

93 News

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"Basics of Our Home Group—Recovery, Unity and Service"

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

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The 93 News received almost half of the presentations from the workshop held in March. Thank you all for your participation. The workshop agenda is attached with the presentation after its subject and presenter. **Presenters – THANK YOU!!**

Yours in service

Stephanie S., 93 News

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2005 General Service Conference Theme "Basics of Our Home Group- Recovery, Unity, Service"

Saturday March 19th

8:30 Sign-in, Donuts & Coffee

9:00 Opening Remarks:

Debbie J.

Eva S.

Vicki B.

9:30 Panel One – Conference Theme Presentations – ‘RECOVERY’

1. "How It Works" in our Home Group
Martin R. , Dist 6

2. Carrying the Message Though Practicing the Principles in
Our Daily Lives-Mark V., Dist 17

My topic is "Carrying the Message Through practicing the Principles in Our Daily Lives." What a mouthful! What that brings up for me is "practice what you preach." Or as one of my old-timer friends says, "your actions speak so loud I can't hear a word you're saying."

For me "carrying the message" has meant service. Through all the years I've been in AA I've heard about sober alcoholics who are encouraged to be of service by a sponsor or an old-timer. This can be making coffee or setting up chairs at your home group, speaking at a meeting or participating in the GSO. Of course the main service that's urged in the fellowship is reaching out to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Carrying the message to alcoholics is the twelfth step and is supposedly after "having had a spiritual awakening." There is one place where the twelfth step can be practiced by everyone, from

the first day shaker to the AA veteran, and that is the AA meeting. The heart of any meeting is carrying the message

Service is encouraged in AA because when we're doing something for others we're not thinking about ourselves and our problems. It's that simple. Service is carrying the message that we're able to take a moment away from our grand pursuits and achievements to give back to others. That's what we're doing in GSO because we're not getting the adulation that is associated with some celebrity charity organizations. So we have to be here for the service. Carrying the message and service are the only things that can save us and allow us to nurture a serene and spiritual life.

Near my home is an old AA club called Radford Hall. I have heard many people share how when they were newcomers, they were sentenced, by their sponsors, to wash the coffee cups at the original Radford Hall. After getting over the initial resentment at being assigned such a menial task they started to feel joy in the service they were providing. I think this is the journey that most of us have taken. After practicing the alcoholic lifestyle of taking and taking some more we're overjoyed to find that we can slow down and start giving back and become a valued person amongst our friends and family.

Also we hear that AA is a program of attraction not promotion. Sometimes we would like to promote to the practicing alcoholic. Sometimes we want to preach but it doesn't work. I tried to get my Father out of the bar, I poured out my mother's booze but nothing changed. We can only wait here in fellowship, working on our own lives, doing our best to be an example to the drunk who might want to get what we have. Practicing the AA principles is best way to share sobriety with a newcomer because people don't want a lecture on getting better, they want our examples of strength and joy to give them hope.

My late sponsor Toby Brown was a great example to me. After so many years in the drinking game he was grateful to have a peaceful and happy family life. He encouraged people not to rush through sobriety; he called it "Slowbriety."

All of this is the day-to-day of what we do as members of Alcoholic Anonymous. The greater carrying the message is the effect we have on our friends, family, workmates and the world around us. After several months or years in the program people in our lives see a change in us whether or not we see it ourselves.

We used to hear things like, "I think we should get a divorce." Now we hear, "I'm so glad we're together." We used to hear, "you're fired." Now we hear, "you're my best employee." We used to hear; "you can't come over to our house anymore." Now we hear, "can you watch our kids tonight?"

The results of an honest program are a new patience, calmness and an ability to deal with difficult situations. Most people who knew us before we got sober now see us as trustworthy and caring people.

This is not to say we are perfect. As the book says we still have to face "life on life's terms." I would rather face life's terms sober!

Near the beginning of Chapter 7 in our Big Book it says: "Life will take on a new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends-this is an experience you must not miss." I don't want to miss a thing.

Open Microphone Discussions

10:00 Panel Two – Conference Theme Presentations – 'UNITY'

1. Love and Tolerance of Others Is our Code (Alcoholics Anonymous, pg 84)

John M, Dst 22

I have been asked to speak about Unity as it relates to the Home Group and specifically the idea as presented in Step 10, "Love & Tolerance of Others is Our Code."

Unity is the idea of oneness, a condition of harmony, or continuity of purpose and action. At our Home Groups I hope we all try to share the message of AA to everyone who walks through the door. Doing so will help to maintain the long-term life of our fellowship and the integrity of our message. In Step 10 we, "Continue to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."

In the discussion of this step we are reminded, “We vigorously commenced this way of living as we cleaned up the past. We have entered the world of the Spirit. Our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness. This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime. Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. We discuss them with someone immediately and make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code.”

At our Home Groups and in our fellowship as a whole the idea of love can be expressed as affection arising out of kinship, personal ties, or common interest. Tolerance as indulgence for beliefs differing from one's own defines in part the basis for this talk. Of course for us as members of AA both love and tolerance, go much further. During a talk at our 1996 Conference Pam R. reminds us, “I am struck by the great diversity of people we have drawn into the fold through the evolution of AA. This is truly our success story and our message; that all who arrive at our doors are welcome, regardless of age, lifestyle, race, culture, gender or background.” She goes on to remind us of Bill's comment, “Alcoholics are ... true anarchists at heart.” Pam continues, “What do we do with the rebel, the anarchist, or the disruptive one? A suggestion might be to invite them out for coffee after the meeting, for this is often the person in greatest need of acceptance and a sense of belonging. It's far more productive to make the individual feel a part of the group rather than apart from the group. Sometimes it takes awhile to understand the group concept. This is where love and tolerance come in. I once asked my service sponsor what to do with a member I referred to as a ‘whirling dervish.’ She said, ‘let him whirl.’”

Unity and Love & Tolerance of Others are so intertwined that searching for one continuously leads to the other. Our 1997 Conference Report discussion about a Workshop: Spirituality – Our Foundation reminds us, “While we uphold the individual rights of every AA member, we know that without unity the fellowship cannot survive. Beginning in the home group, and at all other levels of AA service, unity flourishes in direct proportion to increasing understanding and application of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Loss of unity in Alcoholics Anonymous could mean that the many, many suffering alcoholics still looking for us would not have the chance for a wonderful new life of sobriety.

Discussion of the workshop also included the topic Serving With Love. “Alcoholics Anonymous is a society in action, and we have to carry the message in order to live. To grow in our capacity to be loving and open does, of course, mean continual work on our selves through the steps. We need to constantly work on being courteous and tolerant of others, identifying not comparing, and being honestly aware that we are often wrong about things. Every time we make an honest effort in these areas, we grow in our understanding of what love for our fellow AA members really means.

Another look at tolerance is described by Dr. Bob in a “Grapevine” article from 1944. He writes, “I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance, we might tend to become a bit smug or superior – which, of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help. No one of us wishes to do anything that might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another.”

As we participate at our Home Groups let us remember all of what is said by human beings in AA is filtered through our personal experience. As many people as there are, are the number of messages being carried our continued Love & Service will help us all together to maintain the message of our fellowship.

Thank you all for allowing me to be of service.

2. The Basket- Where Money & Spirituality Mix
Scott B, Dist 52

In Alcoholics Anonymous we have traditions which are a result of past experience. In tradition six we are reminded that issues of money property and prestige divert us from our

primary purpose of reaching out to the alcoholic who still suffers. In tradition seven we are reminded that be being fully self supporting from our own contributions that we are protected from outside influences.

In the beginning our founder Bill W felt that the only way the fellowship could survive financially was through outside financial help, however one of the fellowships early supporters John D Rockefeller said, "Money will spoil this thing". After this the members saw the truth in what would happen by accepting outside donations, and the seventh tradition was born.

The basket is how we support ourselves, and is used to gather our personal contributions. Uses of the seventh tradition moneys include overall support of AA services and AA General Service Structure. Some may ask what these entities use this money/contribution for. The General Service Office in New York which functions as a storehouse of AA information, communicating with members and groups around the world, publishes literature, supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in AA. One of the services GSO provides which is very near and dear to me is Loners and Internationalist Meeting (LIM), which provides a mechanism for people who cannot attend AA meetings to keep contact with other alcoholics and participating in a bi-monthly meeting in print which includes contact information for other alcoholics

The area committee coordinates vital AA activities over a broad geographic area, sends the Delegate to the annual General Service Conference, holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the fellowship and provides information at all levels of service. The District communicates directly with groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies and serving as a link between the Delegate and the G.S.R. s. Additionally the Area and District provide public information and cooperation with the professional community activities.

The Intergroup is a local area entity providing meeting schedules, phone service for twelfth step calls and other inquiries, provide literature sales, and institutions work.

At the group level the money is used for items such as refreshments and rent, as sober alcoholics we insist on paying our way always. During my research on this topic I spoke with several other members. One member said "giving money or my time is a way to show gratitude and to give back that which was given to me. Money is just one of the tools God (my higher power) uses to help us help each other". While a friend living overseas talked about how when he and another alcoholic set up meetings in Baguio City, Pilipinas, and Yokohama, Japan that GSO sent them a meeting starter kit free of charge which included books, literature, the Box 459 and other conference approved helpful information on carrying the message.

In closing for me paying my way in AA and the seventh tradition are important as when I was drinking I always relied on others for everything, now I have to be responsible for me, which is what spirituality is about for me.

3. The Spiritual Principle of our Twelfth Tradition

Bill P, G&P Chair

Tradition Twelve is perhaps the best known and perhaps the least understood tradition.

" The twelfth tradition in the long form is "And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all. "

The twelfth tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous in the short form is "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." The practice of the 12 traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous will preserve the very existence of Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that the desire to drink has been removed from us miraculously, but to maintain our sobriety we use the Twelve Steps and we do what those steps suggest. So to maintain Alcoholics Anonymous we use the Twelve Traditions and we do what they suggest.

In the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, anonymity was practiced for members feared that just being known to attend A.A. meetings, would negatively affect them and their families. This is often the case today. As A.A. grew, some members were so delighted with their new lives that they broke their anonymity. Bill Wilson also broke his anonymity. It was soon realized that these breaks in anonymity were very dangerous to the continued existence of A.A. Bill wrote "We simply could not afford to take the chance of letting self-appointed members to present themselves as messiahs representing A.A. before the whole public. The promoter instinct in us might be our undoing. If even one such person got publicly drunk or was lured into using A.A.'s name for his own purposes, the damage might be irreparable. At this altitude (press, radio, films, and television), anonymity – 100 percent anonymity -- was the only possible answer. Here principles would have to come before personalities, without exception."

Humility is a spiritual concept and anonymity is true humility at work; it requires sacrifice. As the danger to AA was realized if anonymity was not maintained, it would require personal sacrifice of our individual personalities. Personality is that which distinguishes individuals or groups from one another. A principle is a code of conduct. In the Twelve Traditions Illustrated, anonymity is defined as not taking credit for our own or other's recovery. Recovery has not been for us an individual accomplishment. Therefore the spirituality of the principle of anonymity must come before the desires of individuals or groups. All of the Twelve Traditions ask for sacrifice for the greater good, that of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Open Microphone Discussions

10:45 Panel Three-Conference Theme Presentations- "SERVICE"

1. Concept One- Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority
Fernando B, Dist 3
2. Concept Five -Minority Opinion-Are We Listening?
Amanda, Dist 15
3. Leadership- Responsibility of AA's Future- Concept Nine
Jason C, Dist 16

Open Microphone Discusssion

11:45 Trustees Presentation- Conference Agenda Item-Joe V

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Panel Four- Conference Agenda Items- Pamphlet "The A.A. Group"

1. How does your home group use the pamphlet "The AA Group"?
Dave B, Dist 24
2. What parts of the pamphlet should not be changed/parts that should remain untouched?
Laura C, Dist 17

Based on the many speakers heard at PRASSA, talking with members of the fellowship, listening and watching many group dynamics at various meetings, and noting the principles of the 12 traditions, the assessment of the parts of THE AA GROUP pamphlet that should NOT be changed/parts that should remain untouched are as follows:

Pages 11 & 12 – The AA group- the final voice of the fellowship clearly states the importance of the AA group and how “the entire structure of AA depends upon the participation and conscience of the individual groups”.

Bill W is quoted on page 11 in the 3rd paragraph saying that, “we obey [the 12 Traditions] willingly because we ought to and because we want to. Perhaps the secret of their power lies in the fact that these life-giving communications spring out of living experience and are rooted in love.” On page 12, the last sentence is part of another quote from Bill W. saying that, “It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.”

The importance of these 2 pages is significant to the basic premise of how AA works, one alcoholic talking to another, which is what an AA group provides to alcoholics on a regular basis.

On Page 23, the section titled, What trusted servants (officers) do we need?, paragraphs, 1 and 3 should remain untouched given that in paragraph 1 Traditions 9 and 2 are applied to what the role a person has being of service to the group represents. It reads,

“It takes people to get group jobs done. Most of us agree that AA ought never be “organized.” However, without endangering our commitment to preserve our spiritual and democratic Fellowship, we can “create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” (Tradition 9) In AA groups, these trusted servants are called “officers” and usually are chosen by the group for limited terms of service. As Tradition 2 reminds us, “Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

In paragraph 3 clarifying that “titles in AA do not bring authority or honor” but rather “describe services and responsibilities” is a reminder to all that being of service is not intended to be an ego trip for the individual suiting up and showing up.

Honoring the traditions at the group level, when being of service, is crucial to one’s own recovery and to the welfare of the group as a whole. This is a cornerstone to practicing the principles in all our affairs.

Page 39 titled, How the AA group relates to AA as a whole gives an overview to explain what the General Service Office is and how it fulfills AA’s primary purpose with a concise reference to its beginnings. It also has a chart showing the structure of the fellowship. It opens with Tradition 1 and should not be changed.

“Tradition 1: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity. What is the General Service Office?

The General Service Office is a repository for AA’s shared experience and know-how. It fulfills our primary purpose by: (1) providing service, information and experience to groups worldwide; (2) publishing literature; (3) supporting the activities of the General Service Board of AA; and (4) carrying forward recommendations of the General Service Conference.

GSO’s history dates back to 1938, when the about-to-be-published book, Alcoholics Anonymous, provided a name for the small society known only as the Alcoholic Foundation. The foundation’s rapidly expanding office soon served as the focal point for questions about AA from around the world, and in time became the General Service Office as we know it today.

The former Alcoholic Foundation is now called the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Its trustees, alcoholic and nonalcoholic alike, and directors are entrusted with the supervision of the two service agencies – AA World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc – and are the custodians of funds contributed by the groups.”

Understanding the dynamics of how AA has evolved and how it continues to function is of the up most importance in assuring the continuance of the fellowship.

Pages 52-59 contain the short forms of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, the long form of the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts for World Service and should remain in tact.

3. What additions to the pamphlet would you recommend?

Ann K., Dist 11

4. What would you recommend be removed from the pamphlet?

Roy F., Dist 12

As for what I would recommend to be removed from the pamphlet "The AA Group," I found very little that could or should be removed. There are a couple of places that information is repeated, but on a whole, I think the pamphlet is very informative and lays out a good amount of information that AA groups can and should use. I don't think I'd remove anything from the pamphlet.

Thank you.

Roundtable Discussions

*Roundtable Reports & Open Microphone
Discussions*

2:30 Panel Five – Conference Agenda Items

1. Possible Revision to the Forward of the 12 and 12

Lisa P-Dist 1

It is an honor and my privilege to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as GSR and Accessibilities Chair for District #1.

The purpose of this presentation is to inform you and to help you understand the history and chronology of events leading to the proposal to add an INTRODUCTION to the Forward of the 12 x 12.

Its purpose is also to give you the verbiage that the Conference Committee on Literature is proposing so that you are clear on what they're trying to accomplish and why that you may voice INFORMED opinions on this issue.

In the years prior to 2002 there were enough opinions, concerns and complaints expressed about the antiquated TEXT of the 12 x 12 that the Committee felt compelled by the numbers to consider the wisdom and the possibility of altering the TEXT of the 12 x 12...

It was, however, decided after careful deliberation at the 2002 General Service Conference that the TEXT of the 12 x 12 be preserved in its original form out of respect and reverence for Bill Wilson, deference to the Fellowship's feelings and a desire to preserve the integrity of the Message and the Program of AA, but that some other alternative and effective action needed to be taken...

In 2003...

It was recommended that: A draft INTRODUCTION be ADDED to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Please Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to EXPLAIN the language in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and would include the following information:

- **Time and Era of the Publication**
- **Language as a reflection of time period**
- **Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action**

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific language, idioms, and historical figures or events from AA members, newcomers and non-alcoholics."

Then in 2004 the Conference Committee on Literature Additional Consideration perceived that there was enough merit to go forward with the proposed Introduction.

After lengthy discussion, the committee requested that the Publications Department rewrite the draft of the proposed Introduction.

This rewritten draft was then presented to the Trustees' Literature Committee on January 29, 2005. Here is an excerpt from the minutes:

"The committee reviewed the revised text presented by the Publications Department and agreed to forward the revision to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration."

Here now is the ACTUAL proposed revised text to the INTRODUCTION from the Publications Department:

(DRAFT COPY REVISED 2/1/05 FROM THE PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT)

"Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to

share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references within the book to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and “it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book ‘Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,’ written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writings be retained as originally published.”

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.

(There are some copies along with a copy of the Forward of the 12 x 12, if helpful, at your tables, please read with me as I read it aloud.)

READ THE INTRODUCTION

... and, if time permits, wrap it up/end with personal opinion and thanx...

or... in the interest of time I am reserving my comments and opinions. Thank you for letting me be of service!

2. Possible revisions to the pamphlet "Too Young"?

Danny G-Dist 8

*Roundtable Discussions
Roundtable Reports & Open Microphone
Discussions*

3:30 Panel Six – Conference Agenda Items

1. Self-Support- do we understand how the money contributed is to be used and whom do we support- Debra S. -Dist 10`

2. Trustees Public Information committee regarding Web Site
Helen A, Dist 23

It is my job to inform you about the information from the annual report of this committee regarding the web site. There are a lot of amazing new updates on G.S.O’s web site and I encourage all of you to go home after this weekend and take a look at it.

The Process:

The A.A.W.S. Services Committee reviews reports from the Intra-office committee on G.S.O.’s A.A web site and forwards suggested changes to the A.A.W.S. Board when appropriate.

Here is what has been happening!

The Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous was added to the web site in January 2004

The pamphlet “The A.A. Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print” was added to the G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site. This is such a big deal, we now have access to tons of archives that can help in any research our members need.

The Services Committee recommended that “The A.A. Group” pamphlet be placed on G.S.O.’s AA Web Site. This motion was approved.

The Board Approved adding the list of General Services Offices, Central Offices, Intergroups, and Answering Services Overseas to the “Contact Local A.A.” section of the web site.

The Board agreed to forward information on the option of providing an anonymity protected, time delayed video transmission of the Flag Ceremony at the 2005 International Convention to the 2005 Convention Coordinator for consideration.

The Board approved the addition of the A.A. service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service to the web site.

Now that was all that has happened and here is what has been decided:

During 2004 the following request were addressed by the Intra-Office Web site Committee on G.S.O.'s A.A. web site and reported to the A.A.W.S. Services Committee:

No action was taken on the request from an A.A. member to add G.S.O.'s telephone number to the street address, which appears on our web site. The committee noted that there were communication mechanisms already in place on our web site, and that G.S.O. encourages communication with local General Service structures or with local A.A. Central Offices and intergroups.

The Intra-Office Committee on G.S.O's A.A. Web site considered a request from an A.A. member to include the service piece "Fellowships Similar to A.A." on the web site and agreed to take no action. The committee felt that posting this list on the web site may give the appearance of a directory for other fellowships, creating questions or expectations beyond its original intent.

The following projects are under development:

Audio Project which the archives department is currently reviewing audio material from A.A.'s early history, for posting in the Archives section on the web site.

Request to the Trustee's committees for sharing on how G.S.O.'s A.A. web site can be helpful to their committees.

Being that a majority of or world is hooked up to the Web it is important that we pay close attention to these web sites. The web sites are how we pass on the message.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

*Roundtable Discussions
Roundtable Reports & Open Microphone
Discussions*

4:30 Announcements & Adjournment

5:30 # DINNER- prepaid&reserved

Sunday March 20th

8:30 Registration

9:00 Panel Seven – Conference Workshop Presentations - Do I Carry the AA Message or my own?

1. How do I define "the A.A. message"? Where do I find the "A.A. Message"
Nonna, DCM Dist 7
2. How do I make newcomers aware of A.A.'s literature?
3. How do I carry the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic through my home group?
Hardy -Dist 28

As with every A.A. request for service, I have always said "yes". So when Debby asked if I would give a five-minute presentation, of course, I said "yes". When subsequent e-mails informed me of a dress code and the presentation should be in writing, I thought, a Pacific group meeting. So for those of you who don't know me (and it's almost all of you since the first assembly) I live in Levi's and T-shirts, and I haven't put anything in writing since the turn of the millennium. I shared with my sponsor that they want me to dress up and put my talk in writing. He asked me what I was going to do? So this is "me" dressed up, and I put it in writing. But they foolishly forgot to request that I not swear like a sailor. (Maniacal laughter)

And that gets me to my topic. How I carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic through my home group.

From A.A. General service conference approved literature,

A newcomer asked... such questions as:

- 1. Am I an alcoholic?*
- 2. What is Alcoholics Anonymous?*
- 3. What happens in a meeting?*
- 4. How can this help me with my drinking problem?*
- 5. Why do A.A.'s keep going to meetings after they are cured?*

I like the last one the best. There were others, but you get the idea. When a newcomer asked such questions to me, it's almost impossible for me to transmit the AA message without intertwining it with my own personal experience. Which in some way makes it part my message, part my sponsor's message, part of what I've learned from the long timers, and what I learned from visitors from outside the area. All of these combined make up parts of my sobriety today.

I can't tell them that they are alcoholics. But I can tell them that I am an alcoholic, and the trouble it has caused in my life. I can tell them what Alcoholics Anonymous is about – the fellowship of men and women who lost their ability to control our drinking, and here found a way to live a life without alcohol. But then again, blended with my own experience, that I have tried many other ways to get sober for a long time. And I'm sure other ways work. But for this alcoholic, A.A. is the only one that has worked for me. I can tell them what happens at meetings, and by talking about what drinking did to our lives, "What it was like". How our lives change when we stop drinking, and what we did. "What happened"? And how we are living life today, free from the bondage of alcohol. "What it's like now", and talking about it helps keep us sober.

Are we ever cured? Oh how I wish. We at A.A. have surrendered. We can never return to normal drinking. To stay away from that first drink depends on our maintaining physical, mental and spiritual health. We achieve this best by continuing to go to meetings, to remind us that we are alcoholics and will always be alcoholics.

How do I carry the message to the newcomer? I try to greet them without overwhelming them. I prefer the attraction rather than promotion approach, by letting them know that this is where I got help for my drinking problem. I make sure they have a schedule of meetings, a few pamphlets, my telephone number and of course the big book. To the returning newcomer, the fact that I am still there speaks volumes. I was sober for a year in 91 and then went out. I returned in 96. Seeing the same people that I saw in 91 had a tremendous influence on my sobriety. It showed me that it was possible for people to really stay sober for multiple years one day at a time.

In some ways you don't know you helped until someone tells you. I was asked to speak a couple of weeks ago. I had the privilege of being the Evening Speaker. After my spiel, someone who'd been around for less time than I, shared with me that it was my laughter, (and I have a very distinct laugh) which brought him to the A.A. He would be walking past our clubhouse on the way to the liquor store. We would be on the balcony of our meeting hall, laughing and enjoying ourselves. He couldn't stand the laughter and was very upset with us being so happy. Out of curiosity, he had to come up to see what was going on. It was not a question if he was an alcoholic; he certainly knew he was. He just didn't think that Alcoholics Anonymous could help him. He also had tried everything else. Today, you can hear his laughter coming from the balcony, and hopefully some other newcomer will come meandering by and wonder what the hell's going on up there. Why are all those people so happy and come to see for themselves what's going on, and become part of a miracle.

- 4. How do I carry the AA message at the district level, area, General Service Conference, intergroup/central office and through the AA Grapevine/LaVina?
Melvin, Dist. 4

Open Microphone Discussions

10:00 Closing Remarks

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**JOB OPPORTUNITY
GREAT PART TIME WORK
INTERPRETOR (English to Spanish)**

Only One to Two Days Per Month
(Week Ends)
Salary Plus Mileage
Send Your Resume to: Alberto E.
Chairman@aaarea93.org

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PRAASA 2006

The PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee will be meeting on **2nd Saturdays at the Ventura Central Office; 321 Aviator St.; Camarillo, CA 93010.** The meetings will **start at 10:00am.**

Area 93 is putting on the PRAASA 2006. Lets support our Area 93 and be of service to the Planning Committee.

PRAASA '06 needs an AA Meeting Committee Chairman.

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Questions and Answers about A.A.

Q. What are the Three Legacies of AA?

A. *These are derived from the accumulated experience of A.A.'s earliest members that has been passed on and shared with us: (1) suggestions for Recovery—The Twelve Steps; (2) suggestions for achieving Unity—the Twelve Traditions; and (3) A.A. Service—described in The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, and A.A. Comes of Age.*

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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 p9olity 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.

A G E N D A

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING – Sunday April 17, 2005
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 / by Secretary
Reports:
Registrar Alternate Delegate
Treasurer Delegate
Chairman PRAASA 2006
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. Report regarding meeting place for ACM – Create Ad-Hoc Committee
2. Service Position of the Webmaster – More discussion
3. Area Assemblies / ACMs – 4 per year? – More discussion
- 4.
- 5.

New Items:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Assembly to Date:

FORO Report
PRAASA '06 Report

- 12:30 p.m. **Open Sharing**
12:45 p.m. Announcements for the good and welfare
Upcoming Events: May 15 Area Assembly in Sylmar, CA
1:00 p.m. Adjourn – Responsibility Declaration

Area 93 Officers

DELEGATE: Vicki B. cell 805-565-2019 – delegate@aaarea93.org
ALTERNATE DELEGATE: – Debbie J. – 818-344-8798 – alt-delegate@aaarea93.org
CHAIRMAN: Alberto E. – 818-430-1268 - chairman@aaarea93.org
SECRETARY: Jess A. – 818-988-5691 – secretary@aaarea93.org
TREASURER: Ken S. - 805-444-0148 – treasurer@aaarea93.org
REGISTRAR: Peggy D. – 661-940-0606 – registrar@aaarea93.org

Area 93 Committee Chairs & Subcommittee Chairs

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Val H. - 661-943-6686 – archives@aaarea93.org
LITERATURE, AUDIO VISUAL, & NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Robert H. – 661-949-9658
literatureaudionews@aaarea93.org
NEWSLETTER SUBCOMMITTEE: Stephanie S. – 661-273-5575 – 93news@aaarea93.org
AUDIO-VISUAL SUBCOMMITTEE: John R.- 805-452-5391 – audio@aaarea93.org
CPC & TREATMENT COMMITTEE: Art G. – 805-208-5391 – cpc@aaarea93.org
FINANCE COMMITTEE: Sharon G. – 661-917-4018 – finance@aaarea93.org
GRAPEVINE & LA VINA COMMITTEE: Armando L.. – grapevine@aaarea93.org
GUIDELINES & POLICY COMMITTEE: Bill P. – 818-706-1842 – gap@aaarea93.org
PUBLIC INFORMATION, SPECIAL NEEDS & WEB SITE COMMITTEE: – Laurie O'H. – 805-688-7347
pineedsweb@aaarea93.org
WEB SITE SUBCOMMITTEE: David W. – 818-342-1473– webmaster@aaarea93.org
SPECIAL NEEDS SUBCOMMITTEE: Victor O. – 661-674-6985 – vicroscoe@hotmail.com
TRANSLATION COMMITTEE: Antonio L. – 661-945-0512 – translation@aaarea93.org
REGISTRATION COMMITTEE: JohnMichael G. – 661-400-2007 – registration@aaarea93.org
ARCHIVIST: Mike S. – 805-988-6860 – mikekaxa@yahoo.com

Past Delegates

Jeanine R. – Panel 53 (2003-2004) – 805-735-2173 – jtriosaa@msn.com
Al H. – Panel 37 (1987-1988), SoCal 05 – 661-366-4592 – 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

Pacific Regional Trustee

Phyllis A. H. – 360-705-2225 – phyllishalliday@attbi.com

Appointed Committee Member, Trustee's Literature Committee

Ray R. – 818-845-5603 – 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 17, 2005	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs Area Officers	Goleta
April 23 – 24, 2005	32 nd Annual Golden Empire Round Up	Everyone	Bakersfield Convention Center 1001 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA
April 29 – May 1, 2005	Hospital & Institutional Conference	Anyone interested in H&I	Double Tree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County 100 The City Drive Orange, CA 92868 1-800-222-TREE
April 30, 2005 8:00am-noon	Dist. 28 AA Spring Workshop	Everyone	St. Patrick's Episcopal Church One Church Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
May 14, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
May 15, 2005	Area Assembly Dist 03 & 04 host	Everyone	Sylmar High School Sylmar, CA
June 2005	Budget setting meeting	Officers, Committee & Subcommittee Chairs	TBD
June 11, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
June 17 – 19, 2005	Antelope Valley Round Up	Everyone	Antelope Valley Inn Lancaster, CA
June 30 – July 3, 2005	International Convention	Everyone	Toronto, Ontario, Canada Please check the GSO web site (www.aa.org)
July 9, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
July 17, 2005	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
July 16 & 17, 2005	Tehachapi AA Round Up	Everyone	Indian Hills Ranch Campground www.tehachapiroundup.com (web site for more info)
Aug. 13, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
Aug. 21, 2005 Dist. 1 host	Area Assembly	Everyone	Warner Center Marriott 21850 Oxnard St. Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Sept. 10, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
Oct. 8, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010

October 16, 2005	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
October 21, 22 & 23, 2005	Santa Clarita Valley Convention	Everyone Convention held at the College of the Canyons	SCV Convention of AA PO Box 221236 Santa Clarita, CA 91355
Nov. 12, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
Nov. 20, 2005 Districts 10, 15, 21, & 59	Area Assembly	Everyone	Bakersfield
Dec 10, 2005 – 10:00am	PRAASA 2006 Planning Committee	Anyone interesting in helping	Ventura Central Office 321 Aviator St. Camarillo, CA 93010
December 18, 2005	Area Committee Meeting	Standing Committee & Subcomm. Chairs, DCMs, DCMCs Area Officers	5679 Hollister Ave. Goleta, CA 93117
March 2006	PRAASA 2006 Area 93 Hosts	GSRs, Area Committee Mbrs, DCMs, Area Committee Chairs, Area Officers	Warner Center Marritt 21850 Oxnard Street Woodland Hills, CA 91367 818-887-4800

Send contributions to:
Central California Area 93
PMB # 140
606 Alamo Pintado, # 3
Solvang, CA 93463

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.

More Questions and Answers about A.A.

Q. What types of A.A. meetings are held in treatment facilities?

A. *Regular A.A. Group Meetings: Some A.A. groups rent space in treatment facilities. These meetings have the advantage of making the meeting more accessible to clients in the facility. Treatment Facility A.A. meetings held in treatment facilities: Attendance is primarily limited to clients in the facility and A.A.s on a treatment facilities committee who chair the meeting and arrange for outside A.A. speakers.*

Q. Who runs halfway houses and other treatment facilities?

A. *A.A. does not provide medical and social services. As a fellowship, we are not qualified to render such aid. However, many A.A. members serve as valuable employees in hospitals and treatment facilities. There is no such thing as an "A.A. hospital" or an "A.A. halfway house"—although A.A. meetings and fellowship, sponsored by A.A. members, are available at many of these facilities.*

Q. Who runs clubhouses for A.A.s?

A. *Owning and managing real estate are not a part of the functions of an A.A. group or of combined groups. So, technically, there is no such thing as an "A.A. club." However, some members—acting as private individuals, not as A.A. members—have formed nonprofit corporations—entirely separate and apart from their A.A. groups—to maintain clubs for A.A. members and groups, who usually pay rent to the club. To avoid problems of property, money, and prestige, most groups have learned to stick to their primary purpose and leave club-running to separate corporations outside A.A. itself. Since this is so, the General Service Office does not accept contributions from clubs. (For more information, see the A.A. Guidelines on Clubs.)*

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