

AREA 69 ELECTIONS

Issue 8
Oct-Dec 2004

At the recent Election Assembly, held in Salt Lake City, these members made themselves available to serve, stated their qualifications and were elected using the third legacy procedures outlined in the Area 69 Guidelines and the AA Service Manual. Our current Pacific Regional Trustee Phyllis H. was here to assist with the elections and share her experience, strength, and hope with us later in the evening speaker meeting.

Congratulations to the following trusted servants who will be serving our Area 69 fellowship through the next rotation.

Area 69 Panel 55 Officers and Standing Chairpersons

Area Officers

Delegate – Mike O.
Alternate Delegate – Ken B.
Chairperson – Julie S.
Treasurer – Sheri P.
Recording Secretary – Joann G.
Registrar – Leslie H.

Area Standing Committee Chairpersons

Assembly/Agenda – Monte S.
Cooperation with Professional Communities – Mike A.
Grapevine – John M.
Corrections – Richard B.
Literature – Grahame L.
Newsletter – Ruth R.
Treatment – Keith M.
Public Information – LeAnn L.

Inside this issue:

The Greatest Adventure by Jill F	Page 2
From the Hillway by Leslie H	Page 3
A Godly Trusted Servant by Mike O	Page 4
Time Does Go By by Ken B	Page 5
I Love WAed by Joann G	Page 5
Riddion by Patti W	Page 6
Continuing Districts for Volunteers by Mike A	Page 7
Assembly and Area Report by Monte S	Page 7
Spirituality and the Third Legacy by Grahame L	Page 8-9
Riddion On by Julie S	Page 10
Service Riddion by Mike O	Page 12
Ask It Back Questions by Jill F	Page 11

Note! This newsletter contains confidential information intended for use by it's MEMBERS ONLY!!

Area 69 Newsletter

The Greatest Adventure by Jodi E.

I'm on my way to California, having been invited to join in the elections of the California Northern Coastal Area tomorrow. We're cruising at 20,000 feet and climbing. It's been dark and rainy all day, but we've broken above the clouds now and oh what a site it is. It's as though we're flying just a few feet above the ocean - the clouds appear as rolling waves, frozen in time. To the west, this "sea" meets the yellow and orange horizon of the sunset, reaching up to touch the sky in its various shades of blue - first light, then darker as it rises. The bumps and challenges of the week seem to melt away in one big exhale. It's perhaps the most beautiful thing I've ever seen, and I thank my God for giving me this moment to view His magnificent handy work. I still wonder at times, how I ever got to be so blessed.

It feels right to be going back to my old stomping grounds, as long as it's just for a weekend. This is where I grew up, chronologically speaking, learned how to drink, perfected my dysfunction and the art of isolation. It wasn't that long ago I was living here - though in some ways it seems like a lifetime. Certainly nothing like the life I have today. In my wildest dreams I never could have imagined the path my life would take these years since moving to Utah. The people I've met, the experiences I've been given, the lessons I've learned. It's been my refiner's fire I think - this year especially. It took a long time for me to realize I couldn't dance around the outside of the bonfire forever. The growth and healing comes when you walk through the flames. Turns out I did the majority of my "growing up" after I left California - not when I was a

kid living here. I never would have thought it could be like this. I think of those early years - sitting in the back of meeting rooms, hoping and praying no one would want to hug me - leaving early to avoid you. Too afraid to stick my hand out, even though you offered yours time and time again. That was "my" program, not the AA program. Didn't do much for my serenity, but I sure couldn't see it at the time. I've wondered on occasion if I ever would have embraced the *real* program had I not come to Utah when I did. Looking back now, I can see that was when things began to change for me. You had a belief in me I didn't share for a very long time. You accepted and loved me

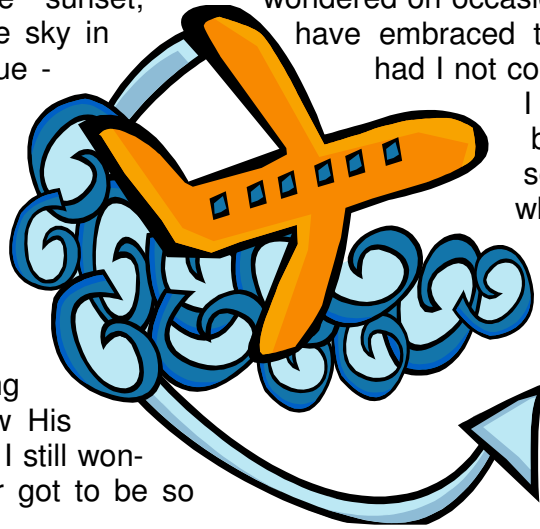
through my not so loveable growing pains.

The sun is about gone now, just a thin line of dark orange remains. We left the clouds somewhere over the desert, and we're about to land. The moon shines bright, rising in the east, just a sliver short of full. As I look at the runway and city lights below, I'm grateful to know I'm returning a different person than the one who left here years ago.

I know I can thank God and AA for that, but the question still remains...how did I ever get here from there?

Thanks for being part of the greatest adventure anyone could have ever hoped for.

Jodi E.
Delegate, Panel 53
Utah Area 69



Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

From the Hallway.....8 down, 0 to go!



The truth for me is that only when I am in peace am I truly connected to God. Since finding my way to Alcoholics Anonymous I have discovered that the times that I am in complete peace is when I am being of service-selflessly. It became apparent early on that I must be in active in service to learn how to do it selflessly—(one of those practice things I guess) and thereby stay connected to God. Alcoholics Anonymous has been my Higher Power's gift, for it is here that I have finally learned how to be of service to others.

Before AA, I didn't know how to do anything for anyone without expecting or needing something in return. In learning how to be of service I discovered that it doesn't really matter what I was doing while serving, I have found peace in washing coffee cups, in being group treasurer, in cleaning toilets (YES, you read correctly!), in sponsorship, cooking, serving as GSR, in scrubbing pots, and for the last year having had the privilege of being connected to God while serving as the Newsletter Chairperson. It is always when I have been selflessly involved in any one of these "positions" that I have felt the love and peace of God, which, in turn, has enabled me to be a messenger of that to others.

So with this, the last newsletter of my rotation, I'm finding a bittersweet experience. I am grateful and saddened for this will be my last begging for articles, my last compiling, my last stapling, my last folding. I will miss the excitement of reading the articles as they pour (or trickle) into my email, feeling the personal connection with the contributor. I will miss standing in

front of the copy machine watching the paper come out. It has been an awesome experience and I have learned much that I will carry into my outside-AA life, which has been true of every service position I have held in Alcoholics Anonymous.

As for rotating into my next service opportunity, I can only say, **wow**, how exciting! When I arrived at the election assembly in September, I wasn't certain what to do. The only thing that I knew was that I was willing, and that I **needed** to be of service. I had no attachment whatsoever to where God would have me land, or if He would have me land at the Area level at all. It seems that was the easy part, because after my name was drawn out of the hat, my incredible ego had me in my hotel room saying, "There must be a mistake! What about all the others who are so much more qualified to hold this position?" That's what my ego does, at times it puffs me up—but most of the time today, it causes me to question my abilities and to believe that I still do my life all by myself. After praying and speaking with my sponsor I realized that the loving God I have today has ALL power and certainly had the power to leave my name in the hat. I knew then that I had landed right where I was supposed to land.

As I move on to my next service assignment, I take with me the tremendous amount of experience, strength and hope from others who have shared so willingly with me from this assignment. I am truly a richer and better-rounded person—more relieved of the bondage of self. I always stand in awe and am challenged to do more and be more by surrounding myself with others who are giving back in service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for your generous love towards me and for the opportunity to serve. I am forever grateful.

Leslie

A Grateful Trusted Servant by Mike O.

Some two years ago I arrived at the Election Assembly in September holding the office of Area Secretary. As the time came to make myself available for another Area position, I had this great sense of loss knowing that very soon someone would be elected to replace me as Secretary and I didn't know where I was going. That old fear of the unknown was suddenly very strong. God had something big in mind for me, but I just did not have a clue at that time what it would be.

The position of Area Secretary was one I initially did not want. After 3 months in that position, I was composing my letter of resignation. After 6 months I fell in love with all the doors it was opening for me. The next year and a half was heaven. When it came time to rotate out I was trying to think of a way to cheat the system and serve a second term.

I soon found out what God had in mind for me after that wonderful experience as Secretary. Oh Boy did I find out. I can hardly believe it has been two years since I rotated out of that cherished position and right into the line of fire as Area Chairperson. Without a doubt, Area Chairperson has been the most challenging service position I have ever had in the General Service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The first thing I figured out as Area Chair is that I can't make everybody happy all of the time. It seems almost everybody attending the meetings has, at some time or another, a different opinion of what I should do or should have done. Their expectations are based on that observation and sometimes it is real clear I have not met some or all of these expectations.

I have to confess that I certainly made my share of errors. The error that I just could not seem to overcome was that of adhering to Parliamentary Procedure in dealing with motions during open microphone time. I don't know why the process was so baffling to me. I'm sure I made it tougher than it had to be.

Without a doubt, I know what moment as Area Chairperson I treasure the most. That was when our Public Information Standing Committee Chairperson announced we had

a real live website for Area 69. It was a glorious moment. The gift was a new communication tool for the Area. Most importantly, the gift was the direct result our committee system operating at it's finest.

The website was pretty crude in the beginning but it was, finally, a reality. I remember when the motion was passed by the Assembly to approve the website. There was not a lot of information or direction in the original motion to work from. I thought it should go to the PI Committee for investigation and implementation. When I gave them the challenge they grabbed the ball and ran. The committee took a very basic document and turned in into an incredible finished product. When all was said and done, the committee gave me the privilege of sending a letter to GSO to request that the Utah Area 69 website be added to the GSO listing of General Service Conference Area Web Sites. It was done the first part of October.

Another fond memory of these past two years has been the lively discussions on our Conference Themes. Most notably "Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of AA". This dynamite topic has prompted many loving verbal exchanges in and out of our Area meetings. In the discussions of our current theme, "Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service", I have heard my own story told and re-told. I am so much looking forward to this coming year for the wrap-up discussions on this theme that has had such a personal touch for me.

I will never be able to express how grateful I am for the opportunity I've been given to participate in my recovery with my service as Area Chairperson these last two years. As I said earlier, it has certainly been the most difficult of the many opportunities I have been given to serve the Fellowship. I have come to know more than I would have believed possible, the meaning of Trusted and the meaning of Servant. I pray that I have Served you well and have not betrayed the Trust that you placed in me as your Panel 53, Area 69, State of Utah General Service Committee Area Chairperson.

In Love and Service,
 Mike O.

Time Does Go By by Ken B.

I cannot believe that two years have gone by. I can still remember how grateful I was to be elected Area 69 Treasurer. I was moving into a service position full of honesty, love, and commitment. It was overwhelming to me that the fellowship would give me this responsibility. I have to admit that in the beginning I was full of apprehensive thoughts. I knew I would perform at my best, but would that be good enough? I thought I was smart, but was that just all about me? Being an Alcoholic Perfectionist, sometimes gets in ones way, and we sometimes make more work for ourselves than necessary. It all comes back to being a trusted servant that the Area 69 Fellowship deemed capable. I was ready to begin one of the most rewarding challenges that this program has offered, and now two years later I am saying good bye and hello on the same day.

Thanks again for giving me the last two years to serve you as your trusted servant Area 69 Treasurer, and I am looking forward to a continual learning experience while serving you as Area 69 Alternate Delegate Panel 55.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. As Jim H. would say, "I AM AVAILABLE."

Ken B. - Area 69 Treasurer
 Area 69 Alternate Delegate Panel 55
 Post Office Box 25297
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84125-0297



Wake up!

Isn't it time you looked at

www.utahaa.org?

- Meeting lists for the whole state
- Printable meeting schedules
- Maps for most of the meetings
- Calendar of events

I Love My Area! by JoAnn G.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years as Area Registrar. I am almost sad at rotating out. I have had the pleasure of getting acquainted with the people in Area 69 and to learn what a wonderful group of dedicated people in service.

Admittedly there have been times of frustration trying to correct the comings and goings of people to keep the directory current, but it has all been worth it. I love my service work and lucky you, you have to put up with me for another two years.

I am looking forward to my tenure as Area Recording Secretary. I am grateful that you have enough confidence in me to have placed me in this position. I love my Area and I think it is the greatest Area in A.A.

Love in service,
 JoAnn G.

Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

Rotation by Patti W.

As year end approaches, it is again time for rotation! The following is a poem that was shared at the last conference.

"There comes a day when each AA
regardless of his station,
must stand aside, for the rising tide
of the younger generation.
Some stand aside with quiet pride,
a bright and shining beacon!
But some hold fast, until the last,
Behold the Bleeding Deacon!"

When rotating out of each job in service, it always seemed too soon. My understanding was only just beginning. But maybe that was Bill's idea, a 2 year plan to keep us alikes from getting too professional.

Now it has been over 10 years since rotating out of my last job on the Utah Area Committee and maybe finally I have succeeded in "standing aside". But it seemed to take forever and came in degrees and very gradually.

When looking back, the most important information shared with me was from my service sponsor. He told me to just do the best job I knew how and always keep in mind, "we do what is best for AA - not some personal idea or hidden agenda. That, as an area our main objective is to follow the traditions and always stay within the scope of the General Service structure.

Another important fact to remember is that AA moves slowly. There are many things that are being done today that seemed out of reach for many years. In the early 1980's Utah was very much behind most of our Region, but with the hard work from all of the Committees since, we have progressed to the point that Utah is one of the strongest Areas in the West. An Area that is looked to as an example of growth.

Gay and I have always been very protective of the Traditions and Concepts. So much so that at times we have been criticized and had people angry if we objected to practices outside the scope of our responsibilities as an Area. At times it was a very difficult position to take. But there came a time when serving on the Trustees CPC Committee at board weekends in New York, it came to me that no matter how hard it had been it was worth it. There was no way I could have been there if it were not for all the mistakes, hard work and little successes. Every effort we make to keep AA here for the future will bring rewards beyond our dreams!

And now is the time for rotation and thanks for our current outgoing Delegate Jodi E., for her dedicated service these past years. She has shown a real dedication to the principles of AA.

In service
Patti W.
Panel 39 Past Delegate



Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

Combining Districts for Workshops by Mike A.

For the past five or six Area events, the District Committee Member Chairs of several Districts have met at 8:00am on Sundays before the Ask It Basket meeting. It was at one of these meetings that we asked the question, "How do we get better participation at our workshops?" We started tossing around the idea of combining the efforts of our Districts. Maybe this would help increase participation and also to help encourage unity.

The first workshop with combined District participation was with Districts 2, 10 and 11. The result was indeed better participation and an increased sense of unity. The success of the first joint effort prompted another try.

The most recent workshop was with Districts 2, 3 and 10. This workshop had even better participation. Each District invited its General Service Representatives to be a part of and to share their experiences as GSR's. There were about a dozen or so GSR's who shared their - own personal experience, strength and hope of this service position. It was very moving and extremely informative!

It was also nice that there was a really good turnout; inviting GSR's to participate

helped increase their attendance. After all, these workshops are really for the GSR. In previous workshops, half of the members present have been from the Area. This last workshop had really great attendance in spite of the fact that only three Area Members were there. That is really awesome! We thank Jodi, Graham and Lee Ann for attending.

There were also panel discussions from the District 3 Corrections Chair, the District 10 PI Chair, the Area 69 Treatment Facilities Chair and the District 2 Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair. The panel discussions were fantastic! After panel discussions, we broke into roundtables and gave reports back in conclusion.

It is my hope that Districts 2, 3, 10 and 11 continue to get together in their workshops. It has been a very rewarding experience. Personally, I have gotten to meet and get to know better some of the members who are active in love and service in other Districts. There was a strong sense of unity that has grown between our Districts as a result of our combined efforts and it would be a shame to let this practice dwindle.

Mike A
DCMCDistrict 10

Assembly and Agenda Report by Monte S.

Thank you for your support at the Area election assembly last month. What an experience the elections were for those who were there. The interest displayed in General Service reflects the dedication and loyalty AA members in Utah have for insuring AA is here for the alcoholic seeking recovery through our program. I am honored to be a part of our area and serve for the next two years as the standing committee chairperson for Assembly and Agenda. My heart goes out to those who stood for positions and were not selected this time. We are so lucky to have such a wealth of qualified members to serve.

Our hats off to District 11 for providing a troubles free election weekend. Their committee worked very hard planning and hosting this assembly and their efforts were obvious. Thanks from all of us!

We are in contact with each of the committees preparing for upcoming events and continue to meet with them and help them wherever possible. If your District is considering a bid for a future event, I am available to lend a hand with your planning. Please check the Area map or the Area Calendar of Events to see which events are open.

Thank you for my sobriety and the opportunity to be of service.
Sincerely, Monte S.

Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

Spirituality and the Third Legacy by Grahame L.

On page 84 of the big book Alcoholics Anonymous we read that the ninth step promises will materialize “sometimes quickly - sometimes slowly.” For this alcoholic, one of the promises not listed is gaining an understanding of the spirituality of this program. And for me this came slowly, not quickly, but finally I have it! After ten years of serving the fellowship in the General Service Structure, it was at the Area elections last September that I saw the hand of God being the ultimate authority over our trusted servants.

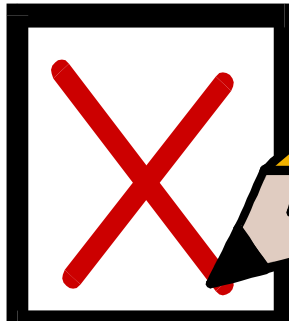
Most members reading this article will know of our third legacy, that of service. (The other two are unity and recovery). For those that may not know of the General Service Structure, please allow me a few minutes to explain. Although A.A. ought never be organized, we may create service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve. In the General Service Structure, we are responsible to those we serve - from the General Service Office in New York, to the Areas across the US and Canada, to the Districts within an Area, and ultimately to the fellowship of the members in the Groups. The fundamental goal of all service work is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic.

At the recent Area 69 (Utah) elections, we got to choose our area officers and standing chairs for the next two years. I won't explain the whole of the third legacy voting procedure in detail - that would need a whole article in itself - but suffice to say that the principle is election through a substantial majority. Area officers need over two thirds of the total votes cast, area standing chairs need

over half of the total votes cast. In other words, the group conscience of the A.A. fellowship in Utah, as represented by the General Service Representatives (GSR's), must be well unified for a candidate to be elected. If there is no substantial majority, then at a certain point in the procedure the top two names are put in a hat and the selection is turned over to God to decide.

In September I saw more candidates standing for election than I have ever seen before. It was so encouraging to see many members willing to serve the fellowship. For each position there were usually five or six members standing, all of whom were well qualified to serve the fellowship. In a few cases, there was a clear majority early on and a substantial unanimity was shown. In most cases, however, several rounds of voting went on and still no obvious candidate was selected. In these cases, the voting was turned over to our higher power to show us who would best serve the fellowship. In the vast majority of cases, the candidate who was marginally ahead of the other candidate in votes was not the one whose name was drawn from the hat.

Let me share about my own personal experience. As the elections approached, I quietly meditated to get a feeling for the position in which I could best serve A.A. Two positions became apparent. One was to stand for Area Registrar so I could develop a good liaison between that office and the Area Web Servant to keep the meeting schedule lists current. The other position was for Area Literature Chair. I felt I needed more schooling in our literature and, being better informed, could better serve the fellowship



Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

Spirituality and the Third Legacy (cont. from page 8)

in years to come. Those were the only two positions I felt I should stand for. The third possibility was that I would not get elected to a position. If that were to be the case, then I knew I was to take a rest from General Service and serve in my home group.

In the third step I turned my will and my life over to the care of God, as I understood him. Implicit in that step is the recognition that my higher power knows what is best for me; my track record certainly shows that I don't know what is best for me. The third step tells me that I should be happy whatever the results of the election, despite my own preferred outcome. So I stood for the position of Area Registrar. That was the position I wanted most. The voting went to the hat, and the other candidate's name was drawn out even though I had marginally more votes than her. That told me God had other plans for me. I later learnt that the very things I had thought I would do as Registrar - develop group information change forms and liaise with the Web Servant - she had already started to look at, and interacting with the web committee was high on her list. That work was to be done, but not by me. Do I hold any resentments? No, none at all. It is not important who does that work, but it is important that work gets done. She will be a very good Area Registrar and do a great job.

So I stood for the Literature Chair position. This time I was elected by a simple majority. Suddenly I could understand why I was to serve the next two years in that position. My mind started to flood with all kinds of ideas about literature; how to take a proactive rather than a reactive role; how to serve the districts, especially those that do not have a literature chair. Wait until you see the literature display in March at the Pre-Conference Assembly.

Some final thoughts on my spiritual path. Before I got sober I had very strong views about religion, very strong anti-religious views. I was an atheist and proud of it. I would love to get drunk and argue all evening about the non-existence of God. In my early years of sobriety I joined a religion and tried to live a life according to somebody else's understanding of God. That did not work for me. Finally, I have my own understanding. My beliefs are based on a spiritual philosophy rather than a formal religion. I have finally surrendered to win. I no longer try to swim upstream and fight the current. I now go with the flow, following the way, the road of happy destiny. I now have the peace and serenity in my life that alcohol could never give me.

In love and service,

G.L.

The Area 69 Newsletter is now available through the internet. To access it online click on the "Area 69 Publications" link on the homepage, which is www.utahaa.org.

The newsletter is in an Acrobat PDF file. By clicking on the link you will retrieve the current issue of the Area's newsletter. You can also subscribe to have the newsletter delivered to your email address. You can unsubscribe yourself as well.

Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

Rotating On by Julie S.

I started in service at the group level when I was a few months sober. At 1 ½ years I became an alt. GSR for a month, then our GSR, the District Secretary, and part of a Post Conference host committee all in the next month. For a number of years I held several positions at the same time until I became a poster child for the over-committed. I've had a few people tell me they use me as an example of what not to do in that respect – to which I say “oh, so glad to be of service!” I was told when I first got here that if A.A. asked me to do something, I better have a dangd good reason to say no. I haven't said no much. On the other hand, I no longer offer myself every chance I get and I believe it's healthier for A.A. and for me to encourage others to be of service instead of thinking I'm so wonderful and wise that I need to be a part of everything to make sure it's done “right”.

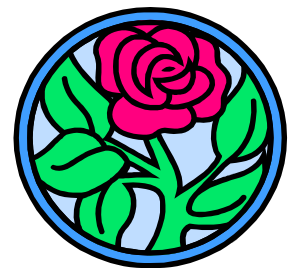
I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve Area 69 as Chairperson for the next two years, but to be honest, deciding whether or not to stand at the last election was one of the hardest things I've done in recovery. For almost a year and a half prior to elections, I was in a state of debate with myself, my sponsor, my boss, and a few close friends about my dilemma. My ego and my rational mind made a very good case for sitting this one out. The “problem” with listening to them was my Higher Power speaking to me through my heart and my service junkie, pull no punches sponsor. Oh yeah, and the majority of “you people!”

My sponsor's mantra was “what's your problem, lack of faith or lack of willingness?” To which my honest answer to myself was “both”. That really tormented me because faith and willingness have both been huge for me in this program. At the same

time, my ego was really on the war-path, and you know what, it almost won. Just prior to Post Conference this year I had pretty much decided I was done serving at the Area level, at least for now. I hadn't told my sponsor yet for fear of a couple of broken knees, but I really felt okay about it. And then there you were and all the love that I have for this program, for alcoholics in general, and especially for all of you that put yourselves out there to be of service, just poured over me like a wave and I knew I wanted to stay with you and be of service wherever you and my Higher Power saw fit.

I would like to say it was all smooth sailing after that, but that would be a lie – my ego still had one maneuver left which was to make my willingness conditional. Fortunately, that one didn't last long – either I was willing or I wasn't. So, come election day, I still had some fears, but was finally able to stand, and for once, without an agenda. You see, in the past while I was taught to stand for everything I was qualified for, I knew what positions I really wanted. I didn't get them. I also knew there were two positions I never wanted, and I've already served in them both! What an amazing day that was, and again, how grateful I am to Alcoholics Anonymous for my life and my recovery, and how grateful I am to you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you yet again!

Julie S.
outgoing Recording Secretary,
incoming Chairperson



Service Rotation by Mike O.

At the Fall Election Assembly this year, there were a few questions unanswered at the Ask-it-Basket session due to lack of time. I was asked to answer the following question in the form of a Newsletter article.

“How many years should someone be in service before they rotate out and give others a chance to serve?”

The typical rotation period for service positions in the General Service Structure is 2 years. That begins with the GSR and works right on down through the Districts to the Area Committee and to the Delegate. It is a term of office suggested by our Co-founder Bill W. It started back in 1951 when the Conference of Delegates first met in a 5 year trial period. The 2 year rotation continued through the trial period until the Conference Charter was adopted in 1955 at the International Convention in St. Louis. The Charter defines the terms of office for the General Service Structure.

Each of the service positions in the General Service Structure build upon each other. The DCM position suggests that a candidate should have served a full term as GSR.

Other positions suggest even more experience which encourages rather than discourages rotation from position to position.

Group Services, however, may vary in the term of office. Service such as Chairperson, Secretary, Coffee Maker,

Greeter, etc., could be one month to one year or more.

Inter-group or Central Office Representative may also have a term of office of six months, one year or more.

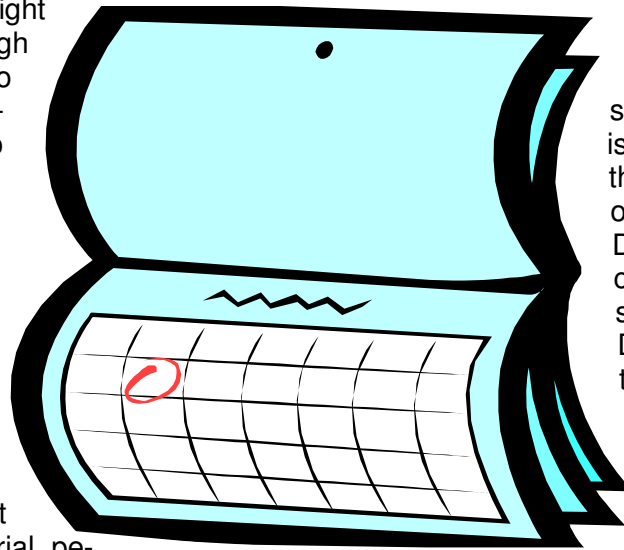
With all the opportunities for service in the Fellowship, I can't imagine a moratorium of 1 year or 5 years or any number or years that would mandate you must rotate completely out of service when you have served that length of time. I would note that a possible exception to

this would be for those in the General Service Structure who have served as a Delegate. It is strongly suggested in the Service Manual that one not serve as a Delegate again. Practical experience has shown that most past Delegates choose not to serve as a GSR or DCM for much the same reason and instead serve in other ways.

Back to the question - If the question is how long can I, or anyone else, serve on the Area Committee, or on a District Committee or as a GSR, I would say this: I believe that, as with all other things in my life, God will make the final determination of how many years I, or anyone else, will be able to serve the Fellowship and in what capacity We will be of service. I believe as long as I am, and you are, willing to serve, God will find a way for Us to do so.

Mike O.
 Panel 53,
 Utah Area 69
 General Service Committee Chair

Panel 55,
 Utah Area 69
 Delegate Elect



Area 69 Newsletter

www.utahaa.org

Ask-It Basket Questions by Jodi E.

Question: I went to a noon meeting a couple of weeks ago and the chair of the meeting shared for 15 minutes on his "crack pipes." Although there were several people in the audience with many years of sobriety, nothing was said to this fellow. I cannot relate to crack pipes, and will not return to this meeting because of this fellow. Am I jacked up or what?

Response: I can't relate to crack pipes either, but the first thing that would have tested my patience at that meeting would have been the fact that a chairperson shared for 15 minutes, regardless of what he was sharing on. I guess I've always felt my responsibility as a chair, was to lead the meeting in the direction of recovery from alcoholism. If my opening share is more than about 5 minutes, I probably need to check my ego and be sure I'm not trying to turn it into my own speaker meeting. After a couple years of boycotting meet-

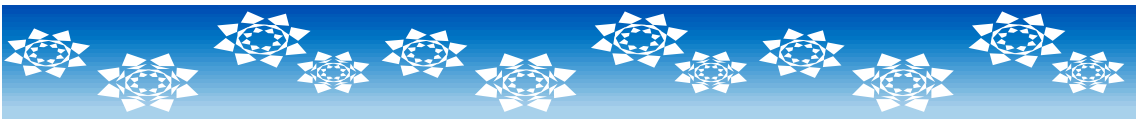
ings I'd only attended once and decided they weren't good enough for me, I realized I needed a change of perspective. Sometimes things happen, or are said in meetings from a position of a lack of education in our Traditions and singleness of purpose. I was taught that I have a responsibility to share that information and lead by example. If I simply walk out of a meeting and never return, I have not done my part to teach. I start by sharing information one on one, perhaps after the meeting. The next time I might choose to share that information during the meeting. While it is my responsibility to share the information, I am not responsible for what the individual or group chooses to do with it. If I have done my part and a meeting continues to focus on outside issues, then it is best for my personal recovery to find another meeting.

Thanks for the question.

Jodi E.
Delegate, Panel 53



Seasons
Greetings

UTAH AREA 69 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December 2004– December 2006

December 4, 2004	Area Committee Meeting ("PASS THE GAVEL")	District 8 - Roosevelt
February 19, 2005	Area Committee Meeting	District 2 - SLC
March 11-13, 2005	PRAASA 2005	Tucson, Arizona
March 18-20, 2005	Pre-Conference Assembly	District 7 - Washington
May 20-22, 2005	Post-Conference Assembly	District 10 - SLC
June 30-July 3, 2005	International Convention	Toronto, Canada
August 20-21, 2005	Pre-Assembly Workshop	District 11- TBA
August 20-21, 2005	Special Forum	Alaska Area 02
September 9-11, 2005	National Bridge the Gap	St. Joseph, Missouri
September 23-25, 2005	Fall Assembly	District 1- Logan
November 5-6, 2005	Fall Workshop	District 8 - Vernal
December 3, 2005	Area Inventory	TBA
February 18, 2006	Area Committee Meeting	TBA
March 17-19, 2006	Pre-Conference Assembly	District 1- Ogden
May 19-21, 2006	Post-Conference Assembly	District 2 - SLC
August 19-20, 2006	Pre-Assembly Workshop	TBA
September 23-24, 2006	Fall Election Assembly	District 7 - TBA
December 2, 2006	Area Committee Meeting ("PASS THE GAVEL")	TBA

www.utahaa.org
Area 69 Newsletter

Issue 8 October - December 2004