

Area 69 News & Notes

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Welcome from the Editor

Hello family.

It is a pleasure and joy to focus this edition of the Area 69 newsletter on our Spanish speaking district, District 12, and the invitation they gave our Area Officers and Standing Chairs to share about area service work at their 2nd annual convention.

The convention was held on October 19th and 20th and brought out approximately 250 AA's and loved ones. GSO was well represented by Hernan M., the La Vina editor. He provided a wonderful Grapevine/ La Vina display which included the new La Vina calendar. Al-anon had a great display as well. Also supporting were AA's from surrounding states - Colorado, California, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada.

There were meetings on service, as well as other topics. Every one enjoyed the great food, bands, dancing and a whole lot of fun. It all came together with warmth, love and the spirit of AA.

The following reports were given by our Area Officers and Standing Chairs. The area folks were asked to share about each of their service positions and the job description as outlined. I, like many others, were very impressed when hearing or when reading these presentations. So I thought that the Area body, YOU, should also have the opportunity to read them as well. I hope that you get as much out of these reports as I did.

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to help bring our Spanish and English speaking AA communities together as ONE. Our hats are off to you. And to District 12, we say thank you for the invitation to join in service, unity and fun.

Thank you for allowing me to once again serve as your guest Newsletter Editor.

LeAnn L.

Delegate's Report at the Spanish Convention

I first arrived in Alcoholics Anonymous in October, 1994. I didn't know anything about A.A., but I knew that I had to stop drinking and I couldn't do it on my own. I reached the place where I couldn't stand to look at myself in the mirror and I didn't like being around anyone I wasn't drinking with because I knew that they knew that there was something very wrong with me. I felt like I was walking around with a neon sign over my head that pointed down at me saying "very sick person here"!! I had reached the jumping off place talked about in the Big Book where I couldn't imagine living with or without alcohol and for many months prayed that God would just let me die.

On the day I called Alcoholics Anonymous, I was sitting in my front room with a gun and a phone book on the table, trying to decide which one to use. I called Alcoholics Anonymous that day and went to my first A.A. meeting the next day. I would like to say that I got sober and stayed sober then, but I had to try controlling and enjoying my drinking off and on for the next few months, finally getting a sobriety date that stuck about 4 months after my arrival.

When I arrived here, I was told to go to a lot of meetings, preferably daily, to get a Big Book, to get a Sponsor, to work the Steps and to pray in the morning to stay sober that day and at the end of a day sober, to say thank you to my Higher Power. Being convinced I was somehow unique and different, being stubbornly independent in addition to intellectually arrogant and feeling somehow morally superior, I didn't get a Sponsor, didn't think I would need more than an occasional meeting, and didn't think a lot of the Steps applied to me. I did get a Big Book and thought if I had the book, I could figure it out on my own. Unfortunately, I thought the book was poorly written and I wasn't honest or humble enough to think it applied to me. I don't remember whether I prayed regularly or not. I used the serenity prayer a lot, but without the rest of the program to back it up, it wasn't enough to keep me sober, and I had to repeatedly prove to myself that I could not stop once I took the first drink.

The great gift of Alcoholics Anonymous to me at the very beginning was the attractiveness of the people in the meetings. I'm not talking about the way they looked, but the fact that they had a light in their eyes, they laughed a lot, and their laughter was sincere instead of the drunken laughter I was used to. I knew I wanted what they had, even though I couldn't define what it was. Later I figured out that they seemed comfortable in their own skins, a feeling that was completely foreign to me as far back as I can remember. That's what I wanted, just to feel comfortable in my own skin!!

When I did get a sobriety date that stuck, alcohol had truly broken me and brought me to a state of humble reasonableness. I made a commitment to myself that I would do whatever I was asked or told to do that was at all reasonable, and I have been very lucky to have been able to do that. To this date, I do what my recovery sponsor tells me. I was also told that I don't say no to an A.A. request, that I am to look at my calendar, and if the time is open, to say yes. For the most part I have been able to do that, but I have had to cancel some things due to illness or death in the family, or having the road closed between where I lived and where I was supposed to be☺

I was told that my sobriety was like a 3 legged stool with the legs being Recovery (the Steps), Unity (the meetings), and Service (anything I can do to help including setting up or chairing meetings, carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, being involved in General Service, etc.) I started out early with a commitment chairing my home group and I served 2 years as the Secretary/Treasurer. At a year and a half sober, I became my home group's alternate GSR, then GSR, District Secretary, and the Program Chair for an upcoming Post Conference Assembly, all within a month's time. I was also involved in UCYPAA, the Utah Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous, first on a host committee, then on their Advisory Council for 6 years. At 2 years sober, I started taking a meeting into a treatment facility. So, you can see that when I got involved, I jumped in with both feet going in all directions!

After I was Secretary at the District, I believe I next served as a DCM. I was elected as a DCMC, but unfortunately, I believe, I stepped down before I even started because I stood at the Area elections and my name was drawn from the hat to be your Treasurer. I next served as the Area Secretary, then Chairperson, and now serve as your Delegate. I am also active at my home group, currently chairing their Tuesday night book study meeting, and I participate in taking meetings into our local correctional facility and a juvenile detention facility. I have a recovery sponsor and a service sponsor and I stay sober one day at a time by working the steps, being of service to Alcoholics Anonymous, and going to regular meetings regularly!

As your delegate, my job involves being a link in the chain of communication that stretches from the groups to the General Service Office, and back again. The GSR carries their Group's vote on items relating to their District, the Utah Area, or A.A. as a whole. As your Delegate, I carry the voice of the Utah Area to the General Service Conference, then come back and share with the Area what happens at that Conference. In addition, I am regularly receiving information from the General Service Office which I am then able to share at the Area level, then the DCMs and GSRs get this information back to their Districts and Groups. If you don't have an active GSR at your home group, then you as a group member are not getting to have a voice or a vote in what is going on at your District, Area, or A.A. as a whole, including how your contributions to the different entities are spent.

I have sometimes heard people say that they don't want to get involved in general service because it is all political stuff or they've heard of people behaving badly and don't want to be part of it, or they don't like decisions that are made and maybe they don't really see where it is beneficial to them or the newcomer. Maybe it's just that they don't have enough time. Well, if you give me a try, I'd be willing to bet that I can come up with a reason that you should be involved to match against any reason you have not to be involved!

I'll start with time. Sometimes that is in fact a legitimate reason, but honestly, not very often, in my opinion. Did you ever use not having enough time as a reason to not drink? I know I didn't! I fit it in, somehow, despite whether I had a hangover, a lost weekend, something else I was supposed to be doing, or whatever. In Chapter 5 of the Big Book it says "if you want what we have and are willing to go to ANY LENGTH to get it" then here are the Steps that we took to get what we have. I AM willing to go to any lengths, including service wherever Alcoholics Anonymous needs me. I have to admit that at times I have been over-committed. That's where having a good service sponsor can come in. If I am working the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and working with my sponsors, hopefully I am learning something about balance in my life. For me, that's coming very slowly, but I know that it's out there and I'm working towards it.

If you think it's too political or you don't like decisions that are made or the way things are done, I'll share with you what my service sponsor shares with me ... and lately I've had the opportunity to throw back at him! If you see a problem, you have an obligation to do whatever you can to remedy it. It could be that if you were involved, some of those feelings would go away. Maybe you're basing judgments on what someone else has said or experienced. Decisions in Alcoholics Anonymous are definitely made at the speed of SLOW, which can be frustrating, but if you understand why and the value of

the actual process, giving everyone the opportunity to be fully informed and to voice their thoughts and feelings, maybe your frustration will go away, or at least be reduced.

If you don't think that General Service in general, the Conference, or the General Service Office have anything to do with you, your group, or actually helping the newcomer, think again! Have you ever seen a Public Service Announcement about A.A.? Do you have literature in your group? Do you think it's valuable to continuously have our literature, especially our Big Book, being translated into more languages so that A.A. can continue to grow and serve alcoholics around the world? Do you think the Corrections Correspondence program is valuable, helping carry the message of hope to Inmates? Well, the list of services provided goes on, but I hope you get the message. There are an awful lot of things that happen in A.A. as a whole that I can't do on an individual level, or at my home group, my District, or even my Area. These are vital services, and I have an obligation to see that they are carried out in the best manner possible to make sure that our message of recovery reaches everyone who wants it. Our Responsibility Statement says that "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that, I am responsible". I am responsible; not he or she or somebody or anybody ... but me. Alcoholics Anonymous saved my life, but more importantly, it gave me a life I want to live. For me, that is a miracle beyond my comprehension and it's a miracle that I want to be around for my grandkids and their grandkids, and your spouses, sons, daughters, friends ... For every still suffering alcoholic. I am responsible to do whatever I can to make sure that happens, and that involves my being a part of the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous!

Thanks for the opportunity to share a part of my presentation from the Hispanic Convention and for my sobriety and my life.

Julie S, Delegate
Panel 57, Area 69, Utah

Alternate Delegate's Report at the Spanish Convention

Ola Amigos, Soy Alcoholico. Mi Numbre es Monte.

I currently serve Utah Area 69 as your Alternate Delegate. My home group is the Sunday Morning Serenity Group in Ogden Utah. My Sobriety Date is May 13, 1989.

We are honored to be invited to share with you during this celebration of sobriety convention. The opportunity to participate on the program today is historical and will be a special memory for all of us here today.

Over the past few years we have developed a relationship with District 12 Spanish speaking AA members. Many of us have attended District 12 Monday night District meetings and recently we have been invited to attend regular Spanish Speaking AA meetings, Public Information presentations and Anniversary celebrations. We have been and asked to share our

experience, strength and hope in an effort to attract Spanish speaking members into general service, especially the Standing Committed positions. You will learn more about the Standing Committees in the next hour or so. Experience teaches us that in order to keep our life saving program, we must give it away. Many of us have found General Service a way to share our message, support our own recovery, and give back to Alcoholics Anonymous all at the same time. We hope that what is shared here will encourage more AA people to become interested and involved in this important legacy of our AA program.

As our fellowship grows, so does the need for extra help in carrying our message and we are here to ask for your help. It doesn't take a lot of people to do AA work, but it does take a few who are dedicated and loyal to AA. Carlos, Cornelio, Miguel and others are fine examples of AA service workers. We have watched them give tirelessly as they cover our Area keeping their promises and fulfilling their commitments to AA. District 12 and the Utah Area need additional representatives as we work together carrying the AA message of hope and recovery.

We hope that what you learn here will be of help to you in your recovery and your understanding of General Service. Here to share today are Utah Area volunteers, also known as "Trusted Servants" in our Twelve Traditions. They are our record keepers, our meeting organizers, custodians of our AA history, literature and our AA money. They are the initial contact representatives with the professionals who provide services and care to the suffering alcoholics in jails, hospitals and institutions. They will introduce themselves and explain a little bit about the AA Service job they do and how they do it.

These are the AA members we want to know when we have questions and need help. And, if you are wondering, "How Do I Get Involved In General Service?" these are worker who can answer that question.

Though a language barrier presents a challenge, the Language of the Heart is understood perfectly. The spirit of unity and service are alive and well and remind us all that we can do together what we cannot do alone. Bill W. and Dr. Bob are very happy today.

Thank you Lucy for translating the Language of the Heart for us.
Gracias.

Area 69 Chair Report at the Spanish Convention

Hello my name is Andy B., I am an alcoholic. It's my privilege to serve you as the Utah Area 69 Chair. My home group is the No Nonsense Group, a closed meeting. We meet every Friday night at 8 o'clock at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 8600 So. 700 E. Please feel free to come and join us.

I want to say thanks to this Event Committee for the opportunity to share about our service experience. Thank You. I was asked to talk about what goes on at Area Meetings and the various types of area meetings.

First of all what goes on at Area Meetings? Well, mostly we discuss the Area business, beginning with the minutes from previous Area meetings, review of our Area finances, where our budgets stand, reports from all the Districts present, Standing Chair reports, Officers reports, including a Delegates report. We discuss and bid on up-coming events and review prior events. We also do a roll-call, discuss and vote on motions and other issues. We are ALWAYS looking for ways to create participation and better ways to carry the message. We have standing Committee Round-tables and Panels. We try to save some time for "Open Microphone" and "What's on you're Mind", which are opportunities for members to bring their ideas and motions to the Area Body. And we have some fun as well. There is a certain group of people that show up to try and make a difference, and they have become family to me.

Now for the various types of meetings. In February we have a Committee meeting where we review the General Service Conference agenda items, and send them to Area Committees to discuss and review in a smaller setting and get them out to the groups to vote on. In April we have the Pre-Conference Assembly, where we have the GSR's bring their Groups votes on those Agenda items back to the Area. This gives our Delegate the information she or he needs to take back to the General Service Conference in New York City so she can vote for the Area. In May we have the Post-Conference Assembly, when our Delegate brings that information from the General Service Conference back to the Area. In June we have "Bridge the Gap" workshop. In August is our pre-Assembly Workshop, when we submit our budget for the up-coming year and sent that back to the groups GSR's. In September we have the Fall Assembly odd years, and on even years is the Fall Election Assembly, where we vote for the area officers. Both years we vote on the Area budget. In November we do the Fall Workshop, and in December we have the Area "Pass the Gavel" on even years, welcoming the newly elected Area people in and thanking the out going Area people with a "job well done". On odd years we do an Area Inventory, where we inventory how well we're carrying the message and look for ways to improve that part of our services.

All that and throw a PRAASA and a Forum in there as well. Thank you again for the privilege and the allowing me to serve.
Adios.

Area 69 Registrar Report at the Spanish Convention

Buenos Tardes mi Compadres. Soy Alcoholico. Mi numero es Carlos.
Good afternoon my good friends, I am an Alcoholic and my name is Charlie.

Thank you for letting me have this opportunity to share a little bit here today with you. My Sobriety date is July 26, 1988 and my home group is the Sunday Morning Serenity Group in Ogden Utah. We meet every Sunday at 10:00 AM and you are all welcome to my home group.

I have been asked to share a little bit with you in regards to Area group and District General Service Registration. It is very important to be registered so we can all communicate and share our three legacies with one another “Recovery, Unity and Service”.

Once we are registered we are inside of the General Service Communication circle and can receive all of the necessary information from the General Service Office in New York, the District and our Area. In that way we can become better informed and better help ourselves, our groups, and especially the Alcoholic who still suffers.

It is important for the groups to send information to each of our service entities: GSO, (General Service Office), District, Area and Local Central office/Intergroup. While local, area, and national offices communicate regularly, they have different purposes and different mailing lists.

Two simplified official forms have been developed to facilitate sending your information to the General Service Office. Your office in New York:

1. *Alcoholics Anonymous New Group Form*. is one for a one-time use only, when a new group is started.
2. *Group Information Change Form* is to be filled in whenever a group changes its name or meeting address, elect a new G. S. R, reports a change of address and/or phone number, report the designation of a new or second contact, or reports a change of address or phone number for the seconds group contact.

There is also a similar form the District Standing chairs that can be made available for your District, DCMC or DCM to distribute. This is to assure direct and regular communication and contact between the groups an G. S. O. Each group is assigned a unique service number. It is helpful to refer to his number when writing to G.SO, and when sending contributions to the General Service Office, Area 69, District or Central Office Inter-group.

Also, if a group wishes to be listed in the appropriate U.S. or Canadian A.A. directory, this can be included in filling out the New Group Information Form. Which, by the way, is identical to the information that is submitted when I access the new online database F.N.V or Fellowship New Vision.

The A.A. Service Manual and 12 Concepts of World Service ahs this information and there are some of theses here today in the Spanish translation format.

I have several of the forms here today in Spanish. If you are a GSR or DCM, pleas, you can see me after this panel and I will be available also to help answer any questions you may have.

Yours in A. A .love and service always...

Charlie G.

Area 69 Registrar

Area Treasurer Report at the Spanish Convention

Hello, I'm Nadine and I'm an alcoholic. Thank you for inviting me to share with you this day. My sobriety date is October 15, 1990. I previously served as chairperson, group secretary, group treasurer, GSR, and DCM. I'm brand new at this position and am nervous, but I've been in service long enough to know that you will each hear what your Higher Power wants you to hear and that may or may not have anything to do with what I thought I said. Remember how we struggle with perception. Also, my 8th grade Spanish is awfully old and rusty so I won't be able to tell what you're saying about me anyway. I brought the approved budget for 2008 for those that would like a copy. I am grateful to be sober and have the opportunity to be of service.

In 1947, even though AA was in desperate need of a little outside help, Bill W. sensed "...a very powerful feeling... spreading among us that AA ought not to be takers from society any longer. Instead, let us be givers."

In the February 1949 monthly newsletter from General Headquarters - predecessor to GSO, the purpose of voluntary contribution was defined. The article also emphasized the voluntary nature of the contribution – they were “not dues or fees.” It also stated that such contributions would “...be used for AA operating expenses only.” At group level these expenses are normally rent and coffee. At district level the expenses can be things like a post office box, a bank account, rent, coffee, and literature for correctional and treatment facilities, archives and providing information to the professional community so they know what services we provide and also what we don't do. The Central Office answers phones, sells

literature, and distributes meeting schedules. At the area level, the expenses are for copies, banking fees, supplies and travel defrayment. The defrayment is not a reimbursement, but only a portion of the expenses incurred to attend voting meetings and workshops to help spread the message. At the GSO level some of these expenses are translating the Big Book into different languages, furnishing assistance and free literature to new groups getting started, service groups overseas, serving groups in treatment facilities, and correctional institutions, and answering tens of thousands of inquires a year from doctors, press, professionals, students and others needing information about AA, and from the still suffering alcoholic who needs help.

Each group decides what to do with their contributions. After meeting expenses are taken care of, most groups divide the amount that exceeds their prudent reserve (the amount saved for times of shortfall) and forward these amounts to their District, Central Office, Area and GSO. Some suggestions for that division are: 10%, 50%, 10% and 30% respectfully, or 40%, 10%, 25%, and 25% respectfully, but the decision belongs to the group. It is also important to understand that the amount is not important. The act of self-support is what matters.

As Bill W. said "Let us be givers."
Gracias.

Area 69 Secretary Report at the Spanish Convention

My name is Sheri and I am a grateful alcoholic. I currently serve as your Area 69 Secretary. I want to thank District 12 for inviting me to be a part of their assembly. I would like to first read what the requirements are for this position accord to the Service Structure Guidelines, and then share some of my personal experience General Service.

1. Records, types and copies the minutes of all Area Business Meetings.
2. Mails or E-mails a copy of the minutes of all Area Committee Meetings to each member of the Area Assembly and District Standing Chairs within 30 days following the meeting.
3. Mails a copy of the minutes of all Area Assemblies to each member of the Area Assembly and District Standing Chairs, Delegate and Pacific Region Trustee with 30 days following the Assembly.
4. Copies and mails the agenda for each Area Committee Meeting to each member of the Area Assembly and District Standing Chairs no later than 30 days prior to the meeting.
5. Copies and mails the agenda for each Area Assembly to each member of the Area Assembly and District Standing Chairs no later than 30 days prior to the meeting.
6. Keeps and maintains up to date copies of these Area Guidelines and all other records of the Area Committee and at the end of each term turns all records over to the newly elected Secretary and 2 years records over to the Area Archivist.
7. Develops a working knowledge of the Utah Area Guidelines and has the responsibility along with the Area Chairperson to give direction to the Area Service Committee whenever it becomes apparent the policies and procedures contained in the guidelines are not being followed.
8. Attends all Area Assemblies, Workshops, and Committee Meetings as well as PRAASA and the Pacific Region Forum.
9. Serves as a member of the Area Finance Committee.
10. Provides a written inventory of all Area property to the Alternate Delegate and to Archives each December at the Pass the Gavel or the Area Inventory Meeting.

I was attracted to General Service at an Assembly I attended & knew when I met the requirements I wanted to be a GSR. At 20 months sober my home group needed a GSR, and I volunteered. They voted and allowed me to be their GSR. My life changed again. A new and exciting journey was beginning. During my GSR term I learned how AA work through the traditions, and also another new family was forming.

I then served as a DCM in District 10. I continued to learn & was selected by my district to attend my first PRAASA in Reno Nevada. It was an extremely moving experience, and now my new family was growing even bigger. My 2 year term as DCM was coming to an end & I knew I was now hooked to serve on this level. I had gained so many new friends, & learned so much about giving back and a new way of living that I had to continue.

I was asked to consider standing for a service position at the Area elections. I was willing but afraid that there was a chance that I might be elected as Secretary. As I was sharing my fears with our Alternate Delegate she said to me "God doesn't call

the qualified. God qualifies the called." I was elected as Area Treasurer. I enjoyed this service position and by the time my term was up, I knew I was willing to carry out any position God found fit to put me in. I remembered those great words that were said to me 2 years previous. "God doesn't call the qualified. God qualifies the called. I was elected Area Secretary.

I have had many moving moments preparing the minutes. As I have sat by myself at my computer, reading and typing the reports, I have been blessed by feeling the gratitude from the Officers, Standing Chairs, and the fellowship as a whole. The gratitude and willingness to give back is filled with love, and I get to feel that time and time again thru is position. I am honored and blessed, and I thank you all Being able to Serve is a wonderful gift that I don't take for granted. Thank you again.

Archives Chair at the Spanish Convention

Hola amigos, Soy Alcoholico, Mi number es Janet Hafen, my service position is the Utah Area Archivist. My home group is the Cedar City Tuesday night, the 1" group in Southern Utah, started in 1948. My sobriety date is Oct. 20th, 1980. I can't think of a better way to celebrate than here today with you, sharing about service.

What are the archives, and why are they important? You ask.

Bill W encouraged extensive record keeping in 1957; when he said, "We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to future historian... It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion... We want to keep on enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come:

There is a famous quote by Carl Sandburg, which states, "Whenever a society or civilization perishes, there is always one condition present: They forgot where they came from?"

Archives is a way to prevent that from happening, by keeping the record straight, so that myth does not prevail over facts. The Archive's follows the Traditions, our singleness of purpose, it is another way to do 12 Step work, sharing experience, strength and hope, it is one you can read and see, not only today, but also for the future.

My responsibility's are: collection of the AA history in Utah, to maintain and expand the collection, apply preservation techniques and above all to protect the anonymity of members following archival guidelines. The archives do work in full names, for clarifications, for example there might be 6 Jose R. or 8 Miguel M.

There are 4 main categories in the archives;

- Literary - Books, pamphlets, 12x12, Big Book and others published by the program
- Historical - groups, districts, & area: the record keeping
- Archival - administrative, legal and financial, the really fun stuff

Also memorabilia or artifactual items, - having a display value, but not necessarily of historical value. But items that are of significant value in the development of AA and fellowshiping.

A little history about your district; that I do know.

The first Hispanic group started in Salt Lake City in 1993, the second group in Provo **1993** and the third group in Ogden in **1994**. The Salt Lake group: use to go into the bars to carry the message, trying to recruit members. The three groups gave each other a great deal of support, traveling to each of the others meetings. January and February were the best attendance months, you know right after the Holidays and the courts would sentence men to meetings. But most had left by the summer months and the groups would be back to their 2 to 4 members.

In 1994 I had the pleasure of attending the first birthday celebration of the groups held in Salt Lake City. I only spoke poquito Spanish, not much more than street slang, so I did not really know what was being said or what was going on. But I had a wonderful time, for I could feel the love and fellowship, it is one of my fondest memories in AA. The party went all afternoon, towards evening when it was time for the meeting, I was told to wait outside and watch the food. I got quite a laugh over that, since I did not know anything about Spanish cooking. There I was watching over pots, pans and bar-b-que, at least none of the food burned. The little balloons with the display are from one of the cakes. I was able to take some pictures, which did not turn out very good, but I did get pictures of most who attended. Some had to leave for work. There was only one other lady and myself.

Through the dedication and love of Hispanic members, the Area awareness was raised to the level where District 12 was formed and voted into existence at the Fall Assembly in Logan in 2005. Today we have equipment for translating at our area

assemblies and have most of the paper work translated in to Spanish. How you have grown in such a short time!

I have a display here today, which is all there is in the archives pertaining to District 12. When you look at it, there is not much. You are such a new district it would be great to keep your history current and not leave it to other's in 50 years to try and reconstruct your history. In the border of the display you can see the list of what the archives collects, plus more. The archives are Inclusive Not Exclusive. The archives needs pictures, flyers of events, history of groups.

There is nothing about the first Hispanic Convention and only the small flyer for this one.

There is an information sheet by the display that you can take, encouraging your participation also a group history sheet for you.

I need your help to keep the history of district 12, and the groups. I hope someone in your groups would like to be your district archivist and become part of the area archive committee. Speaking the language of the heart we can work together. I know that the early records and history of the Provo group was passed on to Jose, but I don't know if it was passed on to anyone else when he moved. Alberto told me at one time he had boxes of information in a closet, I don't know if some of it was from Jose, or if it was only the Salt Lake group's information, nor if he passed it on to someone when he moved.

A few years ago I had an opportunity to attend a meeting and give an archive presentation. I am willing whenever invited to attend again.

Gracias for letting me share with you today

Communications Chair Report at the Spanish Convention

El Comité de el Área 69 de Comunicaciones:

The Area 69 Communications Committee is responsible for three areas. The Website Committee (which is primarily concerned with the maintenance of the Area's website: utahaa.org and the Spanish version utahaa.org/sp), the Newsletter Committee (the Area publishes a newsletter four times a year), and the Translations Committee (English – Spanish and Spanish – English).

El Comité consiste de:

The Website Committee consists of the Area Web Servant (which is the Communications Committee Chair), the Area Alternate Web Servant, who is elected by the website committee, the Area Public Information Chair and those interested in serving the Area.

The Area's website has a lot of features. The main concern is a complete list of all of Area 69 A.A. meetings. This is maintained in cooperation with various Central Offices through out the state and by members of the Districts, including your own District 12.

On the home page you can search for a meeting by Area, City, Type, Day or handicap accessible. Each of those lists can then be further refined and printed. You can access Area 69 publications, including the fliers, agendas and other Area documents. There is an area that list service related documents (a lot of these are links to the General Service Office's website.) There are several Public Service Announcements that have been provided by GSO as well. There are two calendars available. One that shows the Area's Service Events and the other is a calendar of A.A. Gatherings which includes things like AA Conventions, camp-outs, picnics, etc. The Area's Delegate and the Standing Committees each have a page that contains their reports and other information pertaining to their committee work.

There is also a section for the newcomer that contains a fact sheet of what A.A. does and what it doesn't do. A.A. pamphlets from GSO are made available through the website as well as a link to an electronic version of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Please take some time to look at the Area's website, there is a lot of information available there. Again the addresses are utahaa.org and utahaa.org/sp. There is a link to switch back and forth from the English version to the Spanish version.

We would love to have more participation from our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters. Please let us know if you have any suggestions that would improve the site. There are links to submit suggestions at the bottom of every page as well as a link to the Web Servant e-mail address.

The Area Newsletters are published at the Pre-Conference Assembly, Post-Conference Assembly, Fall Assembly, and Fall Workshop. When the translations are available the newsletters are published in English and Spanish.

Which brings me to the third area the Communications Committee has been charged with; translations. In theory we take all of the Area's business documents and translate them to Spanish. We have a very small, but dedicated, group of people that are not only bilingual they are also willing and able to translate.

The way the process has worked in the past is that the Translation Committee takes the English version and translates it to Spanish using an Internet software program. This document is given to someone who is bilingual to correct the grammar and to make sure it was translated properly. Then the final corrected documents are distributed to District 12 either through the current DCMC or via the website.

We need as much help with this process as possible, if you are able and willing to help please let us know! Again, the best way to contact us is via the Internet.

Thank you for allowing the Communications Committee to serve!

Corrections Chair at the Spanish Convention

Ola and Buenos Tardes Amigos;

My name is Renae H. and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is January 27, 1998. My home group is the Grapevine Group which meets on Thursday nights at 7:30pm. I currently serve Area 69 as your Corrections Standing Chairperson. My responsibilities and commitments to the Fellowship are outlined in our Area 69 Guidelines and are briefly described as follows:

- The Area Corrections Chairperson coordinates the efforts of the Area Corrections Committee which is made up of the District Corrections Chairpersons and any other A.A. members interested in corrections work. The purpose of the Corrections Committee is to organize and carry out the work of carrying A.A.'s message of recovery to alcoholics in correctional facilities and to help "bridge the gap" from inside the facility to the outside A.A. community.
- Assists District Corrections Committees in solving problems related to setting up A.A. meetings in correctional facilities in their Districts.
- Helps members of the Corrections Committee acquire A.A. books and literature as needed.
- Encourages committee members to become familiar with the "Bridging the Gap" and other A.A. programs designed to help inmates.
- Attends all Area Assemblies, Workshops, and Committee meetings.

The real truth about these responsibilities for me is that this kind of service work is enjoyable and is not "work" at all, in the real sense of the word itself. I am blessed every day with opportunities to meet or talk with new friends in the fellowship of A.A. and to grow from their experience, strength, and hope in the challenges they embrace through this special kind of Twelve Step work whether as A.A. volunteers taking meetings inside correctional facilities, or being the A.A. members on the outside willing and waiting to help that "newcomer" once he or she is released in feeling welcomed into the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Today I want to talk about some of the ways outlined in the Corrections Workbook on how to carry out step work within correctional facilities. First I would suggest that a committee interested in establishing A.A. meetings in correctional environments read the entire workbook and then through discussion decide what their direction will be depending on what conditions are specific to their district's needs. There are sample phone calls and letters to correctional professional in the corrections workbook that can be modified and changed to meet the intended recipient and the purpose of the A.A. committee making the contact. Everything in this workbook, as in most all things in A.A., is "suggestions" and is meant to be a helpful guide. I personally found these tools extremely helpful when I first began service in correctional facilities. Every contact

and idea that we've used in the Area Committee has originated from the book. There is information about the A.A. correspondence service; the pre-release contact program and guidelines; how to carry the message into youth detention centers and short-time facilities; ideas from other Area committees on how they carry out corrections work; ways that different areas fund correctional literature and books ("Pink Can", etc.); histories and summaries of A.A. correction work; how to hold workshops and to make A.A. presentations to professionals; and literature and reading suggestions for both the inside A.A. member and the outside member.

You've heard me mention the Bridging the Gap program which term is often used interchangeably to describe the Pre-release program in the context of corrections work. The BTG program is designed to help newly released individuals from both treatment facilities and correctional facilities make as smooth a transition from that facility into the A.A. community as possible and helping them get to an A.A. meeting in their residing community within the first 24-48 hours of their release; thus giving them their best shot at staying sober.. as statistics have shown. Area 69 created a BTG workbook outlining how to get involved and to carry out this highly rewarding service work, and I believe District 12 has a translated version of this workbook.?? If not, we'll get one to you.

There is so much exciting activity in corrections work that it's nearly impossible to share it completely within the time frame given today. I could probably carry on about it all day! I have brought with me information that I hope you'll get a chance to take a look at and you are welcome to take what you would like and to translate and use in your District. It has been such an honor and a privilege to have been invited to spend this afternoon here today with all of you! Thank you!

Grapevine Chair Report at the Spanish Convention

Greetings Friends and Fellow Servants!

My name is Sheryl and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is August 11, 2001 and I currently serve you as Area 69 Grapevine and LaVina Chair.

As most of you are probably aware, LaVina is the Spanish-speaking counterpart of the Grapevine, our meeting in print. I'd like to share a little history about how LaVina was begun. The Spanish-speaking AA fellowship has had phenomenal growth in the last few decades. Spanish-speaking groups around the world have created their own publications over the years and some have used the Grapevine magazine as a model. These publications were local and had a very limited area of distribution. For quite some time, Spanish-speaking members asked if the Grapevine magazine would accept submissions and print articles in Spanish. In 1991, this request was taken to the General Service Conference and was subsequently approved. From September of 1991 through June of 1996, one Spanish article appeared in each issue of the Grapevine.

In 1995, the General Service Conference expressed the need for a Spanish language edition of the Grapevine magazine and this idea was approved. In July of 1995, a special Spanish edition of the Grapevine was produced, containing articles that had previously been printed in the Grapevine. Also at that time, the Grapevine began preparations for a 5-year experiment for LaVina, to be published as a bi-monthly magazine. The first issue of LaVina came off the press in June of 1996. In 2001, the General Service Conference recommended that LaVina be continued and the General Service Board supported continuation of this service to the fellowship.

LaVina currently has 9,000 subscribers. Subscription information can be found in the magazine or online. The cost is \$9 for six issues (one year) or \$17 for twelve issues.

You may wonder who qualifies to write an article for LaVina. All members are welcome to submit articles to LaVina for publication. I have a handout regarding submission guidelines. Unfortunately, this information was only available in English, so translation assistance may be needed.

In addition to the Grapevine and LaVina magazines, the Grapevine also has many books, CDs, and other articles available in Spanish. I've brought a few copies of the newest book, which is a beautiful collection of LaVina stories. If anyone is interested in looking at the new book or purchasing a copy, please see me after the presentations.

In conclusion, I would like to invite all of you to read LaVina and to subscribe, either as an individual or as a group. I hope some of you will feel inspired to submit an article and I'd be happy to help with that process if needed. LaVina is a wonderful tool to strengthen your own sobriety. It is also a simple, friendly way to pass on AA's lifesaving message of

recovery and hope to someone else.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you today!

Literature Chair at the Spanish Convention

Hello my name is Pete and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve you as the Area 69 Literature Standing Chair. My sobriety date is March 18, 1998 and my home group is the Tooele AA Beginners group in Tooele. We meet three times a day, every day at the Alano Oasis in Tooele.

I have been active in service from the very beginning of my sobriety at the group level. I became involved with District service, for District 2 seven years ago, filling two vacancies. One of those vacancies was the District Literature chairperson. I dint' know what I was doing or what was expected of me, but I volunteered anyway. I'll never regret that decision, or perhaps it was an inspiration.

Early in that first year of District service, we were asked to provide a booth at a health fair in Wendover. After the health fair was over, we attended the AA meeting in Wendover. It was a small meeting attended by six or seven members and a young Hispanic man was asked to read Chapter Five.

Despite having difficulty with the English version of "How It Works", he gallantly read the words. When he was unable to pronounce a particular word, the rest of us would eagerly help him out. He finished the reading with a huge smile on hi face.

I couldn't help marveling at his young man. I had struggled not only with the reading of the Big Book but also in understanding many of the lessons contained in the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve when I was new to sobriety. Here was a young man who wanted sobriety so badly he read a portion of the Big Book out loud in a language that was not familiar to him. I was astounded at his courage and his faith.

I owe him a lot and I don't eve n know his name. I came back from that trip with the conviction that there would be Spanish pamphlets available in the racks I filled each month for the District. An easy resolution to make, but a hard one to keep, especially when I had no knowledge of the language. But I tried, and just like everything else in sobriety, I learn a little form each mistake and each success.

Even today, one of my best sources for information on Spanish material is the General Conference report. I was very gratified when I saw that large quantities of these reports were printed in Spanish. Inside this report you will find information on distribution of pamphlets, books and our magazines – the Grapevine, La Viña and Box 4-5-9. We also can get information on the most widely used pamphlets in English, Spanish, and French. Useful information such as the pamphlet "Is AA for You" is the most widely distributed pamphlet in both Spanish and English.

As Area Literature chairperson, I can have service material available at each of our events. For that purpose, I have the latest list of pamphlets available with the new cover design in Spanish and that list is posted on our Area website – www.UtahAA.org

I also have service manuals, service-oriented pamphlets and other material in Spanish. I have a copy of the report on the progress made in the Third edition of the Spanish Big Book. Please let me know if there is any other literature I can help you find.

Finally I brought with me an idea for increasing the funds for literature. Literature can be too expensive for those early in sobriety. Man7 time, the funds are simply not there to purchase Big Books, pamphlets and other AA literature. Providing a Big Book for the newcomer was, many times, the gift of a sponsor or a member who could and would donate money for a Big Book. That is AA at its finest. Perhaps this information can help you to provide more literature for your members.

The literature catalog has a Spanish section and these can be obtained by contacting GSO at 212-870-3312 and choosing option 1.

We need your participation at the Area Assemblies, Workshops, and breakout sessions. The Area Literature committee is comprised of District Literature standing chairs, DCM's and GSR's who need your experience in reaching out the still

suffering alcoholic that speaks Spanish and will show up at their meeting looking for help. Attending Area functions will help us provide the necessary guidance, literature and meeting schedules so that they may find meetings in their own language.

Events such as the Spanish-speaking conference are vital in reaching out to those who still suffer. I commend you on your devotion and love for the alcoholic by having these events. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service and for the warm wishes and fellowship we have received at this event.

In Service,
Pete G.
Area 69 Literature Standing Chair

Stay tuned.
The next Area 69 Newsletter
will include
"ARE THE PERSONAL STORIES IMPORTANT?"
Beyond the first 164 pages of the Big Book

Dear DCMC

The Communications Committee would like to invite and welcome you to the Area 69 Newsletter. For the past 3 issues this year in the area newsletter we've been enjoying the Area Officer reports as well as the Standing Chair reports.

We now see that we have been missing a very important part of the service body, the Districts. The newsletter is printed four times per year. Pre-Conference assembly, Post-Conference assembly, Fall assembly, and Fall workshop.

The Communications Committee would be delighted if you would be so kind as to send your District reports to area69newsletter@utahaa.org at least seven days prior to these Assemblies and the Fall workshop. This will give the committee time to put the newsletter together, translate for the Spanish newsletter, and get it printed.

We are excited to welcome you aboard!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Doug @ area69communications@utahaa.org

In love and service,
The Area 69 Communications Committee

DISTRICT 1 REPORT

Hello friends. My name is Vicky and I'm an alcoholic. I currently serve as DCMC for District 1 – Northern Utah – Ogden through Logan. My sobriety birthday is December 22, 1996. My home group is the Bear River Group and we meet 4 days of the week in Brigham City (check the schedule).

It's great to be here and see all of you again. I love general service and I've received so many gifts being a part of you.

District 1 has been busy taking care of business. We had several new GSRs at the October meeting and several interested AAs. We still are having trouble filling District positions. We had 1 DCM resign due to health problems – Connie. Please keep her in your prayers. We also had 1 Alternate DCM, Sarah, resign due to having a baby.

We formed our Budget Committee and developed our proposed Budget for 2008. It was presented at the October GSR Meeting and will be voted on in the November 11th meeting.

We also formed the Guidelines Committee and we'll be reviewing and updating the guidelines for presentation in the December meeting.

We still need several chair positions filled. Last meeting we decided to see how we could all chip in to carry the message for PI, CPC, Literature, and Treatment. Everyone is going to bring ideas and information back to the November meeting. We are going to inventory the literature and pamphlets that the District currently has and order whatever we need before the end of the year. Everyone was enthusiastic and volunteering to take the literature and pamphlets to the different meetings and facilities. We sent emails to all the area chairs to see what simple ideas they have to try to do to carry the message until we can fill the positions.

We're moving right along in getting ready for the December Committee and Post Conference and are looking forward to having you all up in our neck of the woods.

Our next GSR meeting is November 11th at 6:30 pm at the Brigham Alano Club. We would love for you to stop in.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,
Love, Vicky

District 7 DCMC REPORT

Our district is coming along; we now have a new DCM NW, Maggie B. More groups are starting to elect GSR's. This last month we had three new GSR's. It is truly gratifying to see groups wanting to become part of the Third Legacy.

Mindy D., the district Literature Chair, has been busy placing literature racks and restocking literature where needed.

The meeting at the juvenile facility is up and going. As always we can use more help with taking meeting within the walls.

The planning committee for the Fall Area Workshop has been busy getting ready. Hope you all enjoy the program that we have planned. There is a different kind of Saturday night speakers meeting, enjoy.

I have attended 4 different groups in an effort to let them know what is going on and to let them know about service work.

I would at this time like to thank my district, the best district, for allowing me to serve.

Yours In Service,
Lauana H.
DCMC

District 11 DCMC REPORT

District 11 is pleased to report a very good turnout at last month's GSR meeting. At least two thirds of the Groups were represented. We also enjoyed the company of a couple of interested AA's although we were unable to snare them into service, at least for the time being. One of the most exciting things to report is the energy and enthusiasm we've had in our District recently.

We want to welcome and introduce another new Standing Chair, Alan H. He stood for the position of Corrections Chair and was unanimously accepted. We are glad to have Alan with us and feel confident he will help us carry the message to those behind the walls. Our only facility in District 11 is the Davis Co. Jail but it has recently been expanded and we've been asked to bring more in more meetings.

On Saturday, November 17, 2007 we will be hosting a District Workshop. Some of the energy mentioned before has been hard at work to develop this event. We'd like to thank Becky K., Bill D., Pete M., & Ralph H. for all of their efforts. The topic for the Workshop is: "The AA Group". Many of our District Committee members are (or will be) involved. We've invited two special guests, Jim and Mickey H. to join a panel presentation followed by roundtables, report backs and a question and answer session. The workshop will be held from 12:00 - 3:30 pm. at the Backstreet Club in Bountiful. The

address is 567 West 2600 South. Use the Woods Cross exit and travel eastward. There is no charge for registration. Lunch is available from the Club for \$6.00, refreshments are complimentary. Everyone interested in a lively and informative discussion of the AA Group is welcome and we hope to see you there.

Yours in Service,
Bruce I.
DCMC District 11

A joyful spirit is evidence of a grateful heart

Ask-It-Basket Leftovers from Fall Assembly 2007

Question: The Guidelines Committee Recommendation - Communications:

Item (g). Assumes responsibility for any and all PowerPoint presentation equipment including laptop computer, projector and peripheral equipment owned by the Area. This includes transportation, storage and maintenance of the equipment, or the arrangements thereof.

Does this include computer/equipment upgrades? Are costs for this included in the Communications budget?

Response: (as Jodi sees it)

I believe there are two ways to look at this question. The Area has decided the Communications Committee will be responsible for the care and maintenance of this equipment. They have a budget to allow them to do the work they have been charged to do. Like any other committee, they can use **up to** their budgeted amount of money in whatever manner they best see fit, to fulfill the work of their committee. So on one hand, the answer could be yes, it would come out of their budget.

On the other hand, I think there is another valid way to consider. Computer/equipment upgrades are not regular, small, reoccurring expenses - like buying batteries for the cordless microphone, or blank cassette tapes for the secretary. Should our laptop or projector need some sort of major upgrade or repair, I would think that could fall under section 7.4 (b) in our guidelines that addresses unusual, substantial expenses - as long as the committee presented their needs to the Area for approval, before spending the money.

Respectfully Yours in Service,
Jodi E
Past Delegate, Panel 53

Ask-It-Basket Fall Assembly, September 23, 2007

Question: *Are their (sic) any blind people at the G.S.O. Conference?*

Yes. The members of the Conference with any special need, whether it is visual, audio, mobility, etc., can request the assistance they require to serve the Fellowship and it is provided by the amazing staff at G.S.O.

Where does the money from the baskets go?

Our 7th Tradition tells us we are self-supporting through our own contributions. In most A.A. meetings a basket is passed for 7th Tradition contributions. The money from the basket is typically used to pay rent for the meeting place, purchase literature for the newcomers and to purchase refreshments made available during the meeting. After these basic expenses are covered, excess contribution money is distributed to our General Service Office, our Area 69 General Service Committee, the appropriate District Committee and where available, the local Central Office or Intergroup. Money is also set aside to assist

the group GSR in communicating with A.A. as a whole through the General Service Conference structure. The funds distributed to the various entities are used to help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic.

If this question refers to an occasional basket passed at some of our Area Assemblies, Workshops and Area Committee meetings, this collection serves a slightly different need. The money from that basket almost always is used to help pay for the facility that we are in. Our larger gatherings require bigger spaces and that space comes at a price. Most of the time registration for the event covers the cost, but on occasion we must ask the members for additional assistance to pay our way.

Submitted by Mike, Past Delegate, Panel 55

Ask-It-Basket

Question: Since we receive money for Literature and mark it back into the Literature budget, and we receive money from for the Grapevine/LaVina and put in back into the Grapevine budget, why can't we receive money and put it into the Archives budget?

This is an interesting question. I remember when (long ago, in a galaxy far, far away) I was a DCM for Dist 2 and again as Area Treasurer we had discussions about accepting donations for the archives. The early discussions were in regards to raising funds for our history book. I recall we passed the basket at some Area events and did collect some money, so we must have done it then somehow. During my term as Area Treasurer, I was asked some questions about the handling of money from Literature and Grapevine sales. At the time, money taken in was not run through our bank account, so as to be accounted for on the Area financial records. That practice was changed early that term, so that money these committee chairs took in, was turned in to the treasurer, and credited to the appropriate budget. When either committee wanted to place an order with GSO, the area treasurer wrote a check, as long as there was money in their budget, which there always was since it was really like a revolving fund.

I was also asked about Archives money that year, but from a different angle. This was along the lines of the committee receiving its entire annual budget at the beginning of the year and putting it into its own bank account, with the committee chair having the check book. One of my concerns was that if you started that practice with one committee, how could you not agree to do it for the rest? It would be much more difficult to be accountable, and the fact that we continue to approve budgets for amounts much larger than our annual donations would become a problem. So back then, when I was asked as your Area Treasurer if we could accept donations for Archives in this context, my opinion was no.

We clearly have the capabilities of receiving money and putting it into a budget category - Literature, Grapevine, and money returned from host committees all show us this is true. So there's certainly no reason why we can't receive money for donations earmarked for Archives. I just feel they need to stay in the same bank accounts as the rest of the area money and not one all of its own.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodi E.
Past Delegate, Panel 53

Upcoming AA Events

Dec 1, 2007	Area Committee Meeting	District 1
Feb 16, 2008	Area Committee Meeting	District 8
Mar 7-9, 2008	PRAASA	Anchorage, AK
Mar 14-16, 2008	Pre Conference Assembly	District 2
April, 2008	General Service Conference	NY, NY

Area Business

Treasurer Report

I'm Nadine and I'm an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your treasurer. The job is getting a bit easier as I am becoming more familiar with the district boundaries and group names. Charlie, our esteemed Registrar, has been a great resource in tracking down those contributions that have arrived cloaked in mystery as to whom they were from. "Some of us can carry this anonymity thing too far ☺". Please be sure to include your group number, the district you are in, and a return address so I can send a thank you receipt.

Please update your records with the new address: Area 69 Treasurer, PO Box 604 Roosevelt, UT 84066.

Take a look at the contribution spreadsheet to make sure your contributions are being credited to the right group.

Thanks again.....what a great experience!

Nadine

Area Treasurer

Archives Standing Chair Report

Good morning, my name is Janet,

At the Fall Assembly, Monty informed me that the area committee had been invited to attend the Hispanic Convention, October 19 – 21, and give a presentation about service in our position. A week later, he suggested that I bring a display focused on District 12. There is not much information in the archives about District 12, but I was able to make a small display and a display board. I want to thank Doug for giving me the web address for translating and walking me through the steps over the phone. As a result I was able to have all the information on the display in Spanish.

I felt that the presentations given by the area committee were some of the best I have heard, even though the meeting was not well attended. We were where we were supposed to be and we fulfilled the request.

I want to thank District 12 and the host committee for the invitation. What an awesome experience. I was made to feel welcomed. I only speak a little Spanish, but through out the weekend the language of the heart and this fellowship was felt. I was able to visit with attending members from CA, NM, WA, and UT.

I also met Al-Anon members and visited the Al-Anon literature display. I did not know there was a group. I even played with some children.

The lunch was goats meat tacos served outdoors under the pines (it quit raining) and the banquet was chicken and pork - what a feast. Both were wonderful. I enjoyed the music and the dance. Saturday was my sobriety birthday, someone let it be known and the Mariachi group sang me a Mexican birthday song. I was sitting next to Hernan M. La Vina editor and he translated for me; the words were beautiful. I learned, observed and became better informed. I could say more but time is short. A wonderful experience, the warm feelings stayed with me and the memories still make me smile. I am adding this event as one to attend each year; I even promised Carlos I would learn some Spanish by next year.

One of the GSR's attending the archive round table at the Fall Assembly returned to her group and shared what she had learned. I received the history of the "Friday Night Recovery Group" in Ogden because of her efforts. Thank you, Lisa.

How about your group history? Is it in the archives?

There have been several donations to the archives in the past few weeks, all are important, but of special interest were two photos, one of Bill (1954 – Akron) and the other of Lois (1975 – CA).

What a busy time for the last month.

Thank you for letting me serve and giving me such growing experiences.

Archive Standing Chair

Janet H.

Communications Standing Chair Report

Greetings fellow servants,

My name is Doug and I am an alcoholic. I currently serve you as the Area's Communications Committee Chair. For those new to service or otherwise not familiar with the Communication Committee; the Communications Chairperson serves as both the Area Web Servant and Newsletter Editor, and directs three sub-committees; the Website committee, the Newsletter committee, and the Translation committee. The Communications Committee meets monthly on the second Monday of every month. All are welcome to attend; we meet at Beans & Brew in Salt Lake City.

The Area's website, utahaa.org, is maintained by the Website committee. The latest addition, other than maintaining the meeting list has been the addition of a map service. As you know we had maps that were very generic and for the most part not as useful as a full featured map service. When you click on a map link now it will take you to a redirect page that informs you that you are leaving the Area's website and that we neither endorse, approve or monitor in any way the site you are being redirected to. The page then goes to the Yahoo map service for the desired address. This allows you to get specific driving directions from wherever you are. I want to thank Sara L. for making the suggestion to add this feature.

She also suggested having all of the Alano and Fellowship Hall information on the website would be very helpful too. The Communications Committee agreed and we have begun to gather that information. We decided that the most appropriate page to contain this information would be on the page that we already has the Central office information. Please check the utahaa.org/central_offices.htm page and see if your Alano Club or Fellowship Hall is listed.

The fourth and final addition (at least for this year!) of the Area's newsletter was published today. Please make sure you bring a copy back to your home group. This is also available electronically on the Area's website. I want to thank all of those that contributed to this issue and to LeAnn L. for being the guest editor again. Great job LeAnn!

Translations and continued cooperation with District 12 is ongoing and continually improving.

I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve this incredible Fellowship! I am continually blown away at how this works!

With gratitude, Doug R.
Area 69 Communications Committee Chair

Corrections Standing Chair Report

Dear Friends;

Area 69 Corrections activities are always busy and exciting! Since our last service gathering in September, District 10 has added another 12X12 men's meeting in the Lone Peak Facility at the Draper Prison site beginning mid-November. There is still a huge need for men and women volunteers, as some do rotate out after their year service commitment expires or they wish to move onto a different facility. If you are interested in volunteering at any of the correctional facilities here in Utah, contact your District Corrections Chair or DCMC.

On September 26, 2007, an AA Corrections presentation was delivered to the Utah Jail Commanders Association at the Purgatory Correctional Facility in Hurricane, Utah. There were approximately 27+ in attendance. (I was informed that there would be approx. 23-25 jail commanders so we put together 27 AA corrections informational packets and they were all passed out by our lovely Delegate and assistant, Julie S.!) In all seriousness, I am truly grateful for Julie's support and willingness to attend this meeting with me. It was comforting to have a warm and smiling familiar face to look at when nervousness started to creep up. It appeared that the commanders' interest was fairly well kept throughout the 30 minute presentation and was well received. Many of the county facilities do have AA volunteers and meetings currently being conducted. It appeared that there were maybe 4 or 5 jails that did not have AA inside. The main focus and purpose of the presentation was to inform these professionals of how AA can help AA's willingness to cooperate within the correctional environment, and what AA does and does not do. We also talked about the BTG/Pre-release and the Inmate correspondence programs reviewing related forms that our volunteers may be presenting to them for approval/clearance to bring into their facilities. We also viewed the newly released GSO DVD, "A.A. In Correctional Facilities" featuring several well-known

correctional professionals. Overall, we felt that the presentation was very informative and clear on the message we had intended to deliver, and it certainly was an opportunity to experience growth in sobriety through service.

I had the opportunity to visit district nine and attend a meeting in Moab. I gave the group treasurer a small directory of area 69 officers, standing chairs, and Delegates' contact information. I also attended a portion of District 12's convention. It was very exciting to see how many people were here and the buzz of energy that surrounded the entire event! It was great.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Area 69!

Rena H.
Area 69 Corrections Chair

Literature Standing Chair Report

My name is Pete and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 69 Literature Standing Chair. Can you believe how beautiful southern Utah is? How cool is it to have an event in the shadows of those magnificent cliffs.

My appreciation goes out to the host committee and District 7 for putting on this event.

Since the Fall Assembly in Park City, some really cool things have taken place. More and more of the pamphlets are arriving with the new cover design. GSO has lowered the prices of all items that do not begin with a 'B' so practically every item except Books have gone down in price. Districts seven and two have taken advantage of the decrease in price of the literature racks and distributed them in places like treatment centers and shelters. District seven also purchased books for the corrections and other uses recently.

In little over a month since our last meeting, I have only had the opportunity to visit Districts two and twelve. While I expect District 2 to be a stalwart concerning literature, District 12 provided some excellent insight for Spanish-language literature. They have received a translated copy of Area 69's "So You've Been Told to go to AA and You Hate the Idea" from our delegate and I know it will be used to the best possible advantage to help the newcomer. District 12 has the unique privilege of carrying the message to those who we could not reach in the past and any way that the Area can help out is always exciting.

On that note, it was time for the second annual Spanish-speaking AA Convention in Salt Lake City just two weeks ago. This year the Area 69 trusted servants were asked to attend and provide a services presentation. Almost all members of the Area 69 committee and standing chairs "suited up and showed up". Many copies of the presentations delivered at this event by the Area 69 servants have been included on the Area web site and added to the most recent version of the Area Newsletter. Please take the time to read those presentations as I feel that it is an excellent testimony of how fortunate we are to have servants such as this trudging the road.

For myself, the opportunity to attend the Spanish-speaking convention provided an insight as to how important the program is to those whom I do not verbally communicate with well. I found, at this convention, a fellowship which went beyond words and a mutual gratitude between members separated by language but bound by a common disease. I was grateful for the opportunity to provide what material I had and to become aware of all the things I could do and will do in the future.

I have saved the best for last. It seems that through the purchases of our members at these events the literature budget is bulging. The remainder of the year will be focused in acquiring the material that will help your group and District carry the message. Please let me know any needs that you have so that I can be of maximum service in my service commitment.

Thank you,
Pete G.
Area 69 Literature Standing Chair

Look us up @ Utahaa.org