

# 93 News

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July 2006

## **"Sponsorship, Service & Self Support in a Changing World"**

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Please send articles or information for the 93 News to Stephanie S. at the above listed email.



*From Jeff J., DCM Dist. 17:*

### **Pacific Regional Forum Friday, June 23rd 2006**

The night before I left Sacramento, where I booked my round trip from, I looked over my itinerary and discovered that in April I booked a flight for 8:48pm NOT am. I was off to a good start as I was planning on arriving in Seattle by 11:00 or so AM. I contacted Alaska and was advised to go stand by starting at 6:00am. I did. Fortunately I got the first flight out and was in Seattle by 9:00am. The hotel checked me in early and my serenity test was over.

I took in a couple of sights before the meeting started with my service sponsor who had a rental car. Including a visit to the first Starbucks where it all began.

Registration started at 2pm and the fellowship before that. I met with people from our hosting area (Area 72 Western Washington) for dinner and then proceeded to the opening session.

Phyllis H., our past regional trustee, welcomed our incoming regional trustee Madeleine P. She gave a nice talk about the feeling service brought to her and presented Madeleine with a gift. It was a heart. This was accompanied with a word of encouragement and a reminder that before all her decisions she kept the heart of the home group in mind as she made decisions affecting the region, expressing her heartfelt love as she has witnessed in the fellowship of service.

Opening remarks we brought by GSO's Chairman of the Board, Leonard Blumenthal, Class A Trustee. We were informed this was the 3rd of 7 forums to be held this year. Also that at the International Convention there were 44,000 AA members, family & friends in attendance. He encouraged all of us to support our delegates. Even if they were advised strongly by their areas to focus in a certain direction that sometimes they will need to "throw in the pot" to come to agreement on issues because there are 135 other voting members all trying to reach agreement on issues affecting AA as a whole.

Madeleine P. brought a presentation on the role of a Class B Trustee. She described the make up and responsibility of the conference voting members. The conference is a year round process. This is because after decisions are made and advisory actions put forth, the trustees of the conference then spend the rest of the year carrying out these actions. There are 8 regional trustees 2 Canada 6 US. Our region is among the largest in AA's service structure. Among their responsibilities are Quarterly meetings at GSO, serving two years on a corporate board, visit assemblies throughout the regions, regional and special forums, the conference and to keep in constant communication with the delegates in that region. Madeleine will also serve us at GSO on these three committees: Literature, Corrections and International.

Then Dorothy W., Trustee at large US, spoke to us on her role in service. Several of the presenters were accompanied by really good PowerPoint presentations as they spoke. Her term is four years; she attends quarterly board meetings, 2 world service meetings (1 in the US and 1 outside the US, next one is in Ireland),

zonal meetings on the years between the world service meetings (next up Brazil & Central Africa). She will also serve us at GSO on the PI and Nominating committees. She needs to remain available to step in, if needed, as director of AAWS and/or Grapevine; as well as stand in for Regional trustees where needed.

Jeanine Woodford, Class A trustee, on the role of a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee. She read from the service manual the description. She told us her area of expertise is in the field of corrections. Among her experience, she worked for the department of corrections at San Quentin. She reminded us that all trustees are not paid positions. And, because Class A's are not members of AA, they do not need to adhere to the tradition of anonymity at the public level. To be considered by GSO for a Class A position, a possible candidate needs to have a proven track record in their field of expertise and a profound interest in the fellowship of AA.

Rick W., GSO staff member, brought us the various staff assignments at GSO. He mentioned that the General Service Office took up the entire 11th floor and a portion of the 10th floor (Grapevine) at their location on 475 Riverside Dr. He encouraged all of us to read or reread the "AA's legacy of service" pamphlet which is also in the front of the service manual. Also to read "AA comes of Age". He too had a PowerPoint presentation to accompany his talk and a slide of a street sign reading "Reinhold Neiber" came up. He mentioned that the serenity prayer was attributed to this man. He shared many pictures of our current GSO offices. On the wall near the entrance are Bill's last talk (stressing anonymity) and Bob's last talk (stressing 'keeping it simple' and 'love & service') At the General Service Office is an AA meeting that meets every Friday morning and is open to all AAs. GSO, of course, is always open to us.

GSO staff always rotates positions every two years to maintain continuity and security of the office. The staff assignments are: Nominating, International, AA over seas, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Treatment Facilities, Literature, Public Information, Staff Coordinator, Group Services, Regional and Special Forums and Conference.

Membership surveys are conducted every three years. The next one is in 2007.

Valerie O., staff member, spoke on Regional and Special Forums and how they came about. They are on a rotating basis and focus on wider communication between the membership, GSO board and staff. Forums were developed because members felt that after the Conference that information they received was always second hand at best. Dr. John L Norris, Chair of the board 1961-1978 recommended at the 1975 conference a forum be established to improve communication. The first experimental "mini conference" was conducted in December of 1975. A second "Mini Conference" was soon to follow. In 1976 the conference discussed feasibility of the "mini conference" and the outcome was to go ahead. They recommended the name "Regional Forums" be used. 4 Forums would be conducted each year so each region would experience one every two years. Special Forums could be conducted as requested.

To wrap up the night we saw a video presentation of "Markings on the Journey" this can be purchased for 18 dollars and is in the literature catalogue on p.13.

Q&A time presented a couple of items of note for me. The minutes published for this by GSO would be available 6-8 weeks after the Forum. GSO Archives is continuing to produce web accessible archives, including talks by Bill W. currently posted. The web site continues to change about every two years as needs are expressed by the fellowship, and materials for young people in AA have recently been adopted for revision including "Too Young", "Young People in AA" and a Grapevine publication of stories by young members.

### **Pacific Regional Forum Saturday, June 24th 2006**

Opening was at 9:00am, Paul C., Chairman of A.A.W.S., spoke briefly about the role of director of AAWS. I was 4 minutes late and he was over half way through. He did mention that AA literature is presently translated into 70 languages and the Big Book was in 51 languages with number 52 right behind. He closed with a quote by Bernard Smith that was on a slide and can be found in AA Comes of Age p.280 challenging our groups, areas and district to "work with others".

Greg M., GSO general manager, spoke on GSO and Finance.

Our service work is for that unborn alcoholic to insure our hand is outreached when he/she is looking for help.

AA, “as such”, that certain pizzazz that is unique to each home group, out never be organized. GSO exists only to serve the groups/members to assist in twelfth step work. Money is a “we thing”, participation and belonging to the whole is the responsibility to have AA continue to reach each who still suffer.

He referred to a handout “A Spiritual Connection” and it was packed with information and statistics. To help reduce operating costs of GSO they shopped for competitive bids on paper and printers, etc. saving us apx. \$600,000 resulting in a slight increase in actual gross sales receipts in 2005.

Each year GSO bases their budget on the previous year with a 2% increase as seen by trends. The general service board receives all moneys from the fellowship. The board is made up of volunteers and has no employees. They answer requests from the fellowship and tell the general service office what to do with it. He spoke about the spiritual connection this has to twelfth step work. We are self supporting in this effort.

Trends from 1993-2005 show a flat line in groups listed and only 43% of these groups “connecting” by contribution. This poses the question “why?” Are other service organizations growing and maturing? Are people finding their spiritual connection elsewhere? If they are that’s great! But it does cause us to pause and ask the question.

Service requests and inflation dictate higher costs to GSO per group per year. P.7 of the hand out showed trends in Big Books sales (all formats). P.11 has a great pie chart breakdown of your AA dollar. Budgeting considerations have a lot to do with the prudent reserve (12 months of GSO operating expenses of all three entities (AAWS, General Service Board, AA Grapevine) based on 12 previous months) If the prudent reserve is too high, lower prices of literature to even things out. If it is too low, either raise the price of literature or ask groups to be involved.

Amy F., AA GSO Archivist. AA was 71 years old on June 10th, 2006.

After transferring very fragile recordings by Bill W., GSO has many talks digitized. Some of these haven’t been heard in decades. She played one such recording by Bill as he spoke at the international convention at Long Beach, CA in 1960. In many of his recordings, he speaks regarding his condition as being “condemned to obsession, lunacy and death” She also outlined the early Oxford groups “road to recovery” as the following:

“You admit you are licked”

“You get honest with yourself”

“You talk it out with someone”

“You make restitution to people you had harmed”

“You try to give of yourself without stint, with no demand for reward.”

“And you pray to whatever God you think there is, even as an experiment”

The delegate from Alaska wasn’t able to make his presentation in person as a bear broke into his house and trashed it, eating all the dog sledding food, so his Alt Delegate stepped in to give us his presentation. “Responsibility Declaration and Self Support” He suggested a grass roots movement, one alcoholic talking to another, and to pose these two questions, 1. Do we agree with the responsibility declaration? 2. Are we self supporting if we are receiving more in services by GSO than we offer in support? (refer to p.5 of Greg Muth’s hand out “A Spiritual Connection”)

John S., delegate Area 03 Arizona, “Area’s role in hosting an area corrections conference” Although he didn’t really address the “how to” of this, he has successfully hosted many of these in his area. Last year in attendance were 90 AA corrections volunteers and 35 corrections professionals. They all met together in a friendly environment to advance the work done by both and improve communication between the two. The August/September issue of Box 459 will feature an article about this event.

Eric K., delegate from Area 58 Oregon, “Spiritual Principle of Responsibility” and “Concept One in a Changing World”... always resides in our collective conscience. He paralleled role in responsibility to

Recovery: Personal recovery

Unity: Home groups and carrying the message

Service: Insuring future function.

In a changing world, be it generational, cultural, etc. we are a “spiritualized society” as read from the end of concept one long form; along with “Trust God in His wisdom”

Be good to the newcomer, he/she may one day be your sponsor.

Vicki B., our Area 93 delegate, spoke on “The Home Groups Connection to the General Service Conference”. She offered her sobriety date, July 9, 1994. She told her own story of when she first went to a meeting. She was asked how long she was sober and when was her last drink; she answered “about two o’clock this afternoon”. She was handed a hand full of literature and this group eventually became her home group, the ABC Group of Paso Robles. After a while she attended business meetings and learned there was a larger picture here. Later she became GSR for her group and they wanted report backs on all of her findings. She was sent to her first PRAASA and various other general service functions. When she moved from Paso Robles, she was quite disillusioned at the new group she attended. She thought every group was as involved and was linked to AA as a whole (along with GSO New York). She described the GSR as being that link. As she entered service, she was now on the other side of how she was first touched as a newcomer, from the literature she was handed to that first cup of coffee. Her talk was personal and heart felt.

Bruce H., Area 09 delegate Mid Southern CA, “Rotation - Curse or a Blessing?” reading from the service manual..... Rotation brings us spiritual blessings ...a catalyst for spiritual / individual growth. In your rotation we focus on the ‘service provided by’ the position rather than the position itself (ego feeding or status symbol) In an article in the April 1985 grapevine the writer was quoted as saying “pry them apart gently and if can’t do that, pry them apart anyway you can”. Remember the highest we ever get in AA is SOBER.

Keith H., Hawaii delegate Area 17, “Are we trusting the process” For him understanding the conference process is key to trusting it. He brought up concepts one and two regarding the collective conscience of our whole fellowship and the delegate’s role. He spoke of trusted servants handling the materials for consideration on his committee at the conference, and that he trusted the careful consideration they must have given it before submitting it to the committee. He was to read the materials the night before a busy busy day of conference and decided to trust their process and to consider sleep an important ingredient to his being effective the following day, therefore opting not to read that given proposal, “trusting in the process”. He also believes the pre-conference workshop is very significant to the process in New York. In closing he encouraged us to trust each other, trust AA and trust in God.

Leonard B. hosted the general sharing session of which both of my questions from the “ask it” basket were addressed. 1. I asked Amy F., AA Archivist, if I could get her PowerPoint presentation including the recorded excerpts from Bill W’s talks. She answered yes, but the talks would have to be transcribed in to text because they were still working on a way to safeguard the recordings before distribution. But, many recordings are becoming available and are posted on the web site. Go to [aa.org](http://aa.org) > Archives > reproductions of archives e-forms. 2. My other question was on the statistic provided by Greg M. on Big Book sales which I included earlier in this report.

We broke for Lunch, although it doesn’t seem like it, we were allotted time to eat.

Robin B., AA Grapevine executive editor, wasn’t able to give her presentation because of a personal emergency, so David E. did part of her presentation in her absence. It was on “AA Grapevine and role of the Grapevine director” Grapevine figures it reaches about 1/2 a million people with 100,000 publications distributed due to the “pass along” factor of apx.5 persons per issue. La Viña, although not publishing nearly that much has a higher pass along figure per by monthly issue.

In 1944, to help groups settle disputes and learn how they could set up a meeting, Bill published a newsletter and called it the Grapevine. He also sent it abroad to AAs in the service where it was they who quickly coined the term “AA’s meeting in print”

AA Grapevine has 9 members of the board, 2 general service trustees, 2 regional trustees, 1 Class A trustee, 3 non-trustee directors and 1 staff member/ editor. The Board has 4 meetings quarterly and the planning committee also has 4 meetings a year. There mission statement reads:

To oversee publishing

To provide sound financial management

To establish corporate policies

To engage in on going strategic planning

To stay within the guidelines of the 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts.

Grapevine has been a part of the conference since the beginning and is considered the “International Journal of AA” since 1946. In 1986 the General Service Conference approved this in an advisory action to

officially be “International Journal of AA” after careful consideration the Grapevine is a conference approved publication, but the stories within the publication are not, because of the broad range of content that may or may not reflect AA policy.

Digital archives of the grapevine are typically entered in one year after published.

“Language of the Heart” is almost all comprised of Bill W’s writings to the grapevine ranging from leadership in AA to his spiritual experience. We then watched a presentation which was a pictorial tour of the grapevine office.

“La Viña” was presented by the La Viña editor, Hernan M. In 1991-1996 Grapevine responded to a growing need from Spanish speaking AA and published one article in the Grapevine per month. Many Spanish speakers subscribed to grapevine just to read the one article. In July of 1995 the only Spanish Grapevine was published as a compilation of these stories. July/August of 1996 the first La Viña was printed. So at this forum we wished LA Viña a happy ten year birthday. Every July both Grapevine and La Viña publish prison issues (bound in string). La Viña is not yet self supporting and continues to rely on Grapevine and the General Service Board. They continue to make strides to reach this ideal of self support and continue to reach the Spanish speakers who still suffer. Art work for the Grapevine and La Viña are submitted mostly by volunteers along with the rights to use the art. Cartoons are also entirely submitted by volunteers. If you know anyone with these talents, those who wish to submit can certainly do so.

“Full Forum Workshop” Dick D., hosting area delegate Area 72 Western Washington.

Dick welcomed all of us to the Forum and told us the theme of this general sharing would be this year’s conference theme “Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World”. He offered some thoughts on each one separately:

#### Sponsorship

1. Listen - to the sponsee, listen closely, most newcomers have not had someone really listen to them for a long time.
  2. Learn - much about family, false beliefs, about their his/her drinking
  3. Love - unconditional love, be kind, patient, not self seeking or easily upset.
- Don’t quit five minutes before the miracle.
4. Lead - by example

#### Service

Being a delegate is what he does, not who he is. Do not expect any special treatment because of what you do. Getting a service sponsor is very important.

#### Self-Support

The finance report at the Conference was very good (I have a PowerPoint presentation I can email anyone just email me).

“If we keep doing what we’re doing we’ll keep getting what we’re getting” If the same number of groups continue to carry the load we can expect literature prices to increase. This has its own consequences. Outside sources can start publishing materials which would further decline sales or needed services could be cut.

If we all participated in our 7th tradition there would not be an issue and our prudent reserve would be strong and literature would go back down to cost. The Birthday plan envelopes can be ordered from GSO and if a group includes their number on the envelope, they would see a credit on the financial report from GSO for their group.

Q & A / Comments. One group representative offered this: At their home group on a birthday, they give the person with 2 or more years a cake AND an envelope from GSO (for the Birthday Plan) encouraging them to send one dollar for each year sober to GSO on their birthday (remember, if you adopt this idea, to include your group number and you’ll receive credit)

Jeanne Woodford, Class A Board Member, “Lets be Friendly with Our Friends”

She shared a PowerPoint presentation that, I asked Ivy to send to me, which can be a useful tool in presenting to the professional community. Among other things it describes the basics of recovery and unity, what AA does and doesn’t do. Statements such as: AA does not give medical diagnosis, counseling, letters of reference, housing, etc. It also describes the different meeting types, open, closed and meetings carried into institutions.

The PowerPoint presentation also addresses proof of attendance cards and suggestions on how a professional can find and use AA. Professionals can read our literature, attend an open meeting, contact GSO, talk to members, etc. The more professionals know about AA the more opportunities there are to reach the suffering alcoholic.

After Jeanne's presentation was an open sharing session. I really didn't note anything of extreme value to you other than one woman shared at the mic suggesting if presented with a signature card at your home group that requires a phone number, to put down the phone number of central office rather than your own.

#### **Dinner Break. and Workshops.**

I visited two workshops Saturday night one turned into an AA meeting more or less, entitled "Happy, Joyous and Free" and the other was called "GSO/Delegates/DCMs/GSRs - Are we communicating?"

I put out a question "How do DCMs (in other areas) communicate with their delegates between meetings and how often?"

Debbie J. also attended this meeting and offered her experience when she was DCM of district 16. She felt, as a district committee member, she was part of the Area committee. Her service was to inform the district about the agenda for the following assemblies and she had a tradition of typing her impressions of the area committee meeting and emailing them to the district soon after; informing them that the official acm meeting minutes would follow behind and hopefully reflect what she had offered in her email.

One DCM said she'd email, call or invite her delegate to a district meeting and meet for dinner just before. The DCM from Western Washington Area 72 publishes a newsletter and distributes it out to the groups.

Other forms of communication offered were: Assemblies, Quarterlies, ACMs, PRAASA, FORUMS, Inventories, email, phone, website, service sponsorship. Alaska area has pre-assembly teleconferences, Conference reports and inviting delegates to special events.

The remainder of the time was in response to the question "How are we supposed to react to the limited amount of time and the enormous amount of conference background material given us with an issue date of Feb.15 and the conference beginning in April?"

Rick W., GSO staff & Conference coordinator, was there and responded first. He mentioned there is a preliminary conference agenda released in December and many of the items are passed forward from the previous conference. Quarterly reports published by GSO, offer topics ongoing. So many materials are available well in advance before the final agenda is mailed out in February. Also a useful tool for the upcoming conference would be the conference report from the previous year; many items passed forward are listed here. Discussion continued nothing significant to add further on this.

The 2nd workshop was, as I said, was like a meeting. I did note one quote that caught my ear. "In service listen like you don't have an opinion". One man from Cour D'Alene, Idaho who recently suffered the loss of his wife (and his dog) shared he has great enthusiasm for service and meetings. He felt free in AA. He said the next time he is a greeter at his meeting he is going to dress up like a referee and flag his arms "SAFE" because when you are there you are safe.

#### **Pacific Regional Forum Sunday, June 25th 2006**

Madeleine P. announced that Valerie O., GSO staff was celebrating her 24th year of sobriety. We sang her happy birthday. The anonymity statement was read and we started another general sharing session.

The theme for the 2007 General Service Conference is "Are 12th responsibility - are we willing to go to any lengths?" when possible use this as a basis for local discussion topics.

The topic of accessibility was brought up and why GSO doesn't have a committee for this. One half of the areas have accessibility/special needs committees. GSO does offer guidelines for special needs and if you have any needs that you want to email New York, the coordinator of information for this is Gayle Soheim Riese her email is [nominating@aa.org](mailto:nominating@aa.org).

At the conference in New York there does exist a pre-conference committee that deals with reaching remote communities that does touch on some of these issues.

CEC was brought up Cooperation with the Elderly Community, 3 areas have this as a standing committee and GSO continues to gather information as it is forwarded to them.

A Question was asked if Box 459 had an index to past articles. GSO currently has an index to aid members who may call, but there is not a published version. Valerie O'Neil noted this would be a useful tool and will forward this as a request to the office to be posted on the web site.

Grapevine digital archives have a lot of useful information and articles that are accessible thru a search engine.

During the closing session we heard from 7 past trustees.

Jim K., posed the question "How do we get a group conscience?" We as trusted servants can and do sometimes just bring a sense of our group and utilize 'right of decision'. Delegates have their vote on the floor, but really don't speak out. They serve on their respective committees and here they can speak at length. They bring back reams of information which can be tedious for a group to listen to and some groups really don't want to hear all the information. He proposed to us "asking the right questions" of interest to those persons and then you can respond with pertinent, current information from the conference. During his panel, Jim served on the sub-committee for the Big Book fourth edition. In his committee he help take 1222 stories and widdle them down to 25.

George D. was in Long Beach in 1960 for the international convention. Bill W's talk from there is famous... it was a large convention with 6-8 thousand persons. George said in those days he had a healthy irreverence toward Bill W. He remembers Bill being quite hyper and manic. During this time Bill, at every meeting whether he was on the program or not, would jump to the podium. George is not too fond of old timers who hold the myth that AA was very rigid in the old days. He thought this became an ego feeding proposition especially when they'd go on about who had the meanest sponsor. He said from his experience sponsors were very understanding, empathetic, etc. He stressed the importance of our singleness of purpose and that it has also been twisted over the years. It is meant to be inclusive and is NOT a rigidity driven into newcomers with "other" problems" to drive them out. He spoke of one case he knew of where a newcomer did leave and ended up dead.

David E., We are a bunch of drunks volunteering to do jobs that need to get done. He served on the Grapevine board... he said he was probably selected because he has experience in the professional world of

#### Concepts – (short form)

- I** Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II** The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
- III** To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."
- IV** At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V** Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI** The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII** The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII** The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX** Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X** Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI** The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII** The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

publishing. He also served 7 years on the trustee's literature committee. He too was involved in the process of the 4th Ed Big Book. In 15 years these stories may be outdated, but reiterated that the Grapevine publishes fresh stories every month. Over 12,000 stories are online in the Grapevine digital archives. We all carry the same concern, which is, reaching the newcomer - our literature remains constant as a tool for the purpose of insuring AA's future.

Phyliss H. loves the stories she can tell as a byproduct of time spent in service. She shared a brief story of how our regional trustees went on a tour with a bus driver who didn't know the way. She articulated a wonderful feeling she had thinking about the ability through Boards/Staff/Conference/Guidelines for us to welcome change with a heart felt passion for the newcomer. New ways to address changing cultures etc. and encouraged us all to bring love in our hearts to every discussion and talk.

Ruth J., on June 26th was 36 years sober. These miracles in AA prompted her to insure the future of AA through service. Keep a good sense of humor and have fun. We don't have to agree on things yet we are still united in our concern for the well being of AA. We do have a program with over 70 years of experience that works. She doesn't worry too much about the new person coming in the door with other problems. Not too many non-alcoholics are going to stay with us very long anyway. Let each person decide for him/herself where they want to be and what he/she wants to be in an AA meeting. She noted that when we ask for services we should also be willing to pay for them and not let the literature carry the load. When talking about self-support, be sure to include services provided.

Tom M. "The great uninformed" in AA: persons who don't see the need to support delegates, etc. or are patient enough to listen to a general service report. "The great *Informed* group conscience": the process of unity. Our GSO is our "home base" and the "front line" that reaches out to each of us.

Larry N., "It isn't service if it doesn't cost a little bit" Just after his 5th step when he read a prayer from the Big Book in early sobriety containing the phrase "how can I best serve thee", he became willing and able to serve in AA. He said it is more important *how* we do what we do than *what* we do. When he was involved in AA world service work he never forgot that the dollar going in the basket from groups was enabling AA to supply other countries who wanted to know AA and receive guidance. To see the group's dollar working in Russia and China and the wonderful potential for an explosion of AA in these places.

Leonard B. - Closing remarks. Leonard reflected on the great information brought to this Forum by AAWS, Grapevine and Archives. He recognized the excellence in service by our delegates in the pacific region and what they bring to Area and the conference. Our '06 theme had a lot of "S" words in it and he added a few of his own he thought applied; Spirituality, Sacrifice and especially Sharing. He shared his wonderful experience in Banning, CA at the Special forum for Native Americans. Here is a story told by one of the native members; he shared: "I went to meetings when I was new and I saw a bunch of white guys sitting around saying 'keep coming back' after getting a little more time he went back to the meeting and saw a bunch of white guys sitting around saying 'keep coming back' now he has 16 years sobriety and credits AA because now he goes to a meeting and is color blind. Leonard shared that Bosnia just started their very first meeting and this coming Tuesday (6/27/06) will be the 3rd time they've ever met. This one example of how far our AA dollar reaches in this world. He read P.68 of the Big Book in the closing of our time together.

Respectfully submitted to District 17, Area 93. –  
Thank you for sending me to this eye opening event.  
Sincerely, Jeff J. (DCM dist 17)

**Last names were omitted to protect anonymity for web use.  
The only full names that exist are Class A Trustees and AAs archivist (non-alcoholic) only.**

**AREA COMMITTEE MEETING – Sunday July 16, 2006**  
Goleta Valley Community Center  
5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA

**AGENDA**

8:30 a.m. **Registration**  
9:00 a.m. **Call to Order** / Serenity Prayer / 12 Concepts  
**Roll Call / Report**, by Secretary

**Reports:**

Registrar        Alternate Delegate  
Treasurer       Delegate  
Chairman        Approve April Minutes

9:30 a.m. **DCM Reports**

10:30 a.m. **Break**

(The following items will be discussed today, and the appropriate ones, if approved, will be added to our next Area Assembly Agenda)

**Old Items:**

1. Ad-Hoc Committee New Location for ACM – Update
2. Area Inventory – Update
3. FORO – Update
4. Old Timers Event

**New Items:**

1. Written Bids for November Assembly (elections 2 days)
- 2.
- 3.

***Assembly to Date:***

Area Inventory  
FORO – Update

12:30 p.m. **Open Sharing**

12:45 p.m. Announcements for the good and welfare

Upcoming Events: August Area Assembly – Lancaster

1:00 p.m. Adjourn – Responsibility Declaration

## **Area 93 Officers**

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**REGISTRAR:** Peggy D. – cell 661-435-6760 – [registrar@aaarea93.org](mailto:registrar@aaarea93.org)

## **Area 93 Committee Chairs & Subcommittee Chairs**

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**LITERATURE, AUDIO VISUAL, & NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** Robert H. – 661-949-9658  
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**NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE:** Stephanie S. – 661-273-5575 – [93news@aaarea93.org](mailto:93news@aaarea93.org)  
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**CPC & TREATMENT COMMITTEE:** Art G. – cell 805-208-5391 – [cpc@aaarea93.org](mailto:cpc@aaarea93.org)  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Sharon G. – 661-917-4018 – [finance@aaarea93.org](mailto:finance@aaarea93.org)  
**LA VINA COMMITTEE:** Thomas G.- 661-364-0760 – [grapevine@aaarea93.org](mailto:grapevine@aaarea93.org)  
**GUIDELINES & POLICY COMMITTEE:** Bill P. – 818-706-1842 – [gap@aaarea93.org](mailto:gap@aaarea93.org)  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION, SPECIAL NEEDS & WEB SITE COMMITTEE:** – Laurie O'H. – 805-688-7347  
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**WEB SITE SUBCOMMITTEE:** David W. – cell 818-943-8023– [webmaster@aaarea93.org](mailto:webmaster@aaarea93.org)  
**SPECIAL NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE:** Victor O. – 661-729-1329 – [vicroscoe@hotmail.com](mailto:vicroscoe@hotmail.com)  
**TRANSLATION COMMITTEE:** Jesus P. – [translation@aaarea93.org](mailto:translation@aaarea93.org)  
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**ARCHIVIST:** vacant  
**GRAPEVINE:** Laurie H. – 805-641-1601 – [grapevine@aaarea93.org](mailto:grapevine@aaarea93.org)

## **Past Delegates**

Jeanine R. – Panel 53 (2003-2004) – 805-735-2173 – [jtriosaa@msn.com](mailto:jtriosaa@msn.com)  
Al H. – Panel 37 (1987-1988), SoCal 05 – 661-366-4592 – [ahendri331@aol.com](mailto:ahendri331@aol.com)  
Mary Ellen D. – Panel 43 (1993-1994), SoCal 05 – 805-495-0276  
Joe V. – Panel 47 (1997-1998), SoCal 05 – 661-252-2228 – [joe@tclainc.com](mailto:joe@tclainc.com)

## **Pacific Regional Trustee**

Phyllis H. – 360-705-2225 – [phyllishalliday@attbi.com](mailto:phyllishalliday@attbi.com)

It is impossible to  
overestimate the value of  
your friends

ANGER  
is one letter short of  
DANGER

If you are right, you don't need to  
be angry. If you are wrong, you  
can't afford to be angry.

### CCAA Area 93 Upcoming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Event &amp; Info</b>	<b>Who should attend</b>	<b>Location and/or Comments</b>
July 16, 2006	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs, & Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
Aug. 20, 2006	Area Assembly Hosted by District 7	Everyone	Lancaster City Park 43-11 N. 10 <sup>th</sup> St. West Lancaster, CA 93534 <a href="mailto:Dist7DCM@yahoo.com">Dist7DCM@yahoo.com</a>
Oct 8, 2006	FORO	Everyone	No. Hollywood
Oct. 15, 2006	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs, & Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
Oct 20 – 22, s006	Santa Clarita Valley Convention	Everyone	Hyatt Valencia & Santa Clarita Conference Center <a href="http://www.scvaaconvention.org">www.scvaaconvention.org</a>
Nov. 19 – 20, 2006	Area Assembly & Elections 56 <sup>th</sup> Panel	Everyone	TBD
Dec. 17, 2006	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs, & Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
March 2, 3, & 4, 2007	PRAASA 2007 Hosted by Area 58  Rich B., Chairperson 541-474-6411	Everyone  Chairperson email: <a href="mailto:richblake5378@charter.net">richblake5378@charter.net</a>	Red Lion Hotel on the Riber Jantzen Beach 909 N. Hayden Island Dr. Portland, OR 97217 1-800-733-5466

#### **Responsibility Declaration**

*I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always  
to be there. And for that: I am responsible.*

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## Central California Area Assembly Group Contribution Form

Send Contributions to:  Central Calif. Area 93 PMB # 140 606 Alamo Pintado # 3 Solvang, CA 93463	Group information GSO # _____ Group Name _____ Meeting Day _____ Time(s) _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Send Receipt to: Name _____ Date _____ Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
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## 93News Contribution Form

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