

July 2006

Meeting at the Wasatch Presbyterian Church, 1625 South 1700 East, Salt Lake City

GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.. We realize the ultimate authority in A.A. is a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups as a whole.

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AGENDA FOR DISTRICT 2 GSR MEETING

July 27 7:00 PM

7:00 – 7:15 PM

Open – Moment of Silence

GSR Preamble

Responsibility Declaration (Back cover)

Concept 7

Tradition 7

Introductions

Officer Reports

June Meeting Minutes – Doug (Page 2)

Treasurer’s Report – James H

Corresponding Secretary – Charlie T.

2006 Regional Forum Report Back – Thom B. (Page 3)

Post-Conference Report Back - Michaelene

7:20–7:30 PM

Area 69 PI Chair - LeAnn L. (Page 6)

7:30 – 7:45 PM

Chair Reports

Archivist – Lanna Y.

Corrections Chair – Jean B

Grapevine Chair – Dawn G.

Literature - Michaelene R.

Newsletter – Doug R. (Page 4)

PI/CPC Chair – Ryan P.

Treatment Chair – Jay G.

7:45–8:00 PM

Old Business

Elections of DCM for sub-districts A & B

Elections of ALT-DCMs for sub-district E

New Business

Formation of Budget Committee (Page 4)

Table of Contents

GSR Preamble, Meeting Agenda & Table of Contents	1
GSR Meeting Minutes (06/29/2006).....	2
GSR Meeting Roster & DCMC Report.....	3
Trusted Servant Reports	4
2007 Budget Committee announcement	4
Trusted Servant Introductions	5
DCM Group Assignments	5
Area 69 General Service Committee Motions	6
Current Theme - From the Grapevine	7
Upcoming Events	9
Step, Concept & Tradition Seven & Currently Serving	10

June 29, 2006

District 2 GSR Meeting Minutes

The June 29, 2006 District 2 GSR meeting opened at 7:00PM with a moment of silence. Andrew R, DCM for Sub-District C chaired. Doug stood in for the Recording Secretary. Paul read the GSR Preamble. The Responsibility Statement was read in unison. Walter read Concept 6. Sara read Tradition 6.

Thom read the Treasurer's report. There was some discussion about getting a Tax ID number for District 2. The Financial report was approved as read.

A report back on the Area's BTG workshop was given, there was also an article in the June newsletter.

Mike O., Area 69 Delegate gave us a report on the 56th General Service Conference. His full report is available on the Area's website. One fact that Mike brought to our attention was a little surprising; only 33% of Utah's registered A.A. groups contribute to G.S.O., nationally it's only 44%. Thank you Mike for sharing your experience with us!

District Standing Chair reports were given by the Corrections, Treatment and Newsletter Chairs.

The old business of elections of DCMs for Sub-Districts A & B was brought to the floor, no one was willing or able to stand. The election of an Alt-DCM for Sub-District E was also brought to the floor, no one was willing or able to stand.

The motion to create a BTG Coordinator was read by Sara. There was no discussion so the question was called. The motion, including the guidelines changes were passed by a substantial majority.

The only person to stand and qualify for the BTG Coordinator position was Pamela "Perky" L., who was elected by a substantial majority. Congratulations Perky!

Steve mentioned the District Workshop that he and Dawn are working on. It is scheduled for August 26, 2006 and the topic will be around service in A.A.

A motion was made to remove Jim D. from the Standing Chair of PI/CPC because of lack of attendance. Concern was expressed regarding his desire to serve. Thom said he had not heard from him. The motion passed by a substantial majority.

Ryan P. stood and qualified himself for the position of PI/CPC Chair he was elected by a substantial majority. Congratulations Ryan!

Walter wondered if Jim's absence should be considered for his Alt-DCM position as well. A motion was made to remove Jim from the position of Alt-DCM for Sub-District D.

Thom talked about his experience at the Regional Forum, he will have a report for a future edition of the District's newsletter.

Ken, the Area's Alt-Delegate had several comments. The most important of which was that he stressed the importance of making plans to attend this Fall's Election Assembly (September 23-24 in Kanab), it's where the Officer's and Standing Chairs for the Area will be elected to serve the Area for the next two years.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12PM with the Serenity Prayer.

June 29, 2006

GSR Meeting Attendance Roster

Aaron – GSR - Basic Young Peoples
Andrew – DCM for Sub-District C
Bill – Interested A.A.
Doug - Newsletter Chair
Jay – Treatment Chair, GSR – Tooele Group
Jean - Corrections Chair
JoAnn – Area 69 Secretary
Ken – Area 69 Alt-Delegate
Michaelene – Literature Chair
Mike – GSR – City at 7
Mike O. – Area 69 Delegate
Paul - GSR- 974 Group

Pete - Area 69 Literature Standing Chair
Ryan – GSR - an AA Group
Sara – GSR - Non-Smoking Sobriety Hour
Sparky – Interested A.A.
Steve – Alt-DCM Sub-District A
Thom - DCMC
Tony – GSR - Old Fashioned AA
Wade - DCM for Sub-District F
Walter – DCM Sb-District D
Wayne – Alt-GSR – Castaways
Zack - GSR – Foothill Group

From our DCMC

2006 Regional Forum Report

Seattle did not hold true to its usual weather pattern, and gave us a wonderful experience to attend the Pacific Regional Forum. Weather not in the picture, it was an incredible event. Should anyone have the chance to attend one, please don't miss out!

Friday evening started with comments and expansions of service responsibilities from 5 members of G.S.O. Leonard B., Class "A" Trustee; Dorothy W., Trustee at Large/U.S.; Jeanne W., Class "A" Trustee; Risk W., G.S.O. Staff on Conference; and Valerie O' N., G.S.O. Staff Special Forums Coordinator. We also viewed the video of "Markings on the Journey". The evening ended with a general sharing session ending at 10:00 p.m.

Saturday was full of presenters on a variety of topics. Honestly, the best way I can inform you of all of it is to share my notes. The information is in depth and thoroughly researched. Presenters included both G.S.O. Staff and of Regional Delegates. One note, I did "stump" Valerie when she was discussing the new format for the front page of our literature. If you want, I will explain that one too.

That evening, I attended 2 workshops, first on DVDs and DCMCs and improving communication. Second was moderated By our own Mike O. on Linguistic Districts within the Service Structure.

Sunday morning, Andy B. and I stayed through the Ask It Basket panel, and left that we might have time to make the many miles home in safe traveling.

My sincerest thanks to District 2 for allowing me the privilege of attending this event. I hope in the future, many more of us will have this opportunity to get the meet of Staff from G.S.O.

Love in Service,

Thom B.
District 2 DCMC
dist2_dcmc@utahaa.org

The *District 2 Newsletter* presents news & notes from Utah Area 69, District 2 of Alcoholics Anonymous. Opinions expressed are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous. No one speaks for A.A. as a whole. Please send your comments, suggestions, questions and/or article submissions to dist2_newsletter@utahaa.org or submit them to the Newsletter chair at the monthly GSR meeting.

Standing Committee Report Newsletter Chair

The second article concerning this year's theme is on page #. It's an article written by Bill W. concerning the third tradition.

Our District 2 Guidelines, version 8.1 – June 2006, which reflects the addition of the BTG Coordinator duties and responsibilities that we approved last month, are available here tonight. They are also available online at www.utahaa.org/district2. If you or your

group needs more copies please download and print what you need.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to this incredible Fellowship.

Doug R.
Newsletter Chair
dist2_newsletter@utahaa.org

Trusted Servant Report Bridge the Gap Coordinator

I am still in the process of learning about BTG. I have been taking the BTG Loose Leaf everywhere I go in case someone should call and need a phone number. So far no one has called, and I think that will happen the first time I go someplace and forget the note book. (Smile)

I have been announcing BTG in the meetings I attend. I have passed the sign up sheet in meetings and one person signed up. Of course he was my Service Sponsor, so that shows how supportive he is. (Smile)

Mr. Doug was very prompt in assigning me a District Email. I didn't realize I needed to

memorize it until my Service Sponsor asked me what it was and I had no idea. He came up with the short term solution that he would look it up, then in the next breath he shared with me what it was. See how useful a sponsor can be. They really are worth keeping around, and sometimes even listening to.

I am looking forward to attending the 16th Annual BTG Workshop Weekend. I hope to learn much about BTG at the Workshop. I am excited about BTG, and feel honored to be able to serve.

Perky Sue
District 2 BTG Coordinator
dist2_btg@utahaa.org

District 2 Sub-Committees Budget Committee Madness!

How many GSR's, DCM's and Treasurers does it take to form a budget committee? At least one of each, apparently.

Of course, the more folks we have participate, the better reflection of the group conscience we will have. If you are interested, please contact me (See the Currently Serving section of this newsletter)

Interested? Good! I'd hate to have to tell your sponsor how unwilling you are to contribute to the well-being of the district. No, I wouldn't do that . . . Or would I? Don't risk it. But seriously, all threats aside, every perspective helps us to better plan for the future. Also, though we will be using the 2006 budget as a template, we need comments from each of the Standing Chairs. Comments, plans for the future, and what money is spent on will help the committee craft a better budget. Please write, e-mail or call me so we can get your input. Thanks!

James H.
District 2 Treasurer
dist2_treasurer@utahaa.org

Trusted Servant Introductions

PI / CPC Standing Chair

Hello All- My name is Ryan and I'm alcoholic, my Sobriety date 7-31-03. My home group is relatively new and is called "An AA Group" we meet Wednesdays and Sundays at the Road Home Family Shelter.

I have a new sponsor and have recently started working the steps again. I have previously served as a GSR and I have held various other service positions in my group.

I am Honored and excited to serve as the CPC/PI chair for District 2

Trusted Servant Introductions

District 2 Bridge the Gap Coordinator

My name is Perky and I am an Alcoholic. My sobriety date is July 31, 1998.

I am very active in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was the secretary for the noon meeting at the Alano Club for 2 years. I was also the secretary for the Wednesday Night Relapse Prevention meeting for about 1 year. I moved to Tooele and helped to get the Castaway meetings going. We now have 6 meetings a week. I was the Secretary and Treasurer for that group for almost a year.

I am a sponsor. I make mistakes, but I do the best that I can and I care about my sponsee's. They are welcome to call me anytime of the day

or night that they need to. I feel blessed to be living my life in such a way that someone wants what I have enough to ask me. I feel honored each time I can be of service for anyone in AA or outside of it. I believe in the Declaration of Responsibility, "When anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there, and for that I am responsible.

I am still learning what I will be doing as the Coordinator of BTG, so with the little that I know, I hope in the near future to have updated all the lists and get people involved in this program. Not only being there to take them to the first meeting, but get the groups excited about making that person feel like a part of the group.

DCM Group Assignments

Sub-Districts A-F

Sub-District A: (Stephan C., Alt-DCM) Big Book Thumpers, Bog Irish Big Book Study, Chapter 5, Friday Night Speakers, It's in the Book, Live & Let Live, Primary Purpose, No Rules, Starting the Day, Way Out, Sacred Healing

Sub-District B: (Janet W., Alt-DCM) 5:15 Happy Hour, New Hope Group (Women's), Saturday Night Alive, Speak Easy Ladies, The Right Stuff, We Care Group, Westminster Lunch Break

Sub-District C: (Andrew R., DCM) 17th & 17th 12 X 12, 6:40 New Yorkers, Brown Bag Big Book Study, City at Seven Group, DNS Group, Friendship Group, Grantsville Good News, Survive and Serve, New Way Group, Sizzling Sobriety Group

Sub-District D: (Walter C., DCM) 974 Group, Acceptance Group, Basic Young Peoples, Group 2, Foothill Group, Magna Friendly Bunch, Stonewall Group, Tooele Group, Castaways, Dealer's Choice.

Sub-District E: (Doug R., DCM) Honey's Breakfast Group, Downtown Bunch, Altrum Group, Windsor St. Beginners, Trying Again, Northwest Sobriety, Old Fashioned A.A., New Avenues & Promises, Richard Street Lunch Bunch, Unity Lunch Bunch

Sub-District F: (Wade J., DCM) An AA Group, Boot Straps, Early Friendship, Midnight Miracles, Non-Smoking Sobriety Hour, Saturday Night Speaker, Sobriety Hour, Weekend Get AA

Delegate Area 69

Area 69 General Service Committee Motions

The following motions will be discussed at the Pre-Assembly Workshop August 20, 2006 in American Fork. They will be voted on at the Fall Elections Assembly September 24, 2006 in Kanab. GSRs please be prepared to vote your group's conscience.

Presented by Grahame L:

The Area February Committee meeting be discontinued and replaced by an Area Assembly. The new assembly be held the last week-end of February; the pre-conference assembly be moved to the first weekend in April.

Financial Impact: The extra cost to the area would be the overnight accommodation for the Area Officers and Standing Chairs. This would be two nights instead of the one night for an Area Committee Meeting. The worst case financial impact would be if all Area Officers and Standing Chairs needed to travel alone, with nobody carpooling. This would be a maximum of 16 x \$40.00 = \$640.00, plus registration fees of \$160.00, totaling \$800.00. In practice it can reasonably be assumed that the amount be lower than the maximum.

Presented by LeAnn L., PI Chair - seconded by Keith M., Treatment Chair.

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

Area guidelines changes: 4.7 of the Area Guidelines be replaced with the following:

4.7 Communications - The Communications Chairperson serves as both the Area Web Servant and Newsletter Editor, and directs sub-committees; the Website committee, and the Translation committee. The Area Communications Chairperson:

A. Serves as chair of the Website Committee.

B. Guides the Area Newsletter Committee in their responsibilities;

(1) Solicits, writes and edits articles to be included in the Area Newsletter.

(2) Prepares and copies a newsletter for distribution at the Pre-Conference Assembly, Post-Conference Assembly, Fall Assembly, And Fall Workshop. In even years, the newsletter may be distributed at either the Fall Workshop or the December Area Committee Meeting / Pass the Gavel.

(3) An Internet appropriate version of the newsletter will be distributed using the website's list server as well as being published on the Area's website.

C. Guides the Translation Committee in their responsibilities;

(1) Translate the Area's business documents (meeting minutes, agenda, even fliers, Area motions, etc.) from English to Spanish And from Spanish to English where needed.

(2) Translates Officer, Standing Chair, District, and other reports submitted prior to Area business meetings.

(3) The translation committee will work with the Spanish speaking District and the host committees in providing English-Spanish translators at Area Assemblies. Additionally translators will be provided at other Area functions if requested by the Spanish speaking members.

D. Distributes the Area's business documents in cooperation with the Area Registrar and Secretary to those who have signed up to receive them via e-mail.

E. Attends all Area Assemblies, Workshops, and Committee Meetings.

F. 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.

4.8 of the Area Guidelines be replaced with the following:

4. Public Information

H. Serves as member of the Area web committee.

Financial impact: NONE! The existing Newsletter budget would be transferred to the Communications budget along with the \$100.00 of the PI budget currently allocated to the website.

* The committee also recommends that section 4.0 Standing Chair Committees, be renumbered to keep them in alphabetical order.

Editors Note: This second article falls under the discussion topic: "Inclusiveness in A.A." Bill W. wrote a series of articles on the traditions. This is one he wrote on Tradition three

From the Grapevine Tradition Three

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

This tradition is packed with meaning. For AA is really saying to every serious drinker, "You are an AA member if *you* say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you've gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications. . .even your crimes. . .we still can't deny you AA. We don't *want* to keep you out. We aren't a bit afraid you'll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we've had. So you're an AA member the minute you declare yourself."

To establish this principle of membership took years of harrowing experience. In our early time nothing seemed so fragile, so easily breakable as an AA group. Hardly an alcoholic we approached paid any attention; most of those who did join us were like flickering candles in a windstorm. Time after time their uncertain flames blew out and couldn't be relighted. Our unspoken, constant thought was, "Which of us may be the next?"

A member gives us a vivid glimpse of those days. "At one time," he says, "every AA group had many membership rules. Everybody was scared witless that something or somebody would capsize the boat and dump us all back into the drink. Our Foundation office asked each group to send in its list of 'protective' regulations. The total list was a mile long. If all

those rules had been in effect everywhere, nobody could have possibly joined AA at all. So great was the sum of our anxiety and fear.

"We were resolved to admit nobody to AA but that hypothetical class of people we termed 'pure alcoholics.' Except for their guzzling, and the unfortunate results thereof, they could have no other complications. So beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, merely plain crackpots and fallen women were definitely out. Yes sir, we'd cater *only* to pure and respectable alcoholics! Any others would surely destroy us. Besides, if we took in those odd ones, what would decent people say about us? We built a fine-mesh fence right around AA.

"Maybe this sounds comical now. Maybe you think we old-timers were pretty intolerant. But I can tell you there was nothing funny about the situation then. We were grim because we felt our lives and homes were threatened, and that was no laughing matter. Intolerant, you say? Well, we were frightened. Naturally we began to act like most everybody does when afraid. After all, isn't fear the true basis of intolerance? Yes, we were intolerant."

How could we then guess that all those fears were to prove groundless? How could we know that thousands of these sometimes frightening people were to make astonishing recoveries and become our greatest workers and intimate friends? Was it credible that AA was to have a divorce rate of probably no more than one percent? Could

we then foresee that troublesome people were to become our principal teachers of patience and tolerance? Could any then imagine a society which would include every conceivable kind of character, and cut across every barrier of race, creed, politics and language with ease?

Why did AA finally drop all its membership regulations, why did we leave each newcomer to decide if he were an alcoholic and whether he would join us? Why did we dare say, contrary to the experience of society and government everywhere, that we would not punish nor deprive any AA of membership, that we must never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or conform to anything?

The answer, now seen in Tradition Three, was simplicity itself. At last experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic's full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence, and often to condemn him to endless misery. Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother?

As group after group saw these possibilities, they finally abandoned all membership regulations. One dramatic experience after another clinched this determination until it became our universal tradition. Here are two examples:

On the AA calendar it was Year Two. In that time nothing could be seen but two struggling, nameless groups of alcoholics trying to hold their faces up to the light.

A newcomer appeared at one of these groups, knocked on the door and asked to be let in. He talked frankly with that group's oldest member. He soon proved that his was a desperate case, and that above all he wanted to get well. "But," he asked, "will you let me join your group? Since I am the victim of another addiction even worse stigmatized than alcoholism, you may not want me among you. Or will you?"

There was the dilemma. What should the group do? The oldest member summoned two others, and in confidence laid the explosive facts in their laps. Said he, "Well, what about it? If we turn this man away, he'll soon die. If we allow him in, only God knows what trouble he'll brew. What shall the answer be. . .yes or no?"

At first the elders could look only at the objections. "We deal," they said, "with alcoholics only. Shouldn't we sacrifice this one for the sake of the many?" So went the discussion while the newcomer's fate hung in the balance. Then one of the three spoke in a very different voice. "What we are really afraid of," he said, "is our reputation. We are much more afraid of what people might say than the trouble this strange alcoholic might bring. As we've been talking, five short words have been running through my mind. Something keeps repeating to me 'What would the Master do?'" Not another word was said. What more indeed *could* be said.

Overjoyed, the newcomer plunged into Twelfth Step work. Tirelessly he laid AA's message before scores of people. Since this was a very early group, those scores have since multiplied themselves into thousands. Never did he trouble anyone with his other difficulty.

AA had taken its first step in the formation of Tradition Three.

Not long after the man with the double stigma knocked for admission, AA's other group received into its membership a salesman we shall call Ed. A power driver, this one, and brash as any salesman could possibly be. He had at least an idea a minute on how to improve AA. These ideas he sold to fellow members with the same burning enthusiasm with which he distributed automobile polish. But he had one idea that wasn't so saleable. Ed was an atheist. His pet obsession was that AA could get along better without its "God nonsense." He browbeat everybody, and everybody expected that he'd soon get drunk. . .for at the time, you see, AA was on the pious side. There must be a heavy penalty, it was thought, for blasphemy. Distressingly enough, Ed proceeded to stay sober.

At length the time came for him to speak in a meeting. We shivered, for we knew what was coming. He paid a fine tribute to the fellowship, he told how his family had been reunited, he extolled the virtue of honesty, he recalled the joys of Twelfth Step work, and then he lowered the boom. Cried Ed, "I can't stand this God stuff! It's a lot of malarkey for weak folks. This group doesn't need it, and I won't have it! To hell with it!"

A great wave of outraged resentment engulfed the meeting, sweeping every member to a single resolve. "Out he goes!"

The elders led Ed aside. They said firmly, "You can't talk like this around here. You'll have to quit it or get out." With great sarcasm Ed came back at them. "Now do tell! Is that so?" He reached over to a bookshelf and took up a sheaf of papers. On top of them lay the foreword to

the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, then under preparation. He read aloud, "the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." Relentlessly, Ed went on, "When you guys wrote that sentence, did you mean it, or didn't you?"

Dismayed, the elders looked at each other, for they knew he had them cold. So Ed stayed.

Ed not only stayed, he stayed sober. . .month after month. The longer he kept dry, the louder he talked. . .against God. The group was in anguish so deep that all charity had vanished. "When, oh when," groaned members to each other, "will that guy get drunk?"

Quite a while later, Ed got a sales job which took him out of town. At the end of a few days, the new came in. He'd sent a telegram for money, and everybody knew what *that* meant! Then he got on the phone. In those days, we'd go anywhere on a Twelfth Step job, on matter how unpromising. But this time nobody stirred. "Leave him alone! Let him try it by himself for once; maybe he'll learn a lesson!"

About two weeks later, Ed stole by night into an AA member's house and, unknown to the family, went to bed. Daylight found the master of the house and a friend drinking their morning coffee. A noise was heard on the stairs. To their consternation, Ed appeared. A quizzical smile on his lips, he said, "Have you fellows had your morning meditation?" They quickly sensed that he was quite in earnest. In fragments, his story came out.

In a neighboring state, Ed had holed up in a cheap hotel. After all his pleas for help had been rebuffed, these words rang in his fevered mind: "They have deserted me. I have been de-

serted by my own kind. This is the end. . .nothing is left." As he tossed on his bed, his hand brushed the bureau nearby, touching a book. Opening the book, he read. It was a Gideon Bible. Ed never confided any more of what he saw and felt in that hotel room. It was the year

1938. He hasn't had a drink since.

Nowadays, when old timers who know Ed foregather they exclaim, "What if we had actually succeeded in throwing Ed out for blasphemy? What would have happened to him and all the others he later helped?"

So the hand of Providence early gave us a sign that any alcoholic is a member of our society when *he* says so.

Bill W.

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AA Grapevine
July 1952

Upcoming Events Mark your Calendar

Acceptance Group's Annual Picnic Lindsey Gardens (9th Avenue and M Street)	August 6, 2006 Noon - 5:00 meeting @ 3:00
Workshop/Picnic District 6 - Salina	August 6, 2006
Maple Grove Campout Maple Grove Campsites A, B & C	August 11-13, 2006
Pre-Assembly Workshop District 3 – American Fork	August 19-20, 2006
Service Workshop District 2 -	August 26, 2006
SLC Central Office Picnic 5109 Murray Park Lane	August 27, 2006 10:00AM - 3:00PM
National Bridge the Gap Workshop Salt Lake City	Sept 8-10, 2006
Women's Big Book Retreat YMCA Camp Roger	Sept 15-17, 2006
CC + H2O – 14th Annual (Men's Spiritual Retreat) Lava Hot Springs, ID	Sept 15-17, 2006
Eastern Canada Regional Forum Sudbury, Ontario	Sept 16-17, 2006
Fall Election Assembly District 7 – Kanab	Sept 23-24, 2006

More information, including the registration flyers can be found on the Utah Area 69 Website at www.utahaa.org/calendar/calendar.php