours but mine.

4) Health Fairs:

Don't forget to include the following

Parole Officers.

Senior Centers.

Project Homeless.

September is National Recovery Month.

5) Cooperation with CPC & PI.

Grapevines in Libraries, Correctional facilities, doctor offices, etc.

Share information at booths / fairs.

This was an amazing weekend full of excitement and new experiences. One I would like to share. There were 3 of us sharing a room and one morning I was looking out at the great view. I was watching the geese flying in the V-formation. I commented about the lead dropping back so another could take the lead. One companion commented she wouldn't have noticed if I hadn't pointed this out. I shared how this reminded me of our spirit of rotation. We do the best we can and then step aside to let someone else carry on. I love this program and the new point of view I have received in so many areas of my life.

Thank you for letting me share this journey with all of you, Treesa J.



PRAASA

I have attended 3 PRAASA's and each one has been amazing in its own way. My first PRAASA in California gave me just a taste of how important service is on a regional level and a small idea of what it takes to carry the message. When I attended my second PRAASA in Washington I thought I was prepared for whatever they had to offer. HARDLY! I left that PRAASA full of gratitude and in complete AWWW. I was really looking forward to PRAASA in Boise. I had high expectations going to PRAASA this year. If you're alcoholic brain is anything like mine then you know that expectations are dangerous. The energy was high, love was in the air and serenity was in the room. That should have been enough but I wanted more! We all want more right?

One of my main goals at PRAASA this year was to come back with ideas about what to do with the Area 69 CPC Committee for the next 2 years. The CPC roundtable was very informative. I made contact with Area CPC and PI Chairs and got to hear what is working for them

to carry the message to professionals in their communities. I hope to create and send professional information packets to send out to courts, schools, physicians and other professionals that might come into contact with someone that has a desire to stop drinking. I learned that we have resources which include pamphlets, videos, power point presentations as well as displays for larger events. As a group we can ask any professional we come in contact with if they would like to receive information on Alcoholics Anonymous and GSO will send them the AA Newsletter.

In my roundtable I also learned that as an area chair I have a responsibility to educate and assist GSR's, DCM's, District Standing Chairs and interested AA's in carrying the message to professionals and other community members. In the past I have made assumptions that everyone should know all this and that it's an easy thing to do. Then I realized that without some direction from others in service I would not be in a position to assist and educate

others.

When I first came into AA it never occurred to me that there was something bigger that made AA work. I would venture to bet that the majority of AA members have no idea what happens in the bigger picture of AA. I am constantly learning and growing each time I attend a PRAASA or Area Event. I am finding that I intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle me.

Balance in Service was a topic discussed in one of the panels. "BALANCE" what a concept! Balance in my life is the key to my serenity. I have said this before and a fully believe that there is a place for everyone in service; sponsor, sponsee, GSR, DCM, Area Standing Chair, Area Officer.....don't be shy just get involved. Everyone can make a difference.

I LOVE HOW AA SERVICE WORKS IF WE JUST WORK IT!

Thanks for the opportunity to enhance my sobriety
Rachael F.



2013 PACIFIC REGION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY

March 1-3, 2013
Boise, Idaho
Area 69 Treasurer's Report

Dear Friends,

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend this year's PRAASA hosted by Area 18 in Boise, Idaho, and to be a part of the vast learning and sharing of experience, strength, and hope with the many trusted servants that are walking the same paths we are walking here throughout the Utah Area 69 Fellowship. Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve you and Alcoholics Anonymous as the Panel.63 Area Treasurer.

I have attended 6 PRAASAs since 2005, and as with in the past, I have not once been let down---the educational and spiritual experiences of this assembly are something I hope each of you will have the opportunity to attend some time throughout your service journey. Speaking of which, we will all get to share the joy as the Utah Area 69 will be hosting the 2015 PRAASA in Davis County!

I attended every meeting with pen and paper in hand ready to fill an insatiable need I seem to have acquired for more knowledge and information. This I have learned through the AA program--- that I must remain forever teachable and always the "student"--- in order to maintain contented recovery from my alcoholism, and also to recover from Renae! The events for Friday began with two AA meetings at 10:00 am---one in Spanish and the other in English. An orientation/Q&A informal session first new or first time PRAASA attendees was facilitated by Greg M., Past General Service Office Manager serving Alcoholics Anonymous from 1992 until _____?

If you have never heard Greg speak, his voice and his entire essence is that of a calming kindness, love and humility. He was very welcoming and assuring---we all were going to have a great experience!

Panel presentations began at 1:00pm, the first being "Meet the Pacific Region Area Delegates". Our very own Delegate Walter C., did an awesome job of sharing highlights and information about the Utah Area General Service structure and the diversities of our geographical and fellowship needs and challenges in the 2 minutes allotted time per Delegate! In Panel-2 the topic was "Service is the Secret" where Walter presented on "PRAASA: What's It All About?" Our Rachael F. was a "Reader" at the beginning of that Panel. Other presentations in this panel included; "How Do We Select Our Trusted Servants"; "Bleeding Deacon vs. Elder Statesman: Where's the line?"; "How Do We Grow Leadership in a New Generation of AAs?"; and finally "Balance in Service".

The Panel-3 topic was "Why it Works" and was moderated by our Wendy W. Presentations encompassed "Tradition One: Our Common Welfare"; "Tradition Two: "Semantics - Does Language Really Matter?"; "Tradition Three: "Is There Really Only One Requirement for Membership - Written or Implied?"; "Tradition Twelve: "Anonymity - Our Spiritual Foundation; and "The 3 R's: Rituals, Rigidity, Rules. Panel-4 Topic was "This We Owe to AA's Future". Presentations covered topics such as "E-Books and Outside Vendors - Affiliation or 21st Century?"; "Commemorative 75th Anniversary Big Book - To Be or Not to Be"; Technology Transforms CPC from the Flintstones to the Jetsons"; "Policy and Admissions Combines with Agenda"; and "The General Service Board Gets a Make-over - Service Do or Service Don't?".

Saturday began with Panel-5, the topic being "The Hand of AA Always to be There". Presentations were given on "Treatment/Special Needs/ Accessibility Committee (ASNAC): Making Meetings Accessible For All Alcoholics"; "Corrections - Getting Members Excited to go to the Big House"; and a presentation on the "Grapevine La Vina", in which the presenter expressed the deep and passionate need for, and the importance of the continued publication of the Grapevine LaVina, as a life line and valuable 12 Step tool for our Spanish Speaking members in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Panel-6 Topic "Our Third Legacy", illuminated "Concept II: Representation in the General Service Conference"; "Concept III - Right of Decision"; "Concept IV - Right of Participation"; and "Concept IX - Leadership". The Panel-7 topic "General Service Inventory", began with a presentation called "Area Inventory - A Pat on the Back or Honest Appraisal"; "How Do We Communicate the Purpose of the General Service Conference (GSC) to the Fellowship?"; "Concept X - How Well is the Authority of the Conference Defined?"; and last, "Concept XII - How Well Does the GSC fulfill the General Warranties?". This was just the morning sessions!

Saturday afternoon we reconvened for the Trustee's Report delivered by our current Pacific Regional Trustee, Rod B.- also known to area 69 as a Past Delegate serving the Fellowship here in Utah. His report was followed by the PRAASA Business Meeting facilitated by Madeleine P., Past PR Trustee. If you can imagine 1000+ Alcoholics talking about policies and money---you will understand why this meeting was extended to be concluded later into the evening after the Banquet and Speaker meeting!

2013 PACIFIC REGION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY

PRAASA Roundtables for GSR's, DCM's, all of the Standing Committees throughout the General Service Structure, Area Officers, Area Delegates, and Past Delegate and Trustee meetings were held on Friday evening and again Saturday afternoon. This is where I find the "meat & Potatoes" of service are found. The Roundtable discussions are mostly informal sharing and gathering of information by the many service representatives that make up the 15 geographical areas of the Pacific Region. This is our opportunity to talk with other trusted servants about our specific general service commitments, committee work and purpose, in seeking to increase our effectiveness in carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers and has not yet found our rooms.

I look at General Service work at all levels as a humongous 12 Step call. There is an enormous amount of responsibility in taking care that Alcoholics Anonymous is available and open to all who seek us not only now, but for the many generations that surely will follow us.

I was really excited to attend the Treasurer's Roundtables to hear and learn more about our 7th Tradition "where spirituality and money mix". Our topics for discussion included: 1- "Self support – How do we get Members to Self Support (awareness)?" 2- "Self support through our own contributions – not having to rely upon Literature sales"; 3- "Where spirituality and money mix"; 4- "Sharing description of service position and qualifications of each area, district, or group treasurer in attendance"; 5- "Mileage Defrayments"; and 6- "How to deal with returned checks?" Each of these topics were thoroughly shared upon, however, most of the meeting's discussions centered on the first three – Self-support fellowship awareness, GSO becoming fully self supporting no longer relying upon literature sales, and "Where do money and spirituality mix?"

These discussions generated a lot of thought and pondering within me in preparation of writing this report. How could I put into words and sum up the importance of such conversations?

I referenced the "2012 62nd Annual Meeting of The General Service Conference – Final Report" as a resource for the following information:

FINANCE AND BUDGETARY –

Trustees' Report: (pg. 35) "General Service Office"--- "Our revenue essentially comes from two sources: profit from literature sales and contributions from members. Contributions of \$6,189,866 received from groups and members [2011] were approximately \$180,000, or 2.8% less than budgeted, and \$89,000 (1.4%) less than in 2010. The \$6,189,866 in contributions came from 27,066 groups, individuals, and service entities. That, for comparison, represents approximately 42.4% of the 63,845 groups listed with G.S.O. just slightly less than the 43.9% reported last year, [2010]"

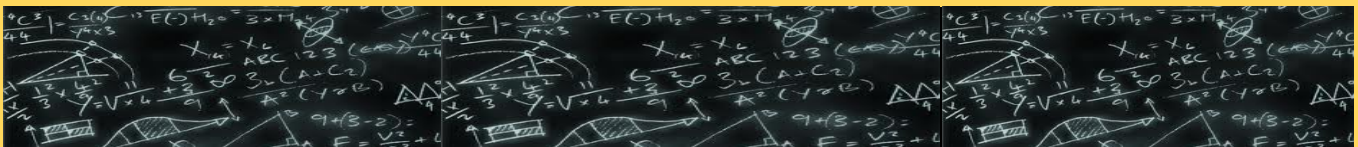
Same source – continued on (pg. 36): "Turning to the other major component of our income, net sales of literature were \$12,506,136, which was only \$8,864 (.07%) less than budgeted, and approximately \$322,225 greater than 2010."

This brief snapshot of the 7th Tradition participation at our General Service Headquarters is still hovering around the same percentages statically. In a 2010 Finance Presentation called "Around the Picnic Table" given by Terry Bedient, Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee-General Service Board Treasurer, it was reported that the income received from the Fellowship to AAWS was, 43% from contributions and 57% from literature sales.

So, how does the Utah Area 69 fellowship do? In the 2012 62nd GSC Final Report (Pages 70-71), Utah has listed 333 Groups with G.S.O.; 150 (44.9%) reported groups contributing--- \$29,651.00 total contributions from groups in 2011. Reported membership was 6434, = \$4.61 Per Capita. 866 individual contributing members from Area 69 brought the total contributions received by GSO from Utah to \$30,728.33, which equals \$4.79 Per Capita. Don't panic...we are in the average zone of the 93 US and Canada Delegate Areas listed on this report! The lowest reporting was \$2.12 per member, and the highest reporting was \$18.84 Per Capita. The total average per capita US and Canada in 2011 totaled \$4.45. Total cost of services provided by GSO per member in 2010 was \$6.29. So, are we doing O.K.? I think we're doing great. Is there room for more 7th Tradition participation awareness conversations within our groups and districts? I'd say "yes", there's always room for talk of the spiritual principals that are embodied within our Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous!

Once again---thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the Panel 63, Area 69 Treasurer---I am humbled.

Renae H.



INVENTORY EVERYWHERE

I just got back home from my River walk, I've been very fortunate & blessed through service to be able to go on daily jaunts to a place near the river and take an inventory of where I am now, where things need improving & ask my Higher power to direct me in whatever way will lead to be of maximum service to him & the people I get the good fortune to be with every day.

With this process of taking stock being so important, let us look at what is the purpose of an Inventory? Our book states that it is a "fact finding & fact facing" endeavor, that "a business that doesn't take stock usually goes broke". So it seems to me that there should be a very considerable amount of time spent on this activity of looking inside & seeing what are true motives for behavior and what the real actions are as a result of those motives.

I remember my very first personal Inventory how scared, nervous & very afraid I was to take a look at myself. I had spent many years avoiding this looking inward to see who I really was and who I had become as my eyes were designed to look outward or so I thought but it never really occurred to me to honestly see what my motives were or how my actions had been affecting others in life. I am so grateful that the higher power sent a very loving and understanding sponsor that obviously had done many of these, to help guide me along from self centered fear to a light and joyous place of peace and personal understanding.

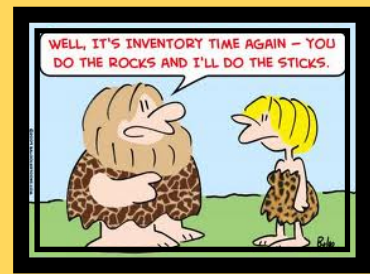
When I began to set this Inventory on paper, just like the instructions in our book says, who was I resentful

at... the cause of the resentment then what part of self it effects. I began to realize that there was much more going on than I ever could have imagined had these specific directions not been followed, I often wonder what other path I would be on now if I had chosen not to do this or had tried for a seemingly easier softer method, who knows, I might not have been allowed to be here to write this experience you are reading about even now.

This process of uncovering my hidden bad motives with good ones allowed me to get down to causes & conditions as well as away from the untrue life I had been living. More importantly, what obstacles were still in my way keeping me from growing into being the best sober person that I was capable of being & to better live, serve and love to my truest potential. Although this is the ideal that was revealed, it still gives something to strive towards every single day even now. Over the years I have been allowed to experience several types of personal Inventory.

I have found that Spot Inventory, Daily, Financial, Evening, Annual & Semi-Annual house cleanings and Service Inventories still allow me to grow as there always are things that I find that still need improvement. On the Daily Inventory what I have found is that it allows that each day can be started over if need be, kind of like a spiritual reboot. And with the help of a nightly Inventory, this allows the slate to be cleared so things from yesterday are not spilling over so much into the present as they were before entering into this new sober way of life.

One of the first benefits to this



business of Inventory was the sense of relief that was felt, that finally someone knew my deepest darkest secrets, those things I swore would never be revealed to any one else. Those things I swore would go with me to the grave. I finally felt like I belonged somewhere, right here in the now.

The two criteria that our book clearly states only counts when doing this Inventory is Thoroughness & Honesty. I remember my sponsor asked me to get a dictionary to look up in the meaning of all the words in the Big Book, since my sick alcoholic mind had distorted & twisted words into what I wanted them to mean. It has also been an honor and a gift to hear several sponsees Inventories as well and it reminds me to ask them to get a dictionary also....

Once every Year or Every other year right before rotation, I do a Service Inventory. I use the 12 Traditions checklist and Concepts checklist as a guide to see what's been done & what needs improvement here also. To shine the flashlight around so to speak in this arena has been very helpful and rewarding to keep things in check and allow a degree of better service to all those involved in the fellowship. This has also been extremely valuable for learning how to be gentle with those who seem to rub the wrong way.

Some of the other types of Inventory Personal, Group, District & Area. For our Group Inventory, our home group also uses these

tools when we do our Inventory. The two checklist also serve as a framework to see how effectively we are carrying our groups message and how we are doing with each other. It's been interesting to observe several District Inventories as well. There is always something new discovered and brought up to a conscious level that was not put on the table before the inventory.

Having witnessed several Area Inventories also, we seem to emerge clearer, stronger and more enthusiastic to change for improvement. There are always ways to better, serve when we are willing and able to put into place what needs to be changed when we find it in this inventory taking process.

I wonder if there has ever been a North America Inventory in A. A.? Who knows maybe this has been done already or maybe someday we will need to do this or something similar.

Now that our conference has experienced this too with our theme

and throughout our fellowship "The General Service Conference Takes it's Inventory- Our Solution in Action" We should see some positive things be brought forward and help us with where our fellowship will go now and into the future. Also, let's don't forget we will do our Area 69 Inventory this year in December. I hope we get to see the questions before we do so we can be better prepared for the discussion.

Really looking forward to hearing from Walter about our GSC Inventory that was taken, maybe a few choice gems can be garnered to use to help better carry the message, one things for sure if these Inventory actions are not done the benefits and change will not follow....

Yes, I don't think I can ever really be done with this business of Inventory, as being human & an alkie in this process of recovery, there will always be the need to see where I am and where I need to

improve. Moving forward more than backwards will always be the goal aided by this ever changing endeavor.

And now from the Step by Step, this is the one of the best explanation's that I have ever heard about describing what happens after Inventory... " The actual experience of turning myself inside out for the first time in the presence of an AA member left me drained and numb; but when feeling started to come back, I found that I had changed. For the first time in my AA experience, I could feel the sunshine of God's love on my wounds, and true peace of mind." I thank each of you & Dr. Bob & Bill as well as the first hundred men & women gave us a great legacy. They gave us a Vision with a Task and that is the hope of our recovery world...

Thank you for letting me continue to grow through Inventory, Love & Service...

charlie g.

INVENTORY IS THE SOLUTION (AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I HAD A PROBLEM!)

My relationship with inventory began years before I came to AA. I was a member of AlAnon long before I "caught" the disease of alcoholism, I was pretty much in denial. I started working the steps with a conveniently unavailable sponsor, got to the 4th step and was told I needed to find someone else to work with, she just didn't have the time. Instead of finding another sponsor, I found a therapist. I thought I could really do it right and

start from the beginning. She kept asking me how much I drank. And my AlAnon friends didn't want to go out for drinks after the meeting. I of course stopped going to meetings and stopped going to the therapist. Drinking was not MY problem, it was all the alcoholics in my life that was the problem. Sheesh.

12 horribly alcoholic years later, I found myself asking for the help I needed then. I knew I needed to do that 4th step, though I didn't know why, pointless piece of surgery, indeed. I patiently let my sponsor take me through the first three steps, I

didn't really need those either. I wasn't anxious to do the 4th, so it was ok with me to take our time. During that time, a friend from my home group stopped by to see how I was doing and asked if I had done my 4th step yet? I explained I was getting ready, and whatever other excuses I could come up with. He said, "It's as simple as picking up that pen and writing down the first name". The pen suddenly became a writhing, hissing, poisonous cobra, I couldn't pick it up or stop staring at it. My mouth went dry and I could-

(Continued on page 8)

n't speak. I mustered my best rebellion and croaked out that my sponsor would tell me when it's time. I knew he was right though.

I did finally get to work on the inventory, knowing full well what the outcome would be, I would find that I had low self-esteem and it was everyone else's fault. Imagine my surprise as I sat at my table, reviewing the great American novel before my 5th step. I gasped as I read the same thing, over and over, "I am a selfish, self-centered A-hole!" It was a turning point that I remember every time I've worked a 4th step. Instead of knowing the outcome, I get curious about what I'm going to learn.

The home group I belonged to at the time conducted an inventory twice a year. We used the 13 questions from the pamphlet "The AA Group" that covers quite a lot of group dynamics. We were very conscious of our grandiose ability to think we were doing great and pat-

ourselves on the back, so we made an effort to invite people who were not home group members but regular attendees to our meeting and let them know their opinion was very valuable. The comments we received were always very informative and helpful. My current home group continues this same approach. People talk more freely when it's known that an inventory doesn't include decision making, only comments. Comments may get brought up at the next business meeting, but an inventory is a fact finding and fact facing process, not a creation of a to-do list.

I've participated in District inventories that turned into officer bashing, and some that were productive. I've seen an Area inventory spend the majority of time allotted to determining the questions that would be asked with little time left for asking them. I've seen effective, heartfelt, sincere questions come up in District and Area inventories that as-

sured me that AA would live on.

In 2005, there was some discussion about GSO conducting its own inventory. The discussion tended to the negative, disgruntled members wanting their grundle back. I thought an inventory was a fabulous idea, not because I thought it was broken and needed to be fixed, but because I had experienced the growth and freedom of discovering something completely different than I thought I would find. Why wouldn't the same principle of self-discovery I had experienced apply to each of our various entities?

It will be interesting to see what happens with the GSO inventory, there are already differing opinions about how it should be conducted and how it can be done better. I think that spirit is what keeps us trudging, diving back in to the inventory process again and again, how can we be more effective at what we do?

Wendy W.

from one member of the communications committee round table in Park City...
"Seeing is Believing"
Tradition 11: Attraction rather than Promotion"
Facebook & other Social Media may be perceived as promotion...
No one can see the actual movement of feet as we trudge this journey & demonstrate by example how we live sober...

anonymous



Who can forget the first alcoholics they met after reaching after that ‘jumping off place’? Where would any of us be without those initial ‘angels’? We now know that, as simple as this program is, it is not easy and the helping hands that we had were vital in reaching this new life.

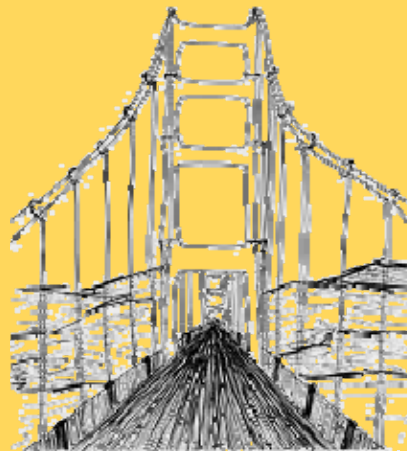
Dr. Bob points out four reasons for working with others. A sense of duty, somebody was there for him when he needed it, insurance against a slip and the simple fact that it is a pleasure to serve others.

There are many ways in which you can be that first person that a newcomer sees when they come into the program. The groups are the backbone of AA because the groups keep the doors open for the newcomer. Attending meetings often and paying special attention to the newcomer is always the most vital, and rewarding, service work that we can do.

Bridging the Gap, Corrections Correspondence and being a temporary contact are ways that you can increase your chances of being that vital link between hopelessness and hope for the newcomer. Area 69 devotes a lot of effort into helping the Districts and groups fulfill this important role. As General Service Representatives and District Committee Members we must

take this message back to the groups. We have ways of helping you talk – to the newcomer.

Area 69 is diverse in its ways in which we can help the newcomer integrate into the group. Statistics show that if we can get the newcomer to a meeting within 24 – 48 hours after release from a Treatment facility or a Corrections Institution, their chances of staying sober increase dramati-



cally. Most of us have heard that statement many times yet how this actually takes place sometimes remains fuzzy. I dare say that a poll of any AA meeting, this one included, would show that it is unanimous that we want to help.

Make a decision to get involved. Use this weekend to find out how you can become a part of this effort. Many of our Districts have a Bridging the Gap coordinator. If your District does not have one, consider becoming

one. Find out how your District handles this Twelfth Step work and get involved. Become a volunteer on your local AA hotline. Take a sign-up sheet back to your group and pass it around. Use the materials we have available to prepare for a 12 Step call. Just like anything else we do in this program, we don't do this alone – so recruit your sponsees or sponsor too. Share the wealth and the blessings.

If you are already involved in Treatment or Corrections work, chances are that you have already become that first example of AA that newcomers have seen. This work is of the highest importance. Even though you cannot work with the prospect once they are on the outside, you can still participate in making the Bridge possible. Help others learn of this opportunity by encouraging group members to sign up and integrate the prospect into the groups. Share in meetings about the awesome blessings of taking meetings inside and for the need for members to Bridge on the outside.

Our Primary Purpose is to Stay Sober and Help Others to Achieve Sobriety. A single purpose designed to be synonymous and, according to Dr. Bob, a pleasure.

Pete G., Area 69 Corrections Chair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WE ARE ON THE WEB:
WWW.UTAHAA.ORG

June 15, 2013 Bridging The Gap Workshop District 11

June 16-21, 2013 University of Utah School on Alcoholism
District 2 U of U Campus

August 17-18, 2013

Pre-Assembly Workshop District 2

September 20-22, 2013

Fall Assembly District 9

LETTER FROM OUR EDITOR—KEITH M.

My name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. Being the News and Notes editor is absolutely incredible, I get to read all of our wonderful articles and all the real work is being completed by Christy R. our trusted servant from District 10. She completes all the layouts, formatting, graphics, and editing. This edition of News and Notes focuses on "Inventory is the Solution." Our General Service Office through the Conference Process is taking an inventory of our fellowship. All of us, through our input to our delegate, get to be involved; and Walter C., our Panel 63 Area 69 Utah Delegate, will share the results of this fearless and searching review. As our Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous suggests "A business which takes no regular inventory usually goes broke. Taking a commercial inventory is a fact-finding and a fact-facing process. It is an effort to discover the truth about the stock-in-trade. One object is to disclose damaged or unsalable goods, to get rid of them promptly and without regret. If the owner of the business is to be successful, he cannot fool himself about values." As an observation only a small percentage of Area 69 trusted servants contribute to the Area 69 News and Notes on a regular basis, good communication within our fellowship requires participation.

How can you give back what was so freely given to you? Write an article. How do you carry our message of recovery beyond your home group? Write an article. If you are a trusted servant in General Service, share what you are doing, write an article.

Contributing to the Area 69 News and Notes publication is a rewarding way to be of service and to share with fellow members around the state and region. Simply contact your newsletter editor or email your article to area69immediatepastdelegate@utahaa.org or keithm@montach.com. Area 69 News and Notes newsletter is published by Area 69. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of Area 69 or A.A.W.S., nor does publication of an article imply endorsement or affiliation by Area 69 or A.A.W.S.

Contributions from A.A. members are welcome and will be printed as space allows. Submissions must be emailed and include the writers' contact information. Submissions may be signed with first name and last initial. Anonymous submissions will be published but the author's contact information must be included. The editors reserve the right to edit contents for length, clarity and their relation to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. An effort will be made to contact the author regarding major content changes. This email/Newsletter, including any attachments, is confidential. Please respect the anonymity of others when sharing this publication. Thanks to those that contributed to the writing, editing, and production of this edition.

Keith M.