

# 93 News

Published by the Central California Area – [www.aaarea93.org](http://www.aaarea93.org)

April 2006

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

[93news@aaarea93.org](mailto:93news@aaarea93.org)

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

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I was asked to put out a "pre-Conference Workshop" newsletter. To that end, our Chairman emailed everyone that made presentations. To those of you who responded, thank you very much. To those of you who were unable to respond, I can use your presentations in later issues. Please email them to me. As you will notice, I do not edit the presentations.

Thank you.  
Stephanie S., 93 News

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## ***Pre-Conference Workshop Presentations***

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### **Twelve Points To Assure our Future. How are the the Traditions Fulfilling that Purpose 60 years later**

#### **Jim "still"- GSR of The Tehachapi Mountain Group**

I was a little surprised to be asked to speak in front of the assembly like this. Debbie asked me first if I would like to. I am not any kind of public speaker, I am a mechanic by trade- I make things that are broke work. I usual don't have to talk to whatever it is that is broke into working again. My experience as a GSR so far has shown me that when I give my monthly reports, my home-group members develop that 1,000 yard stare (*pause*) much like you are doing right now. Later after Debbie gave me my topic I remembered what most of you have told me around here is that God doesn't call the qualified: He qualifies the called. That's when I discovered I had some knowledge of the subject *The Traditions -60 years later*.

During the first year of my sobriety I traveled with a friend to an old-timers event in Phoenix. Being very new in AA I didn't know what we were going to hear or who were the people that were going to speak. One of the Speakers on the flyer was going to be Searcy W. from Dallas. It said he had been around here for 53 years at that time and had been a sponsor of Ebby T. He might know a thing or two about the early days of AA.

His talk centered on the formation of AA in TEXAS. He spoke of the problems that those early drunks had- not so much about staying sober but all the problems they had just staying and working together harmoniously. Seems as though the members at that time had started AA clubs. all the usual things that we know now that could happen did indeed happen. Searcy wrote and talked with Bill W. a lot about the problems that the-AA's were having in these clubs. Now try to remember before 1946 just a few years after AA started that there wasn't anything like the 12 Traditions. Bill, Bob and the oldsters were already well aware of the problems of AA's had in working together. AA's in New York, Akron

and Cleveland were having their problems and down in Texas they were having trouble of their own.

Searcy said that after many calls and letters, to Bill, about the problems of "AA clubs" and the money problems that that caused, Bill came and met with a few original AA's from all over Texas in Lubbock. There, Bill handed Searcy some handwritten notes on a piece of paper and asked Searcy to look them over.

Searcy looked them over and said "Well, Bill, we don't need this down here. We love each other. Oh how we love each other." Later when Searcy gave an interview with the Dallas inter-group He said.. "what he handed me was the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, the (very) thing that saved Alcoholics Anonymous". Later at the 1950 International Conference in Cleveland Dr Bob and Bill got Searcy aside and "schooled Searcy in what we needed to do to get votes to pass the Twelve Traditions, to accept them as they were written." The 8,000 - 9,000 members voted to accept them without a single dissenting vote.

What most of us don't realize today, with AA and a group offering recovery from alcoholism in most corners of the US and Canada is that AA nearly expired during the period 1944-1950 because of inner strife. Although we had the miracle breakthrough of our AA program and a chance at recovery from alcoholism for anyone who wanted it, the very act of trying to meld all those recovered alcoholics, with their inherent character defects into effective Groups nearly killed the movement; much like the Oxford groups and the Washingtonians before them.

Bill W. said in a tape transcribed Chicago February 1951 "That AA was in its adolescents and by definition it is a troubled time. We made a very sad discovery that just because you sobered up a drunk you haven't made a saint out of him by a long shot. We found that we could be bitterly resentful and we discovered that we had a much better booze cure than we thought possible. A lot of us found that we could gripe like thunder and still stay sober. We found that we were in all sorts of petty struggles for leadership and prestige. A lot of were very suspicious about the book enterprise in the hands of that fellow Wilson who has a truck backed up to Mr. Rockefeller who has all the dough. And we began to have all sorts of troubles."

Bill began with Earl T's urging to bring together the experience that him and Bob and the oldster's had learned. He wrote about the Traditions in the Grapevine one each month in 1946. But the membership was not at all impressed and as Earl T. noted "Drunks do not like to read", therefore Bill and Earl recomposed them into the short form just before the Cleveland Convention.

I know that most of you here today might believe that the Twelve Steps are the most important part of this

#### 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.

program of recovery. The fact that we are alive and sober today is testimony to the miracle of the spiritual principles that they present. What I do not want to discount, and that I have come to understand is that if Bill and Earl hadn't wrote the Traditions and the conference in 1950 hadn't adopted them for us - the very paper that the steps are written on -might not exist for us today. AA would not exist today.

In keeping with that thought I would like to quote from Bill, Grapevine 1947....'Many of us think today the main problem of AA is this: How, as a movement shall we maintain our humility-and so our unity-in the face of what the world calls a great triumph? Perhaps we need not look far afield for an answer. We need only adapt and apply to our group life those principles upon which each of us has founded his own recovery. If humility can expel the obsession to drink alcohol, then surely humility can be our antidote for that subtle wine called success.

I would like us all to think back to the few (and I hope) problem times that I know many of us have had in our home groups. Like the quarrels over money, property and prestige that Bill was trying to address with the 12 traditions. If we didn't have the spiritual tools that the twelve traditions are, we as autonomous Groups, probably wouldn't have been able to overcome those uncomfortable situations. We should always first consider the employment of the 12 Traditions a powerful and unique spiritual tool for working and growing together now and into our future.

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Pre Conference Presentation  
March 18, 2006  
**“Revised Pamphlet AA for the Native North American”**

The idea for a Native American pamphlet began in August, 1987 at a Trustees' Literature committee meeting. There were conference members who felt this was an appropriate time to develop this piece of literature. Committee members reported research about demographics, linguistics, culture, language and literacy problems with the Native American. A subcommittee was appointed to work on the development of a pamphlet.

Two of the committee members traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. After that meeting, the following Native American groups were chosen for representation in our AA literature: **Alaska Native; Vancouver Urban Indian; Canadian Native, such as Cree; Chippewa; Iroquois; Mohawk and Oneida.** The committee decided that this was a sample representation of Native North Americans.

In January, 1988 the committee felt they had the stories they needed for publication. The first draft was sent to consultants who worked with native populations, and to Native American Indians. The committee discussed the cover, and agreed that any symbols should be universally accepted amongst all Indian populations.

In 1989 the pamphlet “AA for the Native North American” was published, with various tribes represented: **Sioux; Blackfoot; Oneida; Arapaho; Mohawk; Salish; Navajo; Assiniboine; Gros Ventre; Mic Mac; Acoma; Athabaskan; Ponca; Cherokee; Montagnais.**

At the August 3, 2003 General Service Board Executive Session, a presentation was given on Native Americans in AA, and the NAIGSO (Native American Indian General Service Office). On September 11, 2003 the

***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.*  
*From the December 2002 Grapevine. Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

committee sent the following questions to all regional trustees asking that they gather the following information:

1. What are the approximate number of Native reservations within your area, and how many AA groups are on these reservations?
2. How many of these active groups are registered at the General Service Office?
3. Are there Native American populations not on reservations within your area that attend regular AA groups?
4. What work is being done to welcome Native American groups and populations into your area and district service structure?
5. Are any other Twelve Step activities of significance in your Native American population that you can share?

**Current Information:**

General Service estimates that there are now three hundred active Native American groups. In January, 2003 Area 08 sent a letter to New York GSO to see if the Literature Committee would consider creating a booklet of Native American stories, as an expansion of the pamphlet that already existed. The request cam from the Remote Nations Committee, whose purpose is to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic on the reservation. They were witnessing an alcoholism rate of 98% on one of their local reservations. In a letter to GSO, they wrote: Reflecting on the inadequacy of the current pamphlet...the could cover a cross section of recovery experiences. We must mind that...in many areas of our conference structure the Native members are not represented, and compiling stories may not be The San Diego – Imperial Area feels strongly about this booklet published.

<p style="text-align: center;">Send contributions to:  <b>Central California Area 93</b>  <b>PMB # 140</b>  <b>606 Alamo Pintado, # 3</b>  <b>Solvang, CA 93463</b></p>
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booklet  
keep in  
American  
too easy.  
being

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basics borrowed from  
Ethics & Philosophy 101

**The soul and the spirit are synonyms**

**by Spiritual not Religious** (Bill W. indicated)

that **we deal with the physical reality of the soul.**

**The physical reality of the soul is the power of choice**

**of right and wrong that is natural in mankind as a social animal.**

**This Moral Intuition is obscured in the practicing alcoholic.**  
(we no longer have the power of choice)

**Our Spiritual path is to restore the alcoholic to the power of choice,**

**volition, or free agency, where the alcoholic may choose to follow a religious path or not.**

**The Religious, sometimes called the metaphysical soul has many paths and descriptions and is to vast for the scope of our fellowship.**

Many groups open and close with a prayer of choice we leave this to the autonomy of the group, and often the individual opening or closing the meeting including such prayers or lack thereof by agnostics and atheists who also have expressed the desire to be sober.

**We welcome many diverse religious groups to apply their spiritual principles without the promotion of dogmas. We have found that these spritual truths are consistent in all religions, as all require at the foot of their paths, the free agency of the neophyte.**

Yours Truly

-MG- GSR Palmdale Group dist 7 area 93

something like that with perhaps more specifics in Bills words

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## AGENDA

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING – Sunday April 9, 2006  
Goleta Valley Community Center  
5679 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA

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 February 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.
- 3.

**New Items:**

1. Area Inventory – Update
2. FORO – Update
3. Old Timers Event – Update
- 4.
- 5.

***Assembly to Date:***

Written Bids for November Assembly

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

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

Upcoming Events: Regional Forum, Seattle, WA June 23-24

1:00 p.m. Adjourn – Responsibility Declaration

## **Area 93 Officers**

**DELEGATE:** Vicki B. cell 805-565-2019 – [delegate@aaarea93.org](mailto:delegate@aaarea93.org)  
**ALTERNATE DELEGATE:** – Debbie J. – 818-703-8219 – [alt-delegate@aaarea93.org](mailto:alt-delegate@aaarea93.org)  
**CHAIRMAN:** Alberto E. – 818-430-1268 - [chairman@aaarea93.org](mailto:chairman@aaarea93.org)  
**SECRETARY:** Jess A. – 818-988-5691 – [secretary@aaarea93.org](mailto:secretary@aaarea93.org)  
**TREASURER:** Ken S. - 805-444-0148 – [treasurer@aaarea93.org](mailto:treasurer@aaarea93.org)  
**REGISTRAR:** Peggy D. – 661-940-0606 – [registrar@aaarea93.org](mailto:registrar@aaarea93.org)

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

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:** Val H. - 661-943-6686 – [archives@aaarea93.org](mailto:archives@aaarea93.org)  
**LITERATURE, AUDIO VISUAL, & NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** Robert H. – 661-949-9658  
[literatureaudionews@aaarea93.org](mailto:literatureaudionews@aaarea93.org)  
**NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE:** Stephanie S. – 661-273-5575 – [93news@aaarea93.org](mailto:93news@aaarea93.org)  
**AUDIO-VISUAL SUBCOMMITTEE:** John R.- 805-452-8589 – [audio@aaarea93.org](mailto:audio@aaarea93.org)  
**CPC & TREATMENT COMMITTEE:** Art G. – 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:** vacant – [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  
[pineedsweb@aaarea93.org](mailto:pineedsweb@aaarea93.org)  
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**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@tclairnc.com](mailto:joe@tclairnc.com)

## **Pacific Regional Trustee**

Phyllis H.

## **Appointed Committee Member, Trustee's Literature Committee**

Ray R. – 818-845-5603 – [wordsong2@aol.com](mailto:wordsong2@aol.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

Date	Name of Event & Info	Who should attend	Location and/or Comments
April 9, 2006	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs, & Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
Apr. 22 & 23, 2006	33 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Golden Empire Round Up	Everyone	Rabobank Convention Center 1001 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA
April 28 – 30, 2006	SoCalH&I Conference P. O. Box 2593 Seal Beach, CA 90740 714-926-9573	Everyone	Double Tree Hotel 100 The City Drive Orange, CA 92868 1-800-222-TREE
May 20, 2006 Noon – 7pm	Area 93 Archives Open House	Everyone	3031 West 5 <sup>th</sup> St. Oxnard, CA
May 21, 2006	Area Assembly Hosted by Gold Coast	Everyone	Performing Arts & Conv. Ctr 800 Hobson Way Oxnard, CA 93030
May 21, 2006 After Assembly @ 7 pm	Area 93 Archives Open House	Everyone Contact Archives Chair for more information.	3031 West 5 <sup>th</sup> St. Oxnard, CA
June 23, 24 & 25, 2006	2006 Pacific Regional Forum P. O. Box 459 New York, NY 10163 <i>pre-registration encouraged</i>	Everyone  <b>There is no registration fee</b>	Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport 18740 International Blvd Seattle, WA 98188 206-246-8600
June 10, 2006	Budget setting meeting	Area Officers, Committee & Subcommittee Chairs	Camarillo
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	Evryone	Hart Park Santa Clarita
Oct. 15, 2006	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs, & Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
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

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