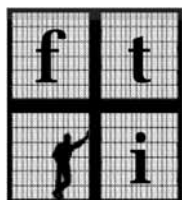
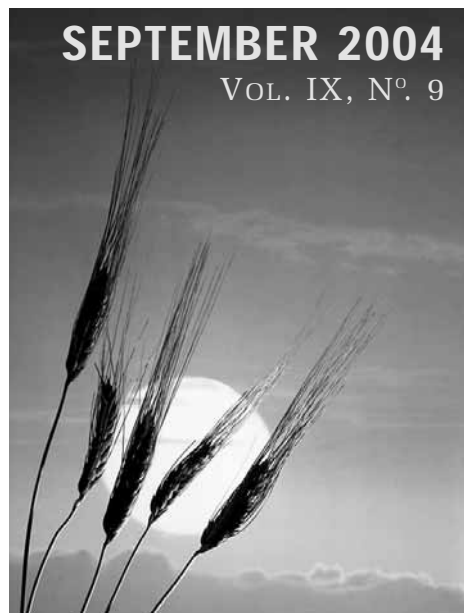


AREA 92 NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2004
VOL. IX, N^o. 9



From The Inside A series of personal experiences shared by AA members in correctional facilities witnessing how the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous impacts life — behind the walls and in the sunlight of the Spiritpage 12

Just as VH-1 examines what's happening *Behind the Music*, we look *Behind the Service* at AA food, fun, and fellowship, the wild parties and wrecked hotel rooms, the hangers-on and the groupies... No, wait—that's the music biz. We ask why folks get into the "boring" but spiritually saving work of AA servicepage 10



Area in Motions

On the Docket for Fall Assembly

Motions that have been placed on the 2004 Assembly agenda are listed below. Please note that the numbering of the below motions is preliminary and will be updated as the Assembly agenda is finalized.

Motion 1

That floor motions voted by the Assembly to be urgent or house

(continued on page 8)

Service Since 1945

Spokane AAs Observe 59th Year of Fellowship

SPOKANE, June 12, 2004 — It was a day of great celebration for Spokane in observance of 59 years of Alcoholics Anonymous! The exact date of the first AA meeting in Spokane was June 21, 1945

The festivities started at noon with (of course) a potluck with

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2004 – 2005

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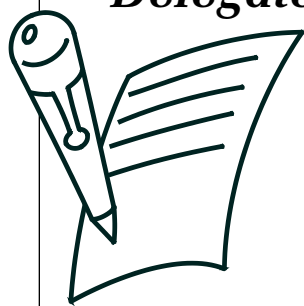
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Bud Tuggli

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Ginger Vytiss

Wardrobe Consultant

Natalie Drest



Delegate's Notebook

Pre-Assembly Ramp-up, Pacific Regional Forum Wrap-up

The “12 and 12” states that the 12 Traditions outline the means by which AA maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it—the way it lives and grows. The Unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come depend squarely upon it. We stay whole or AA dies. That must mean that each of us has an ultimate responsibility to keep AA strong by helping to carry the traditions into our meetings and lives. I don’t know how many times I have forgotten the underlying principal behind a topic in a meeting and could have been more balanced in my sharing with the addition of how that applies not only to a step but to a tradition too.

The final Conference reports are

out and I have begun passing them out to the Districts my aim is to get them to you all at the Pre Assemblies that are coming up quite soon.

It is time to start thinking about offering suggestions to GSO for the conference theme for the 2006 conference I would like to hear any suggestions at the Assembly and hopefully send area 92’s suggestion after

the October assembly. I will be sending out a list of the past conference themes to perhaps give you some ideas (see page 9).

The Forum was a truly wonderful experience for all those who attended especially me. It was a chance to meet again with the Delegates from around the Pacific Region, but more to hear some wonderful service talks. Elaine McDowell Chairman of the board gave her closing remarks and I

could easily say there was not a dry eye in the house when, after nearly 13 years of tireless service to AA,

she thanked us for giving her back her brother. We heard from our own Phyllis on the role of the Class B Trustee, from Allen Ault on the role of the Class A Trustee. Don A., Delegate from Hawaii gave a wonderful talk on “AA for Seniors” which I will put into the newsletter in its entirety as soon as I get it sent to me from Don. A quote from his talk: “All around us are elders whom alcohol has robbed of hope, dignity, and the ability to cope. With treatment the alcoholic has an opportunity to develop a satisfying way of life free from alcohol and - to become happily and usefully whole.”

You all know the Grapevine has celebrated 60 years of continuous publication. How many of you have found or used the Grapevine Archives to look up selected writings? If you haven’t yet tried it I can say from my own personal use it is a wonderful tool.

The August board report was sent by Phyllis and I have emailed the report out to those with email and mailed to those without.

I will have a full report for you all at the Assembly and look forward to seeing you all in Grandview.

In Love and Service,
Mike

“
All around us are elders whom alcohol has robbed of hope, dignity, and the ability to cope. With treatment the alcoholic has an opportunity to develop a satisfying way of life free from alcohol, and to become happily and usefully whole.
”

Psychologist-on-call
Les Moody

Compassion Counselor
Ophelia Payne

Marriage Counselor
Stan Beyermann

Confidentiality Monitors
Donatello Nobatti
Dinah Tell

Half Measures Consultant
Noah Vale

Grief Counselor
Ariel Bummerman

Isolation Intervention
Don Boddamy
Haywood Jabuzzov

Rigorous Honesty Coach
Hugh Lyons Sackish

Alcoholism Assessors
Mort & Faye Tality

Depression Therapist
Annie Ting-Wong

Empathy Facilitator
Enzo Watt

Controlled Drinking Researcher
Jason N. Illusion

Identification Coach
Emma L. Kahaulik

First Step Counselor
Kent Manage

Third Step Counselors
Willa Gnarl-Ives
Trudy Kara Gaudt

Self-Will Awareness Coach
Rhonda Holeshaw

Delegate Alternate Report

Fellowship and Service, Pacific Style

I am writing this report a few days after returning from a campout in the BC Yukon Area 79. The campout was on Salt Spring Island an island just off of Vancouver Island. In Canada they call them rallies. It was a rewarding trip that involved 4 different ferryboat rides. I found out about the rally from a flyer that the BC Yukon delegate Maureen M. brought to the Pacific Northwest Conference.

The highlight of this rally for me was all of the people I met. I was able to meet and talk with several members of the BC Yukon area committee. It is always fun to meet trusted servants from other areas and learn about how they do things. We had some great meals and great speakers. I was able to attend Maureen's delegate's report plus hear Grace BC Yukon Panel 49 past delegate as the Sunday morning speaker. I made many new friends and look forward to next years rally

In July I attended the Pacific Regional Forum in Portland Oregon. It was my first Regional Forum and I am glad I attended. This is a quote from the aa.org website.

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of the late Chair Emeritus of the General Service Board of Trustees, Dr. Jack Norris. They are weekend sharing ses-

sions designed to improve communication and participation among A.A. service workers in a region, the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporation Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff.

This forum lived up the purpose of Regional Forums. The staff

from GSO in attendance did a great job of communicating and participating, as did all of the attendees from the Pacific Region. The final count of registered attendees was 519. Everyone who attended will get a final written report in the next few weeks. I will write more about the forum after I receive the report. I am learning the value of attending regional events. Between PRAASA, PNC, and the Pacific Regional Forum getting a much clearer picture of AA as a whole and what World Service is all about.

I also was able to attend the Pacific Northwest Conference in Yakima. PNC has been a valuable resource to

the coastal and inland Northwest. It is smaller now and redefining itself. The next PNC will be held in Oregon area 58 and they are talking about moving it out to Eastern Oregon to a smaller community. I think that would be a real service, as it would allow people to participate in a service conference who otherwise

might not travel to a larger city. The PNC has a rich history, which is detailed in the book "Our Stories Disclose." That book is a history of the Washington Area written in the late 1980s. Our Area Chair Sharon T. made a fine report of the history of Pacific Northwest Conference. One thing I learned was that the first Washington Area Delegate to the first General Service Conference actually came out of PNC, and this was before there even was a Washington Area.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the pre-assemblies and the fall assembly in Sunnyside. Until then.

Yours in service,
Dave

“
The Pacific Northwest Conference has been a valuable resource to the coastal and inland Northwest. The first Washington Area Delegate to the first General Service Conference actually came out of PNC — and this was before there even was a Washington Area.
”

Where are they now?

Roy S. (past DCM for District 1) is on a two-year posting in Northern Canada in a small hamlet called Gjoa Haven in the territory of Nunavut.

There are probably about 100 or so people there, so he's finding out what it's like to be a Lone Wolf—in a remote community and being probably the only AA in the area.

There are about 214 "Loners" registered with GSO.

Roy told Area 92 News that the ice is just breaking up in the bay, and the black flies and mosquitoes are out in full force. Summer will be there until mid-September. He says "Hi" to everyone.

The Area Chair



From Where I Sit...

Hi everyone, summer is ending and I can't believe how quickly it has gone by.

I'm already working to ensure that each district will have a copy of the motions shortly. The newsletter has them in this month's issue and you will also be able to download it off our website.

Go to www.area92aa.org, look under Area 92 Info, click Motions, and then click on Pending Motions. These are the motions that have been passed on to the Assembly for the GSRs and the Area committee to vote on at this year's Fall Assembly.

We will be having three pre-assemblies in the Area. This will be an opportunity for one and all to come and review the motions.

Please register early for the Assembly. It always helps the host committee to give attendance numbers to the facility, as well as to the cooks of the great meals we are so fortunate to enjoy together.

If you feel you really can't afford to come because you can't afford a hotel room, we always ensure there is alternate housing available. It's a great way to meet new friends.

Some people ask, why is there registration at the Assemblies and Quarterlies? Well, the registration covers the cost of the facilities which rates have gone up substan-

“

Please register early for the Assembly. It always helps for the host committee to give attendance numbers to the facility, as well as to the cooks of the great meals we are so fortunate to enjoy together.

”

tially. It seems that since 9/11, the insurance rates for most facilities have increased dramatically. Regis-

tration fees cover the cost of copying the flyers, the mileage for the Alternate Chair to attend planning meetings, covers the cost of recording the minutes (those tapes are needed for posterity and transcription) and to pay back the seed money that the Area gives to the Host Committee.

It is with sincere regret I have to inform the Area that Stan T. has decided to stand down from his position as Treatment Chair. I want to say thank you to Stan for his dedication and all his hard work in Area. He's been instrumental in the original handbook committee, developing the Bridge for Treatment a few rotations ago as well as the work he's done as Treatment Chair.

The job posting for Treatment is in the Newsletter and on the website. Closing date for resumes will be November 1, 2004.

Well that's it for me for this month. Take care, be well, and look forward to our big meeting in the Fall.

Yours in service,
Sharon T.
Area 92 Chair

Area 92 Now Accepting Applications for Treatment Chair Position

As outlined in our handbook (8:8, page 23), the Treatment Chair uses the guidelines of the Treatment Facilities workbook from GSO; schedules and chairs four quarterly meetings with district chairpersons in the Area; maintains an updated list of district chairpersons for communication purposes; encourages participation in Bridging the Gap program; keeps a list of temporary contacts for individuals preparing to

leave treatment facilities; coordinates Grapevine subscriptions for treatment facilities in the districts.

If you are interested in this position, please send your service resume to the Area Chair by email at badbacklady@yahoo.ca or regular post at Area Chair, PMB 30-4155 Deep Lake Boundary Road, Colville WA 99114.

The deadline for receiving resumes is November 1, 2004.

1 thru 22 DISTRICT REPORTS

District 5

DUE TO A LACK OF PARTICIPATION, District 5 has fallen off of the face of the earth. Just kidding. At the last District meeting we had 7 people. The GREAT news is that 5 of them were GSR's. And the other 2 were the DCM and Alt DCM.

Well, those who participate are excited at the opportunity to host the July Quarterly 2005. We have started talking about it. By the time that this newsletter comes out, our Sponsorship Workshop will have come and gone. It was great I'm sure. Though we did forget to plan lunch so that was a little hairy we probably ordered pizza. OOPS! Here I go predicting the future. *Bad alcoholic!*

And then we are looking forward to the Pre-Assembly here in District 5 at the St. James Episcopal church in Cashmere on Sept. 12 and the Standing Committee Workshop in Winthrop. Got to see my mom and that is always worth the trip.

I AM SO GRATEFUL TO AA that I am willing to give for fun and for free. Are you? The rewards from being of service are spilling over into all of my life, and for that I owe everything to HP. How can I repay him? To give of my time and MONEY with no expectations. *(cont. next column)*

92 ARCHIVES

Greetings Area 92, Here is what's new in the Area 92 Archives. At the Area Quarterly in Colville, Woodrow W., our Area Secretary, gave to the Archives the meeting minutes and tapes from the last two years of Assembly and Quarterly meetings, along with some miscellaneous items. I am currently going through this material and getting it organized for our files. On the first of August, I received two file boxes of material from Ben B., our first Area Delegate. There are numerous items of interest such as reports concerning the formation of Area 92 and other delegate business that was performed at that time. I am very appreciative of Ben for this donation to our Archives. I recently received a copy of the 2004 Final Report from the 54th annual meeting of the General Service Conference. In the Archives report, the GSO Archives Committee reported they have reformulated the role and contents of Markings, the Archives newsletter. The publication has been expanded into a bimonthly historic newsletter, and they plan to publish a variety of historic articles in addition to archival sharing from the areas. It was also reported that by early 2004, the committee hoped to complete the audio preservation project of thousands of reel to reel tapes, cassettes, and audiograms to a CD-ROM fon-nat. This project was initiated three years ago in response to concerns regarding the deterioration of the audio collection. (This might be something that Area 92 would like to consider). Well, that is all the news that I have for now. Thanks for letting me be of service.

Mike Bare, WSEA 92 Archivist

After all I wouldn't have either if I weren't sober.

YIS,

Joanne

District 5 DCM

District 8

Hello to everybody. I have just a few thoughts that I would like to pass along today.

First, copies of the motions for the upcoming assembly will be sent along to the groups in the very near future. I should be getting the final list soon and will pass it along. And speaking of motions and the assembly, don't forget the pre-assembly District 8 is hosting on Sept. 25th at the Nazarene Church.

The second thing that we should be thinking about is Central Office. If your group doesn't have a rep going to the meetings you should. Central Office is the first line of contact for many people coming to AA.

It is our responsibility to see that it and all its functions, phone service to take calls, 12th Step and information, are taken care of. It also acts as a clearinghouse for Intergroup communication. The matter of a group having a GSR and a Central Office rep is not an either/or thing, but a responsibility of each group to see that the message is always carried to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Yours in service,

Earl B.

District 8 DCM

District 12

District 12 sends greetings to all! Please be reminded that we are hosting a workshop on September 11, 2004, at the United Methodist Church between Twisp and Winthrop. It's a Saturday affair with potluck and lots of interesting and informed folks attending to pass their knowledge on to the rest of us. For information - and should you wish to help in any way - please

(continued on page 7)

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

CPC. When are we getting started? When are we getting going? When do we get the show on the road? Many have confused the responsibilities of CPC/PI and treat both as the same job when trying to reach the still suffering alcoholic. The more effort is expended to reach the alcoholic and in many cases the professional goes unattended. I can see how we view the task as one and not separate activities but I have yet to come to any conclusion as to how they become separated.

We put together a plan to make presentations to districts workshops about how we deal with the Treatment professional and how we can assist in the conduct of fellow alcoholics who want to work with the still suffering alcoholic in the treatment facility. We broadcast our availability at each combined quarterly and are scheduled for a workshop in Winthrop, September 11, 2004.

At this workshop, our plan is to assist and talk about how we attract more people and how we can make the job more interesting to those who are looking for service work as well. We hope to talk about technique in our approach to treatment facility management and how that differs from our primary purpose of reaching the still suffering alcoholic who may be a patient at that facility.

We hope to learn more about how to accomplish this and set an example for future workshops dealing with CPC/PI/Treatment.

My next article in the newsletter will also contain information and availability for conducting workshops in other districts while opening the door to any number of possibilities. Please contact me at (208)743-3121 or at tashrop@cableone.net with discussion or scheduling. My mail address is: Tom Shropshire, 3032 Mayfair Drive, Lewiston, ID 83501

YIS tom

GRAPEVINE & LITERATURE

Hello from your Grapevine/Literature Chair, August is—and September will be—a time of preparation for the October Assembly, which I am looking forward to. I'm trying to guess what will be needed so I can order enough pamphlets and books. I want to meet everyone's needs. It's not going to happen I have learned enough to know I can not read minds. Hopefully all my orders will arrive in a timely manner so each piece of literature can be counted and priced, ready to sell.

I have been wondering, just a thought about the Literature Workshop. If literature is our most important tool for 12 step work, newcomers, jails, Treatment, CPC, PI, as well as Groups and personal recovery. Why is there only one workshop or Quarterly per year? I have had the opportunity to go

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(continued from page 6)

District Reports

contact our lovely DCM, Diana M., at dianasuemar@hotmail.com. or by calling her at 509-996-8174. We had a fun and successful campout/potluck/picnic/District Meeting on the weekend of August 8 at Salmon Meadows outside of Conconully. It is a lovely place to spend some time. With special thanks on that one to Anita E. of Omak who did the planning and coordination.

Yours in Service,
Tara S., District 12 Secretary

District 19

Hello from District 19!

We held our last district meeting on the 15th of august. We are seeing some exciting things happening in the corrections area at this time. In addition to the weekly jail meetings for the men, we are now getting women's meetings started as well as meetings at the work release facility! Kudos to all in the district involved in this effort. This is 12-step work at it's best!

Also at this time we are trying to get as many members as possible to attend the pre-assembly in Cashmere on the 12th of September. This is a chance for all members to voice their opinoins on Area issues and motoins before the October assembly.

We are also fine tuning our District phone answering service at this time, in hopes of making it more efficent. Have run into some minor problems, but nothing that can't be worked out.

YIS,
Chuck K.
DCM Dist.19

District 20

Hi all from Spiritual District 20! We had ourselves a wonderful 12 Concepts Workshop and a big suc-

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Grapevine and Literature

to a lot of the Districts and a lot of the people do not know there is more literature than a few pamphlets, the Big Book and 12 x 12. I truly feel we are not educating (for want of a better word) everyone not even coming close. There are a lot of Districts that don't have any kind of Literature displays, some are trying to start, but have to have somewhere to start. A lot of questions need answers and one workshop a year is just a very small start. Perhaps we could talk about increasing the Literature workshop or Quarterly to four per year and try to reach more people in the future. People can't use what they don't know is available. Let's get the word out about the literature our most important tool of recovery, unity and service. I'm still available for Planting the Seed workshops. They are fun and informative try one you'll like it.

Does your group have a Grapevine Subscription? It's great reading and always has great suggestions for meeting topics, and then you can pass it on to Jails or Treatment Centers. Fifty back issues can be purchased for \$20 for jails and treatment centers. Let's order Grapevines Our Meeting in Print.

Yours in Service,
Paula Thompson

(continued from page 1)

Motion 1

keeping would be voted on immediately. Other floor motions receiving a second will go through to the next Assembly. (Motion made by Clarkston Roundtable)

Definitions: Urgent ---Requiring immediate action (serious-grave-rush-emergency). Housekeeping ---Anything that pertains only to the group that the motions effects. Example; where the meetings are held. Procedures that effect only that meeting. (How many breaks, when to have the next meeting or adjourn, ect.) These motions affect only the group who is voting on them, they never have anything to do with money nor will it affect AA as a whole. **Background:** Area 92 Floor Motions have been increasing and most of them are not emergency's we do not wish to eliminate this process entirely. We feel that Floor Motions deprive the Home Groups from being able to research and discuss motions and arrive with a informed Group Conscience.

This step may help to conduct business in a time frame that will allow a Saturday night banquet and A.A. speaker. This may help us to become more prudent in that our Area Officers would be able to return home instead of spending another night which adds to the area expenses for food and lodging.

A quote from Paul Cleary, A.A.W.S. director at January 2004 Board meeting. "Be cautious about Floor Actions at the Conference, as a hurried group conscience decision can bypass the advantages and wisdom of the lengthy Conference process." This could also apply to our area floor motions. Do we really have an emergency today or can that business be carried over to the next Quarterly and Area Assembly allowing Home Groups voice to be heard. Floor motions that are not Housekeeping or urgent that receives a second will be placed on the agenda for the next Area Quarterly and then will be voted on at the next Area Assembly.

Motion 2

That the WSEA increase the mileage rate from .22/mile, as set in 1995, to .30/mile.

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 7)

District Reports

cess, thank you to Charlotte I., Past Delegate from Alaska, for coming to facilitate with us and share her many experiences in service! We also will thank Michael Bell, another Past Alt. Delegate, in advance for coming to speak at our humble High Noon Group the last Sunday of this month at the monthly Speaker Meeting and Potluck.

Also, the Naches Valley Group is holding its Quarterly Potluck and Mystery Speaker Meeting in September, and District 20 is putting on a GSR Orientation and Workshop in September, date TBA, contact our DCM, Jeanette S., for more information or Woodrow W., Area Secretary.

We reviewed some of the Final Conference Report, and discussed plans for the GSR Orientation Workshop, which is planned as a Potluck and will likely be held at the Yakima Alano Club in later September--several dates are being looked at, and we will keep you updated as we get it together.

What an exciting month for service we have had! Outstanding participation from our GSR's and committees and we are glad to be of service. Till next time--

Alix Mills
District 20
Secretary/Newsletter Chair



"To beer: the cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems."

—Homer J. Simpson

Past Conference Themes

1966 through 2005

- 2005 Basics of Our Home Group — Recovery, Unity and Service
- 2004 Our Singleness of Purpose — The Cornerstone of A.A.
- 2003 Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship
- 2002 Sharing the Steps, Traditions and Concepts
- 2001 Love and Service
- 2000 Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles
- 1999 Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility
- 1998 Our Twelfth Step Work
- 1997 Spirituality—Our Foundation
- 1996 Preserving Our Fellowship—Our Challenge
- 1995 Pass It On—Our Three Legacies
- 1994 Spirit of Sacrifice
- 1993 A.A. Takes Its Inventory:
The General Service Conference Structure
- 1992 The A.A. Message in a Changing World
- 1991 Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action
- 1990 The Home Group—Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future
- 1989 Anonymity—Living Our Traditions
- 1988 Singleness of Purpose—Key to Unity
- 1987 The Seventh Tradition—A Turning Point
- 1986 A.A.'s Future—Our Responsibility
- 1985 Golden Moments of Reflection
- 1984 Gratitude—The Language of the Heart
- 1983 Anonymity—Our Spiritual Foundation
- 1982 The Traditions—Our Way of Unity
- 1981 A.A. Takes Its Inventory
- 1980 Participation: The Key to Recovery
- 1979 The Legacies: Our Heritage and My Responsibility
- 1978 The Member and the Group--Recovery Through Service
- 1977 The A.A. Group--Where It Begins
- 1976 Sponsorship--Our Privilege and Responsibility
- 1975 Unity Through Love and Service
- 1974 Understanding and Cooperation--Inside and Outside A.A.
- 1973 Responsibility--Our Expression of Gratitude
- 1972 Our Primary Purpose
- 1971 Communication: Key to A.A. Growth
- 1970 Service--The Heart of A.A.
- 1969 Group Conscience Guides A.A.
- 1968 Unity Vital to A.A. Survival, Growth
- 1967 Sponsorship--The Hand of A.A.

(continued from page 8)

Motion 2 (cont.)

Background: When WSEA first formed, we adopted a mileage rate of .22/mile (Section 95.5 of the Area 92 handbook). This decreased the mileage rate that was set in Section 89.5 of the Area 72 Handbook, which set the mileage rate to the current IRS mileage rate. The current IRS mileage rate is .34/mile, and we feel that .30/mile is more than fair and would not overburden the Area finances. An increase in the mileage rate was also a recommendation from the Finance Committee at the April 2003 Quarterly in Kennewick.

Motion 3

That Area 92 add a permanent rotating handbook committee under the responsibility of the Area Secretary and reporting to the Area Chair. This committee would be made up of the Area Secretary and 4 appointed DCM's. The committee will assist the Area Secretary in keeping the handbook updated as stated in the Secretary's job description. There will be no funding for travel. All communication expenses would come from the secretary's communication expenses as stated in the area handbook.

Background: Area 92 accepted the handbook and style of area 72 that first handbook was typed by our Area 92 past Delegate Ginger B. who was Area 72 Chair, she also chaired the first handbook committee. That committee was formed out of necessity and completed the job of making the first handbook. During that first rotation the Area Secretary made the necessary changes/updates and the Area Alternate Treasurer printed the handbook and sold them at quarterlies and assemblies for the actual cost of producing.

The handbook updates are the responsibility of the Area secretary whose job was to keep the hand

(continued on page 11)



BEHIND THE SERVICE

“As a whole,” AA gets it done

Package Deal: AA Program Is the Best Deal Around

One of our fellowship’s many beloved—or “beloathed” as the case may be—slogans states, “If it’s not inconvenient, it’s not service.”

Young and dumb. I suspect I was in mid-whine when my sponsor first invoked that saying. I do remember that I had no idea what he meant. But I was in early sobriety (Still-Desperate-Enough-to-Do-Whatever-I’m-Told Mode), so off we went to a pre-assembly, hours away in another state. Being new to AA and to the Northwest, I had no idea where we were going or what we’d do once there.

Another slogan I heard early on was “Stick with the winners,” and as I looked around the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, it became obvious even to my bleary brain that most of the folks who “had what I wanted” were involved in AA service. So I “did what they did,” even though spending an entire evening driving over 60 miles to attend a “C & T” meeting seemed absurd and useless. Another three months into sobriety found me in a car-full of members taking a meeting into the

state prison’s Alcohol Treatment Unit. That night I discovered that “the ride back is even better.” The fellowship among these people I was learning to love was yet another bright spot in our lives.

Without the legacy of service, my sense of usefulness and purpose diminishes. As the disease of perception begins to gain the upper hand, my world starts to look gray, then scary; life begins to feel bleak and ever less worth living.

Package deal. For me, leading a sober, productive and joyous life means accepting that recovery in AA is a package deal that includes conscious contact with my higher power, sponsorship, service, meetings, and fellowship. Together, they

enable me to better practice the 12th Step, and to get a little better at being of maximum service to God and to the people about me. The moment I begin to leave something out is the moment my usefulness starts to diminish—and with it the quality of my life.

About four years ago I picked up that first drink again after having been sober for a while. I’ve reflected (and agonized) a lot over how that came about. With 20/20 hindsight I can see that it began with getting “too busy” to do AA service work. Heck, I was about to finish school had a career path to pursue! My life seemed to be just fine, so when I stopped visiting my sponsor, then ceased praying... Hey, no problem!

I’m grateful that I never did give up attending meetings (though just once a week at my home group), because I’ve heard it’s hard for a lot of folks to come *back* to AA after slipping. So what kept me from dropping the last remnant of my program? What is it that most likely saved my ass from a fate I’d rather

not think about?

What's in a Legacy? Around that time my home group was going through a downturn in membership and attendance, and it was up to me and one other guy to "keep the doors open," a concept I had been taught was an important part of 12th Step work. So I kept showing up even though I'm not a big fan of two-person meetings. (One night it looked like it was going to be me and the coffee pot when a fellow blew in from Alaska for his first of many meetings in this area.)

Service kept me close enough to AA that I didn't completely turn my back on the program that had once saved me from deliberately ending my own life. If I hadn't known that those winners I'd met all had home groups and service positions... Well, I'll never know and I'd prefer not to try finding out.

AA's co-founders and early members had this all figured out when they passed along the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, embodied in the 12 Steps that got and keep me sober; Unity—keeping our fellowship strong and on task—as prescribed in the 12 Traditions; and Service, outlined in 12 Concepts and practiced in every action that keeps AA functioning.

I can choose to ignore all or parts of the guiding principles they

contain, but I now know that I do so at great peril to myself and to the people in my life. Without the legacy of service, my sense of usefulness and purpose diminishes. The disease of perception begins to gain the upper hand, my world starts to look gray, then scary; life begins to feel bleak and ever less worth living.

Its own reward. Besides helping save lives (oh yeah, that...), doing AA service work helps me to:

1. Stay out of self as I do things for others.
2. Actively practice giving without thought of return.
3. Learn patience, tolerance, responsibility, humility, and other essential life skills I somehow managed to avoid picking up.
4. Practice Step 12.
5. Remember that nothing in my little universe is more important than AA.

Concept II affirms that the groups are in charge of AA as a whole, that they have ultimate authority, and we know that the home group is the foundation on which all 12th Step work is built. Concept II also tells us that in practice we have to delegate some of that work to appropriate entities—the service boards and committees we may create. It also says we may democratically elect representatives to organize and carry out AA's criti-

cal functions. Thus each group and its GSR helps elect trusted servants for district, area and national service work. Consider the alternatives:

- Who would print and distribute the Big Book if AA had no national office?
- Could a home group in Idaho properly respond to a media problem or anonymity break in Chicago? Boise?
- How would the groups exert their authority nationally if they didn't elect an area delegate?
- Would an AA meeting function as well if it didn't elect a coffee maker to open the doors and start things perking?

"Pass" on the crumbs! Recently I learned that the late Fran P. (AA trustee and Grapevine director) had been known to say, "The Steps bring you sobriety. Service brings you joy." Most of the people I know who are involved in service have an extra sparkle their eyes; they seem to wear the "clothing of life" like a comfortable, loose-fitting garment. The quality of life they have demonstrates they are much more than merely dry or simply sober.

I want what they have. Settling for the crumbs of sobriety is not enough to keep me serene and sane. I'll take that package deal and work it. It's the best deal I've found.

(continued from page 9)

Motion 3 (cont.)

book updated and print copies for sale at the Area functions.

When the handbook was added to the Area 92 website it was decided to have a committee look at the handbook and make updates so that the handbook could be downloaded and printed from the website. In 2002 a committee appointed by the Area Chair updated the handbook and there was some concern that the chair lacked the authority to authorize the expenses for the handbook printing by the committee.

Most of the communication by the newly formed committee mem-

bers can be done by email and phone. Face to face meetings would happen at the Area Quarterlies and Assemblies. To be inclusive you will not have to have a computer to be on this committee

Today it is still the responsibility of the Area secretary to update and print the handbook. It is felt that the task at times might be more than one person could do and a committee could help in the matter. That committee would also be more familiar with the handbook and could if they find necessary to bring comments and maybe even motions to the body regarding the handbook. They also could be called upon in matters of discussion regarding the

handbook.

It would seem prudent to have the handbook maintained under the authority of a formal committee made up of area committee members whose job will be to maintain the handbook make corrections and possibly propose changes in style etc.

Motion 4

Move that the WSEA 92 handbook be amended to allow funding for the Area Corrections chairperson to one function per year inside a major correctional facility within Area 92. Said funding would be within the

(continued on page 13)

Came to believe that

An Entity Greater

I used to get turned off by the second step, because first of all, I am not insane. I felt that since I wasn't insane this step didn't apply to me.

Secondly it spoke of a power greater than me, of which I thought they were talking about God Almighty, and at this juncture my spiritual foundation was broken and in an uproar. But I kept coming to the meetings because you all said, "Keep coming and it will get better." So, having nothing else interesting to do, I stayed with the meetings.

After awhile of coming to meetings, I began to realize that it only had to be an ENTITY other than myself that I had to believe in. At that point, I was able to accept Alcoholics Anonymous as a group of recovery.

This brings me to my next point of interest, which is sanity. I never felt I was insane, but I knew that some of the activities were unethical for a normal person so I had an idea that something was wrong, as not normal, as not sane. I had to discover the problem of what was going on in my life that would make my life unmanageable. You know the first step. There was a problem somewhere in my life that I've been covering up by the use of drugs. I didn't necessarily see my fault until I was confronted with my problem. Prison/jail made me reflect on the problem of what is causing the unmanageability.

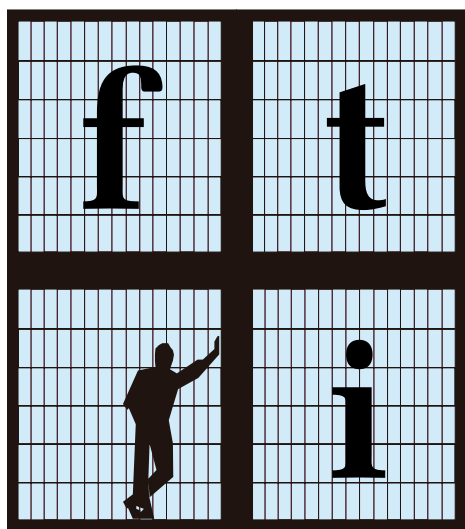
I know now that I wasn't handling my life well on my own so when my sponsor makes a suggestion that will improve my way of thinking, I say to myself "What will it hurt to follow someone's simple suggestions for recovery? I can just keep on learning from these suggestions and run for awhile on autopilot."

Now, reading out loud in large groups is, to me, not such a nice idea because it is intimidating, but I am trying to overcome that. Every Thursday evening I go to Toastmasters which is a program to help individuals like me develop speaking skills.

This is just another step in the beginning of my road to recovery. I feel confidence about being able to fight my disease through the use of these groups. I urge the newcomer to keep coming, for without you, I could not keep what was so gracefully given to me.

Fred MM

From The Inside AIRWAY HEIGHTS CORRECTIONS CENTER



Rebuilding bridges

Hope In Recovery

Hello! My name is Michael and I'm an alcoholic. My home group is the Landing Place Group. I'm in a group of people, all in the same boat, not ruled by anything but themselves and a past of battered bridges and roads.

I've found a way to be someone other than what I've been. I started with the desire to change and a hand to lend.

I know that to succeed in this battle, it is just one day at a time. My Higher Power gives me strength to stay free from whisky, beer and wine.

Michael W.

Me, Myself and I

"Me" is the part of me that operates on emotions, reactions, fear; the Little Boy in me. "Myself" is the part of me that likes trouble, insanity, turmoil, despair, alcohol, drugs and misfortune. The Young Adult. "I" is the part of me that likes sobriety, happiness, helping, common sense regular routine, responsible actions, etc. "I" pays for all the trouble "Me" and "Myself" get "I" into. The Mature Adult Today I can take charge of "Me, and Myself." Life is tough cleaning up the wreckage from letting "Me" and "Myself" run wild. I thank the AA program for bringing the "I" out in "Me" and "Myself".

John J.

Overcoming Fear

I'm Smitty and I am a recovering alcoholic and addict. During my recovery it seems that in my addictive state, I didn't fear to act and be ignorant. But I feared to be and act intelligently. How completely opposite it really is, and I love every minute of it. I thank God for allowing me to be sober today at this moment.

Smitty

(continued from page 1)

Spokane Marks Almost Six Decades of AA

approximately 80 people in attendance. Lots of eager sharing of food and conversation opened the first hour of the gathering. Next came our first speaker, Jan P. She shared with us the beginning of A.A. in Seattle and the Spokane area. She reminded us of the W A. Area History book relating early experience in our area. She also shared her story of days in the program with her late husband, Fran, and how her life is today. Jan had a great amount of wisdom to share with us. She shared her story of meeting Lois and the story of the flying shoe.

The second speaker was Don R who put a lot of humor into his escapades in the Navy. "Miracles do happen everyday," as demonstrated by his trip to Seattle to search for work to support his family. He also, seriously, touched on his loss of everything dear to him. He was very

moving and brought tears to our eyes especially with his closing.

Next came the Traditions workshop. Each "newer" member had been paired with a mentor to help them present a 7 minute explanation of their tradition. Presenters had read Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, the 12 and 12, The Twelve Traditions illustrated, Grapevines, and other AA approved literature. The presentations were very informative. Time was given for questions and comments and the audience participated in a lively discussion of each tradition sharing their experience and thoughts. This workshop covered the first 6 tradition and the other 6 will be covered in another workshop in the fall.

The third speaker was Renee who shared her growing up in Montana, loss of her father, and her years in college while living with her aunt and uncle in Seattle. Her first exposure to AA was in Idaho and she noted that she would work all week then drive to Idaho for AA on the weekend. She remembered how challenging it was for her to begin AA in Spokane but found weekend AA wasn't enough. She concluded

by sharing the gifts of her sobriety.

The final speaker for the evening was Brian who was born in South Dakota to non-alcoholic parents. He tried to quit drinking several times on his own especially after the birth of his daughter Misty. She was in the audience sharing his story with over a year sobriety herself. He recounted his last night drinking and waking up to the swat team thankful he was not the mayor of Missoula who had committed suicide the same evening after drinking a six pack. He also shared a touching story about his sponsor's death of cancer after his 10-year birthday.

At 7 pm participants gathered their raffle winnings and headed home for the evening.

*Sure it's
nice up
here...
but who's
going to
make
coffee
Friday
night?*



(continued from page 11)

Motion 4 (cont.)

current funding guidelines that apply to other area functions.

Background: Currently the Corrections Chairperson is only funded to quarterlies and assemblies. The correctional facilities workbook from GSO describes the duties as "to ensure a positive reciprocal working relationship with administration and staff. *Reciprocal: given by each side, given or shown by each of two sides or individuals to the other.* Being able to meet with administrators and staff would aid in personal communications and cooperation with the various facilities and demonstrate a willingness to help from the area level. It would also help show area support to the local groups that are the main volunteers carrying the message. Based on my research when I was planning to attend the workshop at Walla Walla the cost would be about \$120.00 including mileage, lodging

and one meal.

This motion was discussed and assembled with the help of all correctional committee members attending the June combined quarterly. It received unanimous support from them.

Motion 5

That the Spring 2005 and 2006 Assemblies during the trial period of this Assembly model be two-day events consisting of Saturday and Sunday.

Background: As we now have two assemblies with one quarterly in between there should be less business to address. This means we need less time to do our business. This coupled with the cost savings in facility rental fees would enable us to pass on to each GSR and DCM lower registration fees.

The purpose of group and district financial remuneration to his or her representatives for assembly attendance is so no one is excluded

due to financial status. Now groups have a choice, if limited funds are a problem of spending twice as much per year or only sending those who can afford it on their own in terms of time and money.

Financial responsibility in our area at a time when groups, districts, and area are struggling with increased costs and depressed donations seems to suggest we need to decrease the expense per assembly as we now need to finance two per year. All GSR and DCM Roundtables, reports, sharing and ask-it-baskets will continue within the format of a two-day assembly.

References: Area Handbook pg. 6, 2.0 "The Assembly is currently a three-day event."

AA Service Manual, pg S-33: Assemblies may run from half a day to a full weekend.

Area Handbook Housekeeping Motion 98.7 "Roundtables may be held on Friday and/or Saturday."

Washington State East Area 92
2004 Fall Assembly
October 15,16, and 17, 2004

Hosted by District 11
Sunnyside Community Center
South Hill Park, 1521 South First Street
Sunnyside, WA

Please use one registration form per person

Name: _____ District: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone No: _____

Service Position: (please circle one, if applicable)

GSR	Alt GSR	DCM	Alt DCM	District Officer	Area Officer	Past Delegate
				_____	_____	
				position	position	

Basic Registration \$15 \$ _____

Friday Night Ice Cream Social \$5 \$ _____

Saturday Morning Continental Breakfast \$5 \$ _____

Saturday Barbeque Lunch \$10 \$ _____

Saturday Mexican Fiesta Dinner \$12 \$ _____

Sunday Morning Full Breakfast \$8 \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Deadline for meal registration is October 1 2004

Make Checks payable to "Fall Assembly 2004" and mail to:

Area 92 Fall Assembly 2004

PO Box 13

Prosser, WA 99350

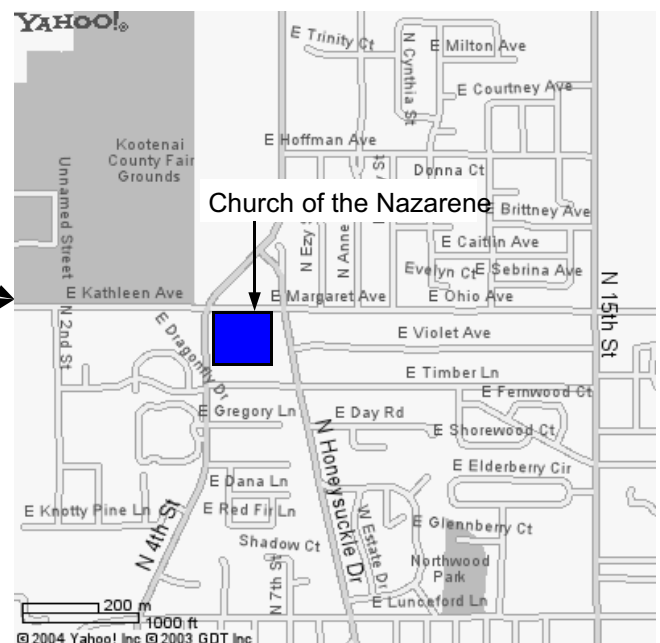
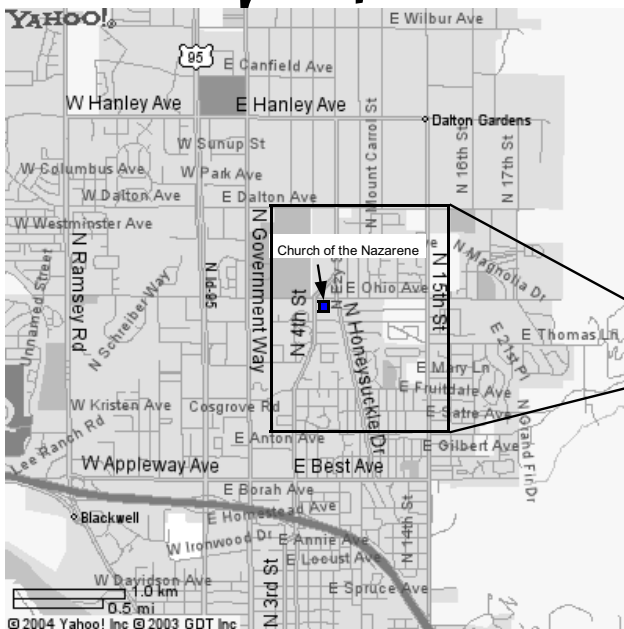
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**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

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September Combined Quarterly

Who: Area 92 Standing Committees

When: Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004 10a.m.—4p.m.

Where: St. David's Church, 7315 N. Wall Spokane, WA

Bring: Side dish [BBQ provided]

Corrections • CPC/PI
Grapevine & Literature
Newsletter • Treatment