

Area 93 News

"We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us"

From Your Area 93 Chair:

I have to admit that until our Newsletter Editor Paula asked me to write a "Panel 59 Wrap Up" article for this edition of the newsletter, it hadn't really sunk in that we are just about at the end of this panel. Where did the time go?

As I sat observing our inventory at our last Assembly, it occurred to me that by building on the solid foundation laid by our prior panels, Area 93 has truly "come of age." The work we accomplished this panel far surpassed anything I could have imagined when we started. I think my favorite moments as Chair occurred when I dropped in on your committees and heard you enthusiastically going about your projects. Your commitment and dedication to the work touched me deeply. I could easily take up this whole article praising your collective accomplishments and giving each and every one of you a verbal "pat on the back" for a job well done.

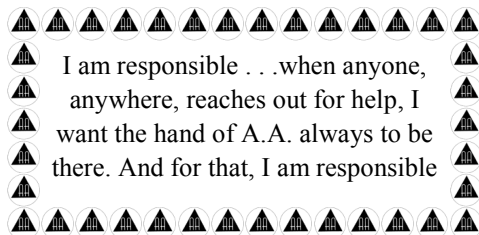
But, just as it is true that we dare not "rest on our laurels" as individual recovering members, neither can we afford to do so as an Area. After reading the Conference Report, it is obvious that some exciting and challenging times lie ahead for our fellowship. Now, possibly more than ever, the voice of each group conscience needs to be represented through their elected trusted servant, their GSR. The decisions that face us may well affect AA for years to come.

While Panel 59 made great strides in many areas, we also created some new challenges for Panel 61. Hopefully, many of you will continue on and actively participate in meeting those challenges. If you must rotate out, please make every effort to see that your group replaces you and work with your new GSR to ease the transition.

When I was newly sober, it always struck me as odd that our Fourth Tradition included the phrase, "except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." I often thought to myself, "how could my little home group ever affect "AA as a whole?" After I came to General Service, I realized that, while it may not have been the intent of Tradition Four, by sending a GSR to represent the group conscience at the District and Area level, my home group was most certainly having an affect on AA as a whole. The vital link between our home groups and the Conference must be maintained if we are to continue, individually and collectively, to carry the message of hope that was carried to each one of us.

As Panel 59 draws to a close, I think of the Responsibility Pledge, and want to thank all of you for accepting that responsibility and doing your best. Also, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this journey with you. Your example has continued to inspire me. Thank you so much for letting me be of service.

Submitted by—Sharon G., Panel 59, Area 93 Chairperson



INSIDE 93 NEWS:

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The theme for the 61st General Service Conference is: *We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us.*

I would ask each of us to meditate on this and ask ourselves: "What does this mean to me?" Most recently I had the pleasure of reading all our Grapevine survey responses. One recurring thought that made its way off the pages to me was the connection to AA in other areas, regions, and worldwide expressed by those vested in our *meeting in print*. And having had the privilege to serve you these past two years as your delegate, it has really hit home that AA is much bigger than my home group or district; I feel I have tapped into the mainstream of our movement. I absolutely feel charged with a responsibility to be sure I'm doing my part – as well as somewhat compelled to gently nudge those in my area to do their part -- to insure our future functioning. Well, isn't that a fairly abstract thought? (Especially if you are new to AA or to General Service.) So let me try to illustrate this point...

Generally, a piece of AA literature -- most certainly with pamphlets -- produced by our General Service Office (with the exception of workshop/guidelines pieces) goes through the Conference process. What does that mean? It means that after a piece is decided upon, it is reviewed, rewritten, reviewed again, considered and recommended by a Standing Committee then put to a vote by the General Service Conference. If it receives a vote of substantial unanimity it then becomes a published piece bearing the marking -- "This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature". Even our workbooks and guidelines begin with a phrase like: "The A.A. Guidelines below are compiled from the shared experience of A.A. members throughout the U.S. and Canada. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference. In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an *informed* group conscience." This indicates that great care and consideration are given to items produced, that it be in keeping with our Traditions, and represents the mainstream of A.A. experience. This process does not happen without our involvement.

Alright, let's boil it down even further. Let's say a newcomer or prospective member visits my home group. What if he/she wants additional information about A.A. or is a little too shy to ask the hard questions about whether or not they are alcoholic. I would hope we all share the same concern that whatever piece of literature he/she picks up is of the very best quality and reflects current practices in AA and accurately portrays our principles and Traditions. I used to just take for granted, and without much regard to its origin, that anything produced by AA (Conference approved) was as good as it can get. What I have learned since is members of our Fellowship, and those immersed in AA General Service, are responsible and participate in the process. That's You and Me – Us (not Us and Them)!

To boil it down as far as he could, Dr. Bob summed it up in two words: Love and Service. If we practice our basic program of recovery and are now working with other alcoholics, then I believe our natural progression would be to reach out beyond our home group and district and do our part in as much or as little as our disposition will allow. This really embodies our three legacies, Recovery, Unity and Service. AA's working together corporately, regionally and nationally, to share local experience and to preserve AA's message of hope and recovery.

Serving in Area 93 has been one of the most joyous times in my life. It didn't come all at once, but slowly and steadily. You have given depth to my sobriety that I cherish and it has benefitted those around me in my personal life. Thanks to you now -- I get it! I have most certainly been "rocketed to the fourth dimension of existence"!

If you are new to General Service – Welcome! Give us a little of your time and stick with it. Even here you will be *amazed before you're half way through*. Be sure to attend a PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) and a Pacific Regional Forum -- you will feel a 'part of' and will have exciting things to share with your home group members. The next PRAASA is held in March 2011 in Honolulu, Hawaii. And the next Pacific Regional Forum in August 2011 will be hosted by Area 93 (see Debbie J. for volunteer opportunities). Periodic announcements will be made leading up to these events and I will see you as we continue to trudge together.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as delegate these past two years. I look forward to a slightly different paced life for a while and can't wait to see what this adventure will bring me next.

Submitted by—Jeff J., Panel 59, Area 93 Delegate

As we prepare for the election of Panel 61, Area 93 Officers and Delegate, I thought it would be informative to once more take a look at how our Service Manual explains the Third Legacy Procedure. The first time I read this I was confused beyond recognition! However, the first time I saw this procedure in action, all confusion was removed.

I have been blessed to be a part of the Panel 59, Area 93 service committee and would like to take this time to thank each and every one of you that I have had the honor and privilege of serving with. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous. You truly are each an inspiration and my life will never be the same because of you!

Submitted by—Paula B., Area 93, Panel 59 Newsletter Chair

Third Legacy Procedure:

THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE

A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.

Third Legacy Procedure is as follows:

- The names of eligible candidates are posted on a board. All voting members (of the area or Conference body) cast written ballots, one choice to a ballot. The tally for each candidate is posted on the board.
- The first candidate to receive two-thirds of the total vote is elected.
- Withdrawals start after the second ballot. If any candidate has less than one-fifth of the total vote, his or her name is automatically withdrawn — except that the top two candidates must remain. (In case of ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
- After the third ballot, candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn automatically, except the two top candidates remain. (In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied runners-up remain as candidates.)
- After the fourth ballot, if no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote, the candidate with the smallest total is automatically withdrawn, except that the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for second place, the top candidate and all tied second-place candidates remain. At this point, the chairperson asks for a motion, second, and a simple majority of hands on conducting a fifth and final ballot. If this motion is defeated, balloting is over and the choice is made by lot — “going to the hat” — immediately. If the motion carries, a fifth and final ballot is conducted.
- If after the fifth ballot no election occurs, the chairperson announces that the choice will be made by lot (from the hat). At this point, the top two candidates remain. In case there are ties for first place, all tied first place candidates remain. In case there

are no ties for first place, the top candidate and any tied second-place candidates remain.

- Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one “out of the hat” is the delegate (or trustee or other officer).

1 The 1969 General Service Conference approved the change from optional to automatic withdrawal of candidates.

2. Reprinted from the A.A. Service Manual

93 News Contribution Form

93News, C.C.A.A. PMB # 140; 606 Alamo Pintado #3; Solvang, CA 93463 93news@aaarea93.org

Name _____

Address _____ Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____ Suggested donation (not required) is \$10 / 2 years to: **C.C.A.A.** to assist in the cost of printing and distributing (93 News doesn't have it's own account)

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Past Delegates

Vicki B. - Panel 55 (2005-2006) -
Jeanine R. - Panel 53 (2003-2004) -
Joe V. - Panel 47 (1997-1998), So Cal 05 -
Mary Ellen D. - Panel 43 (1993-1994), So Cal 05 -
Debbie J. - Panel 57 (2007—2008) -

CALENDAR FOR 2010

Central California Area Assembly (C.C.A.A.) Area 93

DATE:	EVENT:
January 17	Area Assembly College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita
February 20	4 Area DCM Sharing Session – includes Areas 5, 8, 9 and 93. This year it is hosted by Area 08 in La Verne, CA
February 21	ACM – All DCM, Area Committee Chairmen and Officers attend
March 5-7	PRAASA 2010 –Los Angeles—LAX Radisson Hotel
March 20-21	Pre-Conference Workshop and Area Assembly Simi Valley
March 27	Area 93 Archives Repository Anniversary
April 18	ACM – All DCM, Area Committee Chairmen and Officers attend
May 16	Area Assembly - TBD
June	Budget setting meeting
July 18	ACM – All DCM, Area Committee Chairmen and Officers attend
August 15	Area Assembly—Simi Valley
October 10	FORO—Santa Paula
October 17	ACM – All DCM, Area Committee Chairmen and Officers attend
November 20-21	Area Assembly and ELECTIONS, Camarillo
December 19	ACM – All DCM, Area Committee Chairmen and Officers attend

