

# AREA 92 NEWSLETTER

Serving the districts, home groups, and members of the Washington State East Area

**JANUARY 2005**

VOL. X, N<sup>o</sup>. 1

## 55<sup>th</sup> General Conference 2005 Theme

**T**HE THEME OF THIS YEEAR'S 55<sup>TH</sup> General Service Conference, "Basics of Our Home Group: Recovery, Unity and Service", and the Presentation/Discussion and Workshop Topics will cover the following issues:

### Recovery

- "How it Works" In Our Home Group: Carrying the Message Through Practicing the Principles in Our Daily Lives

### Unity

- Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 84)
- The Basket—Where Money and Spirituality Mix
- The Spiritual Principle of Our Twelfth Tradition

### Service

- Concept One—Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority
- Concept Five—Minority Opinion: Are We Listening?
- Leadership—Responsibility for AA's Future (Concept Nine)

### Workshop

- Do I Carry the A.A. Message or My Own?

These are wonderful basic AA topics that can be talked about and discussed throughout the Fellowship, In assemblies, districts, Inter-group's/central office gatherings, and in groups. Along with this theme, we are all aware of the vital need to keep the AA members we have and to continue to reach out to the newcomer and to welcome the new person with our love of the AA program of recovery and its spiritual principles.

Be creative and enthusiastic and it will be catching. We will concentrate on the positive and become energized again and again.



## Welcome, Howie!

The AreaTalk 92 News team is pleased to welcome our newest staff member, world-renounced Big Book Chapter Five analyst/commentator Howard "Howie" Twerx. Rarely have we seen a person like him fail!

Contributions in support of your Area 92 may be sent to:

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Bruno Moore

### My Former Boss

Hugh Jim Bissel



# Our "Singleness of Purpose" Yields Many Different Benefits

HELLO ALL,  
Well my first year is almost over and I have had that proverbial ride that I was told I would have. A lot has happened and it has been one wonderful experience. I have tried to report to you each month in the Area newsletter on the changes and news from GSO. I have tried to follow the lead of the other Delegates that came before me.

In a very short time Area 92 will begin to observe a 10 year anniversary. I think it might be fitting to have some kind of birthday party at the Assembly to celebrate those 10 years.

For those of you who attended the Forum in Portland you will know how great it was to have all those service minded folks in the same place all celebrating service in AA. Reports were wonderful, the panels were all great but I think the highlight was the closing by our Board Chair Elaine McDowell who expressed her gratitude to the fellowship for her 13 years of shared experience, strength

and hope. She talked of seeing the action of your love and service. She spoke of traveling to foreign countries and feeling the warmth and security of the fellowship wherever she went, and how the singleness of purpose stays us to the course of being there for the alcoholic like me

who needs you all helping me as we trudge this happy road.

"AA's singleness of purpose will insure that this Fellowship will not only survive over time but will continue to be that beacon of hope for alcoholics yet to come," Bernard Smith wrote. "We are a Fellowship that is not divorced from life, but one that has spiritually invigorated it and

given it meaning and in so doing, created a unity, which we here assembled intend to maintain so that the un-recovered alcoholic and the unborn alcoholic may find within our Fellowship the means of achieving sobriety and a life that can be meaningful and fulfilling."

The Forum reports will be sent to all those that attended and I will make copies for any who would like

to have a copy.

Our archivist at GSO has completed the preservation of all of the Reel-to-Reel media to digital and is moving on now to other audio formats. She has a large job ahead and is progressing first to restoring the materials that have a high degree of deterioration first.

Finance Committee reports that the net sales were 10% greater than budgeted. Contributions were 2.6 % greater than budgeted and 4% higher than last year at this time. However expenses for the year were higher than budgeted too. The AAWS finance committee is considering a literature price increase on certain items in 2005, a possible implementation of handling charges and a 10% reduction in line expenses.

PI Committee reports that the revised public Service announcement "Living in Chaos" has been viewed with the editing changes specific to the committees objections at the 2004 conference have been addressed CPC reports that the 3 ring binder for CPC is on schedule to be completed and sent to the Committees.

I am sad to announce that Elaine S., manager of support services, passed away in October she was a valuable asset at our General Service Office and GSO staff member Warren Stafford and his wife were

*(continued on page 4)*

# The Four Little Words That Can Save A Life

GREETINGS, AREA 92.  
My name is Dave and I am an alcoholic. How true those words still ring. As I approach my

16th AA birthday nothing has changed, and yet everything has changed. The thing that has not changed is that I am an alcoholic — just as much now as when I first said those words. What a great thing it was for me to find out something so simple. “My name is Dave and I am an alcoholic.”

The thing that has changed is everything. As I write this message I am sitting at home waiting for my daughters and their families to arrive and help me celebrate Christmas. A sober Christmas made possible

because not so very many years ago I said in an AA meeting, “My name is Dave and I am an alcoholic.”

Alcoholism is a deadly disease. It is primary and it is terminal. With that in mind I have to keep gratitude at the top of my list at all times.

Gratitude that my higher power led me to Alcoholics Anonymous. Grati-

tude that I still go to meetings, that I still talk to new comers, that at times I feel like a newcomer. What I mean by “feel like a newcomer” is that I

remain green. That I don’t get to the point where I have all of the answers. That I can learn from my mistakes and not drink over them. I am grateful that I can still learn from newcomers. I am always inspired by the new people in our program.

Thank you for the opportunity to express a few thoughts in this month’s newsletter. I am also grateful for the opportunity to serve WSEA 92 as a trusted servant.

I am looking forward to the next year in the area and all of the chances I will have to get together with other alcoholics.

I need each and every one of you — not only to stay sober by not picking up the next drink, but also for my emotional sobriety so I can continue to grow and serve in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you,  
Dave

“

*As I write this message I am sitting at home waiting for my daughters and their families to arrive and help me celebrate Christmas. A sober Christmas made possible because not so very many years ago I said in an AA meeting, “My name is Dave and I am an alcoholic.”*

”

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## Delegate's Notebook

involved in a serious auto accident, but they will both fully recover.

At the November board meeting, Leonard Blumenthal was unanimously elected to be our chairman, to replace Dr. Elaine McDowell.

As I have reported before part of the funds received by GSO from your 7th Tradition to the basket is used for translations; the Big Book is now available in Zulu and Latvian. The Grapevine has published the Spanish-language of Best Of Bill, the expenses, were \$72000 less than budgeted, and GV subscriptions continue to decline. In the Trustee’s report, you will find many items which might come up as Conference Agenda items for the 55th Conference. Hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year, I will be at the alcathon in Spokane.

In Love and Service,  
Mike

The Area 92 News staff would like to thank our  
HMO INSURER  
**CFICare<sup>®</sup>**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

“For little, if anything.”™

## The Area Chair



# From Where I Sit...

AS A CANADIAN, I CELEBRATED Thanksgiving a week before the October assembly. So I got to experience the assembly and write this article with that spirit of gratitude—even in spite of myself. Friday night I was frazzled because my cheat sheet for how to handle motions and all my GSR orientation kits went north with my son instead of south with me.

The beauty of this program I have found is that even through negative blips the overall unity of the groups, the opportunity to be with other members of this fellowship for the whole weekend gives me a spiritual boost that I got at my first Assembly and has carried on throughout my AA service journey.

I'm grateful that we now have a new District, 23, that will be representing home groups in Chelan and Manson. Welcome!!

I'm grateful for Stan, Richard and Bear. I'm grateful for their love of AA and their willingness to work at area level and due to a

variety of reasons they have had to step down from their respective area positions. Thank you for your service.

I'm grateful for Robin O. and look forward to working with her as the new alternate chair.

I'm grateful for Karen K and Jeff L. that were willing to be of service at the area level.

I'm grateful for the new GSR's that were willing to come to their first assembly and despite their butterflies in their stomach were willing to come to the mike and tell us whom they were representing.

I'm grateful for the past delegates. Thank you Gene, Rusty, Ginger and Charlotte for helping count votes, chair the Web team committee and share your stories at the Sunday spiritual speaker meeting.

Thank you to all the area officers and their commitment to AA. I truly appreciate all the hard work you do.

“  
***What I'm looking forward to next year is what we can do within the structure. My hope is that we can spend more time with our standing committees, sharing DCM and GSR experience to help home groups, districts and ultimately each other carry the message to those who still suffer.***  
”

## Area Treasurer

# 92 Posts Great Numbers To End '04

Hi, KITTI HERE, ALL IS WELL

I will be putting my Yearly Report in the February newsletter as I won't have the figures until the end of December, which I am told will be too late to put in the January Newsletter. I hope everyone had a great Christmas.

As of December 16th, this writing, the Area had a Quicken balance of \$6985.40. We have had Inflows so far for the year of \$28372.51, and Outflows of \$25618.26, giving us an overall of \$2754.25. That is great.

Thank you all groups, Districts and Members for your donations.

Yours in Service.  
Kitti Potter

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What I'm looking forward to next year is what we can do within the structure. My hope is that we can spend more time with our standing committees, sharing DCM and GSR experience to help the home groups, the districts and ultimately each other carry the message to those who still suffer. It's up to you to help us decide how we are going to accomplish that.

Wishing one and all a great holiday season, I am so blessed to be in this area and have so many wonderful AA friends.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service and allowing me the chance to grow in my recovery.

Sharon T.  
Area Chair

## Area Alternate Chair

# January Quarterly Preparations Are On Track In Kittitas Valley

**G**REETINGS FROM YOUR Alternate Chairperson!

I am excited about my fourth sober Christmas holidays. It is truly a miracle that my family members and friends love me, support me and encourage my recovery from alcoholism. I am deeply grateful to them and each of you for the help you've so freely given me.

Plans for the January 2005 Quarterly are pretty well established, and AA members in Kittitas Valley are looking forward to all of us coming. Friday night there will be a Traditions and Concepts Panel with presentations and time for questions, along with the standard GSR and DCM Roundtables.

I am just getting on board with the Host Committee for the Spring Pre-Conference Assembly, so I don't currently have much to report. We will all get an update at the January Quarterly.

I am looking forward to the January area business meeting with all of you, and I am also feeling very excited about PRAASA. It looks like there will be at least 4 members from District 10 going, and I know that everyone is going to have a great time. I hope that each of you is considering the possibility of attending, too.

Merry Christmas to everyone, and Happy No-Hangover New Year!!

In love and service,  
Robin K. Ota

## Area Secretary

# In This Season of Giving, We Remember To Share Our Gifts

**T**HE BEGINNINGS OF OUR STORIES are nearly always clouded by shame and guilt of the way we were.

I, like so many others, found a way out of that mist filled nightmare of alcoholism in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. There I found those who could understand my every thought and emotion.

I experienced the comfort of being accepted at face value.

I felt the warmth of fellow sufferers and saw the love that transforms tortured bodies and minds.

I gathered about with my peers and we shared the truth about ourselves.

The truth of my coming to believe in the Steps and the knowledge of how to maintain the life I was given was to give it away, freely continually.

We are not shining examples of anything. What we are is what we are: merely sober. I give thanks to A.A. and the Powers that be for this my life and the freedom to give it to others.

Dr. Bob and Bill W. would be proud of what we are doing because of their need for each other. I will pray that the next hurting soul that appeals for help will be met with the same kindness and understanding that I received.

May all of us remember what it was like the first time we came near the doors of A.A. Freely give what was freely given.

Secretary W.S.E.Area 92  
Rev. Woodrow Wilson

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## Archives

ship's collective interest to have a repository that would be large enough to not only store our valuable historical records, but also be large enough to perform the maintenance and preservation of our archival material. Also, by having the room to allow access to the archives it avoids the appearance of being a private collection and makes the material more readily available to our fellowship for the purpose of research and/or viewing. Contributions to the archives could possibly be more generous if the material was made available to members rather than being stored away in a dark closet. Somewhere, there has to be a more suitable space that would be more usable friendly than what we currently have. It's something to think about.

YIS  
Mike Bare

# 1 thru 23

## DISTRICT REPORTS

### District 18

Happy New Years to everyone from District 18. We'll have our District meeting tonight @ 6:00. We'll give a better report for next month as I just wanted to get something in on short notice.

A few things going on in our District. We'd like to have a District Inventory here to see how we can better serve & carry the message. There's numerous Birthdays to report, but will do that next month.

As we haven't had a Newsletter Report for sometime, I'll try to get caught up over the next few months. Until then...

YIS,  
Ron F., District 18 Newsletter Rep.

*Short notice, indeed. Ron wasn't kidding. He contacted me last week about when the monthly newsletter deadline is (on or about the 15th) and I told him the next issue was going to the printer on Monday. He had his report to me in less than 24 hours. Way to go, 18! —Editor*

### District 2

In November and December our GSR's decided to divide up the meetings and groups that fall within our district. They will then pay each meeting/group a visit to share experience and offer assistance. We believe this action will be beneficial to all involved as well as accomplish the task of helping us to update our group information sheets.

Also, a group in our district has been brainstorming ideas on how to better carry the message of hope to the still suffering elderly alcoholic. They have brought their results to district where we are now considering what actions to take to best carry out their ideas.

In December we also held elections for an Alt. DCM to replace our

outgoing officer who had personal reasons for stepping down from the position.

Please join us at our next District meeting which is Tuesday January 25th at 7pm at the Spokane Alano Club. Hope everyone had a great Holiday Season!!!

Y.I.S.  
Jeff

### District 12

Greetings from District 12! We had our District meeting on December 5th in Brewster, the first meeting there in many years thanks to their new and very active GSR, Tom Rodgers. Our next District meeting will be on January 9th in Omak. We are adjusting to life without our Chelan/Manson friends, as they recently formed District 23. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 7th Annual Okanogan Valley Winter Round-Up, January 21, 22, 23 (2005!) at its new location: The Court Yard Downtown, 28 N Main St., Omak. For information, call 509-846-0173. Happy New Year to All!

Yours in service,  
Tara Simmons, District 12 Secretary

### District 10

Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year. I hope 2005 brings blessings and peace.

I would like to welcome some new District officers as well as say goodbye, as this is my last newsletter for District 10. It has been a pleasure to be of service. Robin O. is the incumbent for Newsletter Liaison, and I am confident she will be as good at this task as she was at being DCM. As most of you already know, Robin O. passed the DCM baton to David D. since she has been elected Alternate Chair for Area 92. So, welcome to David D, Robin O., Carolyn S., PI/CPC chair, Don S.,

Just For Today, GSR, and Jeff M, Mt Top, GSR. Thank you for your support and I trust you will all continue to nurture District 10 to become the best it can be.

Eighteen books were sold at the Literature Open House, held on November 21st. We were also graced with the presence of Paula, the Area Literature Chair, and Stan the Alternate GSR for Hauser Lake, which is part of District 8. Thank you both for driving all the way to be of service.

Ellensburg is hosting the January Quarterly that is being held in the Fine Arts Building on January 14th and 15th. For more information contact David D.

Ten CD's are now ready for loan through the Archives, and Harry the Wino has donated several history speaker tapes that will be duplicated in the near future.

B-Days happening in Cle Elum and Ellensburg: Julie 60 days; Don S 15 yrs; Carolyn S 4 months; Naya 9 months; Vicki 17 yrs; Harry 45 yrs

In loving Service,  
Wanda W.

### Directions to January Quarterly in Ellensburg

#### Coming From Yakima / Spokane

From I-90, take Exit 109. Turn right onto Canyon Rd (Bar 14 restaurant on the right). Follow Canyon to second light (Mountain View) and turn right. Continue to second stop light (Chestnut St) and turn left. Continue on Chestnut to 5th Ave. (You should see fairgrounds signage). Turn right on 5th Ave. (Fairgrounds back gate straight ahead - DO NOT ENTER). Turn left on Poplar St, (Fairgrounds Office Parking lot on right). Enter Office Parking Lot, go straight thru gate and head for the Big Red Grandstand. Heritage Center is third door on left facing grandstand.

## COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN FOR BEING unprepared for the December Combined Standing Committee Quarterly. We were not able to put together a fully functioning activity, however we did meet as a standing committee and develop a calendar of activities for 2005.

Please join me in welcoming Karen K. and Mike B. to the PI and Treatment chair positions for the Area. They have been much needed.

The 2005 Standing Committee Combined Quarterlies are now set for the third Saturday of March, June, September and November. A calendar of dates and locations will be printed for all to see so that you can plan for the event. Each of those quarterlies will be for one day from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM with a break for lunch.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of those quarterlies or hosting the event, NOW IS THE TIME to start thinking about it. We plan to be much more aggressive with advance planning than in the past.

With the holidays behind us now we are well into the January Quarterly events and activities. But before we get to that, I want to share with you an event coming up in May that requires our help.

As many of you know already, that Area 72 CPC committee have been invited to present their "Take a Professional to Lunch" presentation to the annual convention of Probation Officers for Washington state in Chelan some time in May. I will provide more detail on specifics at a later date. I know that we have had similar presentations throughout Area 92 at professional luncheons and there are plans to continue with this type cooperation for the future. Professional luncheons have proven

quite effective in the past and I would think this event, scheduled for May, acts as a springboard throughout the state.

We have been asked to make meeting schedules available from each of the districts within Area 92 for that convention. Enough to give away. (300 ea?). If there is additional cost associated with these printings, I am sure that you will let me know so that we can get you some help with payment.

We may also be asked to help with a booth, should there be one. I will have all additional information available and collect schedules at the Pre Conference Assembly in April. Thank you in advance for your support.

I hope to see you all at the January Quarterly in Ellensburg where I hope to meet some of the newer folks working with PI/CPC. Be thinking about events or activities that I can help you with throughout this coming year. Let's plant the seed again.

Yours in CPC Service,  
Tom Shropshire  
(208)743-3121  
tashrop@cableone.net

## ARCHIVES

Greetings to all, I'm Mike, your alcoholic archivist. By the time you read this report, Christmas will be over and we will be into 2005. I hope all had a wonderful and joyous holiday.

As a topic today, I would like to discuss the archives repository in Area 92. Currently, we are renting a space at the Gladdish Center in Pullman, Wash. This space is a 10' x 12' room on the lower level of the center, which we pay \$120.00 per month. This storage room, although very small, meets the special climate control requirements in terms of storage temperature and humidity. (about 70° F and 45% humidity). The room is also protected from exposure to natural light that can be harmful to archival documents. We do have some shelves in the room, which are full, and I recently picked up a couple of filing cabinets. About half of our archive material is still in boxes stacked in what little space is available.

When the Archives Committee get together for a work day at the

repository, there is no room to work, so the alternative has been to rent an additional room from the Gladdish Center at \$50.00 a day. Needless to say, not too many work days are scheduled. Even when working by myself, I have found it easier to take the material home a little at a time to work on, rather than trying to do anything at the repository. This puts limitations on setting up an ongoing preservation schedule which is an important part of the upkeep of our archives.

Historic records help us to sift through our day to day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past. We maintain records of permanent value so we can go back and consult the original sources again and again. It seems important that access be available to all AA members to research these historical collections. Presently, in Area 92, this is not possible due to the size and location of our repository.

I feel it would be in the fellow-

*(continued on page 6)*



# 2005 General Service Conference Committees Preliminary Agenda Items

Below are the preliminary agenda items *for* the 55th Conference committees. Please keep in mind that this is a preliminary list and that work is still in progress and will be subject to review and/or change by the trustees' committees at the February board weekend. During the January 29th meeting of the trustees' Committee on the Conference, any additional items received by the January 15th deadline will be assigned to appropriate Conference committees.

## I. Agenda

- Review suggestions *for* the theme of the 2006 General Service Conference.
- Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas *for* the 2006 General Service Conference.
- Discuss workshop topic ideas *for* the 2006 General Service Conference.
- Review the General Service ,Conference Evaluation Form.

## II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

## III. Correctional Facilities

- Consider including the following statement on AA's Singleness of Purpose in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals":

"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as 'substance abuse' or 'chemical dependency.' Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to AA and encouraged to attend AA meetings. Anyone may attend *open* AA meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend *closed* meetings."

- Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

## IV. Finance

- Discuss self-support.
- Review and discuss report from Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee on delegate's fees

## V. Grapevine

- Consider request that the Grapevine produce a collection of stories for young people, drawn from previous issues of the AA Grapevine, similar to *Spiritual Awakenings*.
- Review contents of Workbook.

## VI. Literature

- Review draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet "The AA Group."

## VII. Policy/Admissions

- Review dates for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- Discuss report from trustees' Conference Committee regarding the use of laptop computers at the General Service Conference.

(continued on page 10)

## **2005 General Service Conference Committees Preliminary Agenda Items**

### **VII. Policy/Admissions** (cont.)

- Consider requests to revise the timetable for the election of one delegate in the Western Canada Region to allow for two odd and two even panels in that region.

### **VIII. Public Information**

- Consider report from the trustees' P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.'s AA Web site.
- Review contents of the Kit and Workbook.

### **IX. Report and Charter**

- Review *The A.A. Service Manual, 2004 - 2005* Edition.
- Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.
- AA Directories
  1. Consider including online meetings in languages other than English, French and Spanish in AA directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS."
  2. Consider adding Web site information for online meetings listed in AA directories under "ONLINE MEETINGS."

### **X. Treatment Facilities**

- Review results of survey regarding activities of local committees involved in Treatment Facilities service.
- Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

### **XI. Trustees**

- Review resumes of candidates for regional trustee:
  1. East Central Regional Trustee
  2. Southeast Regional Trustee
  3. Trustee-at-large/U.S.
- Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board.
- Review slates of directors of AA World Services and The AA Grapevine Corporate Boards.
- Review request that the qualifications for Regional Trustee and non-trustee Director be updated to include the following:

*"That an Appointed Committee Member not be eligible as a Regional Trustee or non-trustee Director candidate until one year after his or her last service as an Appointed Committee Member."*

### **XII. Archives**

- Review contents of Workbook.

### **XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums**

- Discuss upcoming 2005 International Convention.
- Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional And Special Forums.

# Washington State East Area 92 January 2005 Quarterly



January 14 and 15 at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds

## Hosted by District 10

Please use one registration form per person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Service Position: (Please circle one)

Member    GSR    Alt-GSR    DCM    Alt-DCM    Past Delegate

District Officer (Position) \_\_\_\_\_

Area Officer (Position) \_\_\_\_\_

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Registration..... \$ 10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Amount Enclosed)

**(This includes continental breakfast, lunch and ice cream social)**

**Registration Deadline: January 1, 2005**

Please make checks payable to: **District 10 AA**  
Mail to: District 10 AA, PO Box 1136, Ellensburg, WA 98926

**For more information, please contact David D. (509) 306-9201 or**  
**[sylandad@elltel.net](mailto:sylandad@elltel.net) or Theo D. (509) 899-0112**

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JANUARY 2005

AREA 92 NEWSLETTER

HELP PROMOTE SELF-SUPPORT – YOURS AND OURS!

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (in case of questions) \_\_\_\_\_ OPTIONAL EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ OPTIONAL

☐ Individual OR

☐ Additional Home Group Subscription for: \_\_\_\_\_

(Group subscriptions will be mailed to GSR at current mailing address)

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