



The Tributary

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Publication of Area 76 Alcoholics Anonymous
Serving the entire area of Wyoming

The Tributary and Our Primary Purpose

By Deneen R., Area 76 Tributary Chair and Editor

Special Interest Articles:

- Wyoming hosts West Central Regional Service Conference
- Trustee presents on love and tolerance

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“For to our kind, those who suffer alcoholism, recovery is a matter of life or death. So the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not, ever be diverted from its primary purpose.”

Language of the Heart

In the life of any trusted servant in Alcoholics Anonymous, there comes a time when one must ask himself if the work he is doing is truly a reflection of AA's primary purpose - to stay sober and help others to achieve sobriety.

Is the Tributary doing this? These are the questions I have been asking myself:

- 1) Do members of the fellowship within Area 76 read the Tributary?
- 2) Is it only people interested in service who are interested in the Tributary?
- 3) What is preventing people from submitting material to be included in the Tributary?

- 4) Is this a good use of membership funds?

And the million-dollar question-

How can the Tributary best reflect AA's primary purpose?

It is my hope that every GSR will take these questions back to their groups. The fellowship as a whole has a right to help steer the direction of a publication that is meant to serve them.

I am asking GSR's to take some notes and bring them to the summer business assembly. Thank you in advance for your work in this manner.

Feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, and submissions for upcoming Tributary issues

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59th General Service Conference

The 59th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United States and Canada will gather in New York City under the theme “Our Commitment to Carry A.A.’s Message—Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action” during April 26—May 2, 2009



Delegate's Report

Timing is Everything...

A Declaration of Unity...

This we owe to A.A.'s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Delegate addresses scheduling issues, the concepts, and the West Central Regional Service Conference

I Am Responsible...

When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.

And for that: I am responsible.

I would like to share a little about timing with the General Service Conference, our Assembly and the WC Regional. As you may know, we may send proposed agenda items for the General Service Conference any time throughout the year. The final deadline for items is January 15th. Items submitted after that date get considered for the following year. If you've been following the agenda process, you know that the process gets a little complicated, but maybe we can look at an item that Area 76 proposes and follow it through.

We vote on a proposal at our Summer Assembly. The delegate sends the item to the Conference Coordinator who acknowledged receipt of it, and forwards it on to a trustees' committee. The General Service Board, and subsequently its committees, officially meet four times a year. The committees can have many more meetings than that through phone conferences and other meetings.

Say our proposed item makes it to GSO in time to be considered at the October Board meeting. At that committee meeting, if time permits, they make a determination about the item. Or, if their schedule is very busy, they may table it until the next Board meeting. The last Board meeting is the end of January. This is why all items to be considered must be received no later than January 15th.

After the January Board meeting, we know which items are going to be on the agenda. The staff at GSO then goes into frantic mode for a month. A huge part of their work is about gathering background

information. Once they have gotten as much meaningful background as possible, they number and title the pages, scan the info, compile everything in order, etc. They have many staff meetings where they look and look and look to hopefully get everything as almost perfect as possible (GSO staff is really relentless and conscious about the agenda). After they have done their best with this daunting task, they make hard copies and CD copies and ship them out to all of the Conference members with a targeted date of arrival of February 15th.

So, the delegate has the information in hand around February 15th, makes copies and sends them out as soon as possible to DCMs and Area Officers/Chairs. This particular tradition started in Area 76 last rotation and has continued with me.

Our West Central Regional Service Conference should be held the last weekend of February, according to WC guidelines. This gives the regional delegates approximately two weeks to send out information and to read through all of the information. It gives the rest of the Area even less time to disseminate information and try to get parts of it read. The WCRAASC has the date set as it is because after that time, the various Areas start having their Assemblies.

According to Area 76 guidelines, our Assembly is either the last weekend in March or the first weekend in April. An earlier date might not give the Area time to go through the information at their groups and districts. A later date would really start crunching the delegate who will be headed to the General Service Conference the last week of April.

Delegate's Report, Cont.

Obviously, there is a lot that goes into trying to get the agenda and background information out to everyone. Try as I might, I can't think of how to make improvements on the process.

You may also notice that I sent two agenda items in for Report and Charter, one in September and the other January 14th. If you'll look at the background for both of those items, you'll see that it is much better to get a proposal in early :)

One other word about timing: Area 76 has only one Assembly during the year after the General Service Conference convenes. If you are interested in proposing an agenda item, our Assembly in Thermopolis (or Summer Assembly) is the time to bring that up. Otherwise, you'll need to wait for almost a year to discuss it with the Assembly. I had two agenda items that I submitted on my own, noting that they had not been discussed at my Area. One item made it (Charter Inventory), the other item was killed (creation of a Conference Committee on AAWS). There is much that happens at the Conference level between our Summer Assembly and that January 15th deadline for agenda items.

Hope this helps answer some questions I've heard about timing!

A Little Help With The Concepts

Service commitments necessarily involve spending time in The Service Manual and with the Traditions and Concepts. The Concepts can seem so dry and cumbersome on the first couple of approaches that they are almost impossible to wade through. I would like to share a way of looking at them that may be helpful.

Our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts are so written that the first one shows us the "deal." Step 1 is about powerlessness over alcohol and unmanageability (Recovery); Tradition 1 is about our common welfare and unity (Unity); Concept I is about final responsibility and ultimate authority (Service). In other words, the first Step, Tradition and Concept tell us the exact problem we are going to be addressing in terms of Recovery, Unity and Service.

The second Step, Tradition or Concept then deals with the solution: Step 2 - a power greater than ourselves that will restore us to sanity; Tradition 2 - a loving God expressing himself in the group conscience; Concept II - the Conference as the active voice and effective conscience of our Society.

The rest of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts are the plan of action to make it all happen. The final Step, Tradition and Concept contain the test to see how well we carried out that plan. Step 12 - has there been a spiritual awakening? Are we carrying the message to alcoholics and practicing these principles in all our affairs? Tradition 12 - are we practicing the humility of anonymity and placing principles before personalities? And Concept XII - do we have perilous wealth or power? Are we practicing prudence in our finances? Is there unqualified authority? Are important issues discussed and voted on with substantial unanimity? Do we take punitive action or incite public controversy? Do we perform acts of governance? Are we democratic in thought and action? Of course, if we find that we aren't doing so well with the test of number twelve, perhaps it is best to start back at one again!

Hope this way of looking at the layout of the Concepts helps tame them a little!

2009 WCRAASC REPORT

Greetings Everyone!

The 2009 West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference was held in Casper on February 26th – March 1st at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center. Preliminary planning for the conference began shortly after Casper was granted the bid to host this event at our Area 76 Winter Business Assembly on March 25, 2006. The hotel and conference location options were reviewed and considered. Since there are very few facilities in Casper that are capable of handling this event and the Wyoming State Wrestling Tournament was being held this same weekend, the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center was selected as the preferred location. We began negotiations with them and had some difficulty establishing a contract agreement. At one point, we thought we might have to move the conference to another Wyoming city. However, a final contract was signed on May 8, 2008.

A Conference Committee, consisting of 12 people, was formed and monthly planning meetings began on May 18, 2008. The WCRAASC Guidelines and Host Planning Guide were reviewed and committee assignments were made. The group conscience went to work and determined the Presentation Topics and Breakout Session assignments for the conference. Using the information that had been provided and working with our Area Delegate and Regional Trustee, a conference program was developed. Flyers were drawn up, contacts were determined and the mass of information began to flow. Since this was an Area 76 responsibility, we tried to involve as many members of Area 76 as possible to help with hosting this event.

We made our best guess and planned for 250 attendees. A few people experienced some delay in getting here, but Mother Nature was pretty good to us for this time of year. We ended up with 272 registered guests, which consisted of 5 Past and Present Trustees, Past and Present Delegates, Area Committee Members, DCM's, GSR's and AA Members from Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota & Wyoming, who shared their invaluable experience, strength and hope with everyone!

I'm extremely grateful to the planning committee and all of the volunteers and participants for helping make this conference a big success. It was an honor and privilege to serve as your Conference Chair for this event and I thank you for this great experience!

Yours in service - Allen W.

Submitted by Brooke C.

WCRAASC - Our Commitment to Carry AA's Message - Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action

Thanks to all who attended the West Central Regional Service Conference in Casper. The committee did an excellent job preparing for the event and have my gratitude for all of the work they did!

I hope everyone had a chance to meet some new people from around the Region. I am always amazed at the amount of knowledge and passion on tap at these gatherings. I seem to learn something new and get to change my perspective a little each time I attend.

I do feel like I owe an amends concerning the way I dealt with one of my agenda items: inclusion of the GSR Preamble into The Service Manual. I was disrespectful both to the item and to those who proposed it. (If it wasn't visible on the outside, it sure was happening on the inside!) If it is something you support, I hope you won't let me rolling my eyes at it keep you from speaking up for it and giving me the opportunity to challenge my closed mind!

I have come to greatly appreciate the importance of the minority opinion. As trusted servants, all items and their originators should have our respect. There are little things that we do that can discourage the minority from speaking. Little things can then turn into bigger things, and then we are in danger of losing the spirit of our true democracy. I don't have to be disagreeable in my disagreement - you all have taught me that. Apparently, I'm not finished learning it!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Assembly in Laramie! As always, thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve!

With love in service – Brooke

A.A. Unity—Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code

A presentation by our Regional Trustee at the January 09 Board Meeting

This topic, of course, comes from *Alcoholics Anonymous* page 84 between Step 10, which concludes with a reminder to help others and one of the greatest promises in the Big Book, “for by this time sanity will have returned.” We’re assured here that liquor will no longer be a problem, that we will be “safe and protected” “so long as we keep in a fit spiritual condition.”

But, we’re not here at this Board Weekend to talk about Recovery from alcoholism. By the definition in the Forward to the First Edition, we “have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body” and thanks to page 132 we know what to do with this gift. It says, “We have recovered, and have been given the power to help others.” In the spirit of Unity—the 12 Traditions—we are here to focus on service. “Our real purpose,” according to page 77, “is to be of service to God and the people about us.”

Picture the inverted triangle of the service structure. We are at the bottom. When I came on the Board last summer, I heard the most amazing notion. I overheard someone refer to participation at this level as the pinnacle of service—not on my triangle. A pinnacle is a high point. We’re closer to Death Valley on the A.A. topographic map than to some Rocky Mountain high.

Among my role models for service is past regional trustee Les L., who was trustees’ Corrections chair when I was Area 41’s Correctional Facilities chair. He taught me much when he rotated off the Board and returned to rural Nebraska to serve on his district’s CF committee, carrying our message into some local jail.

My own sponsor generally dislikes General Service and has mistrusted anything connected with “New York” A.A. He seems to be watching me more closely these days. Something about service at this level, perhaps the \$7.00 bottles of water at Times Square restaurants, seems to distance us from the local home group. A hint of arrogance destroys unity and looks like anything other than love or tolerance to the Fellowship.

Any service position is just a job. Though I am treated nicely as I travel about the West Central Region and throughout the country, those who have known me best and longest are the least impressed. Members of my own home group, the Outlaws, in Omaha, Nebraska, are more interested in how well the coffee and candy dish responsibilities are being carried out than in anything that I am up to. Drop in any Tuesday night, but don’t expect to be treated as well as the obviously new guy or gal. As Tradition 9 puts it, “true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles.”

When Bill wrote that “love and tolerance of others is our code,” he was speaking A.A. So, love, tolerance, and code all need to be filtered into A.A. speak. When my sponsor tells me to get my head out of my ____, he’s saying that he loves me. When, decades ago, he took me to the seediest part of town and told me to sit in the basement of this ramshackle structure (now a parking lot) with my Big Book every Wednesday night in case some inmates housed at that prison work release might show up for a meeting, he was offering the same sort of loving invitation that Adrienne extended to me to participate today.

When he once used an expletive to describe what I could do with my feelings when I went to him for sympathy, he was demonstrating tolerance as only we in A.A. can comprehend it. As to code—a set of principles or moral conduct—we certainly have a code, but as my sponsor sometimes illustrates, we often speak in code, the language of the heart.

I can think of no better place than a Board Weekend to contemplate this topic. Of course, we begin practicing principles in our home groups, and in our homes and work places. Fortunately, in our daily lives there are always common interests around which we can unify, regardless of how unloving or intolerant I may feel at given moments. A.A. has district and area levels of service to train us in the practice of this code, no matter how unnatural it may seem. In my area, Nebraska, we are over 400 miles (668 kilometers for my Canadian friends) west to east. We are fragmented into urban centers, small towns, farms, ranches, and even bisected by two time zones. But, no matter how heated or potentially divisive the discussion, we all can join in harmonious unity to cheer on the NU Cornhuskers.

A Board Weekend has no such unifying element. We arrive here as appointed committee members, non-trustee directors, staff, and trustees of various stripes. I, personally, invoke Step 11 to enable me to conduct myself with the love and tolerance you all deserve.

As a panel 58 delegate recently reminded me, love and tolerance need to be reciprocal. We, at the bottom of the triangle, ask it of others at higher service levels as we perform our duties. Do we—do I—while exercising my right of decision and assuming my right of participation, restrain myself and remember the collective conscience of the individuals comprising our Fellowship? Do I really embrace that option in the Conference Charter of taking questions back to the group level for information, discussion, or their own direct instruction?

I am particularly pleased to be addressing this topic during the weekend when Conference committee chairs are in town. Unlike you, I haven't attended a General Service Conference in a decade. I'll need to draw on the love and tolerance emanating from you to reflect back those unifying qualities during our gathering in April. I must say that it was those qualities in the trusted servants I met that carried me through my two previous Conferences.

Our founders and those we represent deserve the best of our hearts and minds. Too often we mouth hollow platitudes. If I never again hear the injunctions "trust the committee system" and "trust your trusted servants," the timing will be about right.

Though tolerance is an ideal to which I aspire, I can live nicely without hearing anyone extol the wonders of the Spiritual Experience of the General Service Conference. That hyperbole cheapens the actual spiritual awakenings we have all undergone through the Steps. Rubbing shoulders with the big kids in New York is more of ego inflation than of advancing the purpose of A.A.

Moreover, neither of my conferences inspired me as much as learning of the sense of commitment displayed by last year's conference. As I understand it, you went on, unfed and without rest, until your tasks were responsibly completed. We gather for one purpose only—to continue the work of A.A. in meeting its primary purpose. I must credit a close friend of my sponsor for clarifying that responsibility for me when he referred to my first delegate's report by saying, "I don't want to hear about your

damned vacation.” Those who we represent, those who finance our work, deserve our best efforts under the code of love and tolerance.

Okay, I do sound a bit judgmental, even intolerant. Love and tolerance is our code does not mean we embrace mediocrity in service. As Concept IX indicates, “Good service leaders...are at all levels indispensable...” Claiming personal satisfaction at never having gone to the microphone or spending more time exchanging mementos than in communicating with others who have experience or insight on a given topic is not acting within our code at this level. Scheduling theater or baseball outings that become a priority over Conference commitment shows little love for A.A. Celebrating how many committees are chaired by any given region, rather than insuring that the best leadership available is selected, certainly has no positive effect on Unity.

Unity within the Board, unity within the lower one-third of the triangle, and ultimately unity within the whole service structure requires of us that we maintain as a code the qualities of love and tolerance. Without those, which are based on the humility spoken of in Step 7, we might rise to our own personal pinnacles of service while the service structure of A.A. becomes tarnished.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken B
West Central Regional Trustee

A DCM Shares on Regional Service Conference

Hello Everyone,

Following the WCRAASC general session Saturday night, I went to my room and started looking over my general service conference agenda items sheet that I had jotted down notes on throughout the day. I stayed up late typing up notes on most of the things I could remember from discussions on agenda items. Looking back over these notes a few times now I kept thinking about specific agenda items involving carrying the message about what Alcoholics Anonymous is to the non-alcoholic public. There was one agenda item about mass mailings to corrections professionals which was almost a complete failure. Next were several agenda items involving requests to produce a poster board to potential alcoholics among young people, a poster board with a Seventh Tradition Message to A. A. members, and a poster board about A. A. for hospitals and doctors office's. The general consensus seemed to be that the alcoholic should be carrying these types of messages, and not a poster board.

It is easy to think that a letter or poster board can carry a message. In day-to-day work environment, this is a common way to carry a lot of different types of messages. But what I learned this weekend was that the A. A. message can only be transmitted effectively through an alcoholic. At the breakout secession for CPC/PI, it was brought up that letting dentists, doctors, social workers, etc. know that I am a alcoholic can be good CPC work. There were some practical suggestions on carrying the message to professionals by inviting them to luncheons. Most of these ideas from the breakout secession seemed to back up that the message should come from the alcoholic.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC. It is inspiring to see a group of people working to keep Alcoholics Anonymous pointed in a good direction. Look forward to seeing more familiar A. A. faces in Laramie.

Kind Regards,
Dan M

Finance/Budget News

George S

Area 76 needs your help. While we are not in a financial crisis at the present time we are headed in that direction. Our 'Proposed Budget' for 2009 has an \$8000 deficit. We, as an Area, have some unpleasant but necessary decisions to make. We can either curtail Area services and functions, increase our contributions, or a combination of both.

The 7th Tradition states: "We are self-supporting through our own contributions". A.A. has not power to tax, levy or set dues on any individual member, group, district or area but the support of each individual group, district and area falls directly on its members. Without that support our "Primary Purpose" of carrying the message becomes difficult or impossible to achieve. There are those that say "Spirituality and Money Don't Mix ". In A.A. they have to mix or we cease to function. I realize that groups with small memberships at times have a hard time just meeting group expenses and have no money to contribute 'upward'. The individual members are responsible to make sure that there are enough contributions to take care of expenses at the Group level. The Groups have the responsibility to support their District and Area and the Districts also have the responsibility of supporting the Area.

It all starts with **YOU** and with **ME**.

We Need Your Help - PLEASE!

Send Area 76 Contributions to:

Area Treasurer
811 E 23rd St.
Casper, WY 82601

Corrections

Dear AA trusted servants:

This is an update from corrections about volunteer participation in Wyoming Prisons & detention centers. We still have monthly meetings at the women's prison in Lusk & the men's prison in Rawlins. We are having a tough time with attendance at these meetings because of lack of volunteers approved to go & lack of willingness to go! Our best-attended meeting is the Lusk women's prison by district (2&3) who also have started attending meetings at the Newcastle detention center. We are in desperate need of Volunteers in the Rawlins area districts (4,6,7,8,9&10)! Anyone interested, please call me anytime for more information!

Corrections meetings have been a big part of my recovery, reminding me I'm one drink away from landing in that very situation. A large percent of inmates wouldn't be there if it wasn't for their addiction. A large number of these inmates are desperate to hear outside experience, strength and hope!

Please consider volunteering to bring meetings into prison. Not only do you get a meeting in the correctional facility, but also you get a meeting to and from the facility with whomever you go with.

In closing **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS NOW, PLEASE HELP!**

Your trusted servant:
Ed P. Corrections Chair

Minutes for the Area 76 2008 Summer Business Assembly in Lander July 25-27, 2008**8:00am Saturday- Area Committee met**

1. **9:15am- Pat M. opened the Assembly**-Reflect on why we are here, moment of silence for our members who passed away this year, The Serenity Prayer.

Lander was thanked for doing a great job.

- A. new GSR's were introduced and welcomed
- B. new Committee Chairs were introduced and welcomed
- c. Past Delegates introduced themselves

2. **Minutes, Secretaries Report**-Lora D. - Read the minutes from the last assembly- corrections and additions were made to minutes. Minutes were accepted as amended.

3. **Treasures Report**-Allen W. - Area 76 fully funded the Delegate for the Conference in NY. Area 76 is finally designated as a 501 (c) (3) Public Charity with the IRS-This is a requirement under US Law.

Made some adjustment per Finance guidelines. Literature and Grapevine have agreed to report their committee's income to the Area Treasurer so we can determine how much to budget for future budgets. They will also supply a current inventory to the Area Assembly. Everyone needs Finance Guidelines. Any changes to Finance Guidelines needs a 2/3 majority vote. Receipts are required for reimbursement for expenses. Contribution envelopes are available.

Reported Itemized Payees YTD-Current income is \$9226.57 and current expenses are\$17,129.63

Budget: Area 76 has active committees. It takes funds for them to do what they are responsible to do. Keep Area expenses in perspective. The funds are ear marked for Officers and Chairs to get to the Districts, GSR's, etc. To help carry the message to other alcoholics in the Area. Treasurer's report was approved.

4. Officers Report

1. Delegate-Brooke C panel 58 Area 76- Conference in NY- Area 76 is fully self-supporting by sending the Delegates fees. Out of 93 areas there were 11 areas that were fully self-supporting. She brought pictures and posters back from the trip to NY. All the reports are in binders. Everyone was encouraged to look through the binders. She read, "Why we need a Conference" from Bernard S. She sits on the Report and Charter Committee. The Service Manuel was discussed. The lines in the margins (on the pages) mean there's been a change from last year. She reports that she has gained a huge respect for GSR's and is learning how to trust the process of AA. The last Conference was the longest in AA history. They were in committee for 10 hours. She discussed the "Gray pages" in the Grapevine. WCR Trustee election: Ken B. from Nebraska.

2. Alternate Delegate-Tim W-not present due to illness

3. Archives-Dave Mc- Archives Committee helped clean out Archives. He shared his appreciation for people helping him clean (burn) things up in Archives.

4. Registrar-Don M-not present-unable to attend

5. Chairperson-Pat M- WCRAASC in February 2009 in Casper-We get to host it about every 8 years or so. This is an opportunity for more AA's in our Area to be involved. We have a strong regional identity. The hosting committee will need help. Delegates, past Delegates, GSO Trustees will be there.

July 2010 in the International Convention, AA's 75th Anniversary will be in San Antonio, Texas.

There will be new AA videos for young people in AA. GSO is taking submissions and the dead line has been extended. Please contact Pat M. or GSO for further information.

5. Assemblies and Convention Reports:

2008 Spring Convention-08' Casper, Wy.-Lance B. - great success, received great feedback. About 225-232 people in attendance. Fell short of the seed money (-\$416.60 short).

2008 Summer Assembly-Lander-Dean- things are going well, change of the guard, please be generous with the 7th tradition. A picnic will be held at the park on main at 4:30pm-6:30pm tonight.

2008 Fall Convention- Sheridan, WY.-Donald L. - There are registrations on the table and the Area 76 web site. Speakers are set up, entertainment will be a band from AA, and things are on schedule according to the Area 76 convention guidelines.

2009 Winter Assembly- Laramie-Rory- April 3-5, 2009 at the Wyoming Territorial Prison, there is a map on the flyer. Friday night there will be a special tour of the prison from 7:00pm-8:00pm.

2009 WCRAASC- Casper-Allen W. - we are having monthly meetings. It will be February 27, 28 and March 1, 2009 at the Ramkota Hotel, please make reservations early. Preliminary information is on the registration table.

We will need plenty of volunteers to help with this event. Chairs from Archives, Website, Literature and Grapevine will need to add this expense to their budgets.

2009 Spring Convention-Cheyenne-Dave C.

2009 Summer Assembly- Thermopolis- Laura- August 14-16, 2009. Bring people.

6. Area Chairperson Reports:

Archives- Kevin T- Assisted Archivist with "cleaning up" Archives. It is a repository for information regarding Area 76. 3 members were present for the committee meeting this morning. July 12th the committee met in Cheyenne and assisted in categorizing items then they were placed in metal cabinets. The different categories are: 1. Area 76 2. District, town, Group, Archives 3. General AA related 4. Non AA related (but friends) 5. Closed at this time category. Permanent traveling Archives to take to Assemblies, Conventions, etc...

Corrections-Ed P-a new schedule for Lusk and Rawlins. One-year cycle-get approval every year for prison meetings-please contact Ed for schedules and applications. Local jails can be contacted by the local AA. Thanks to the Districts that are involved.

CPC-Eddie R-Mailing list for to send Professionals the pamphlet "What AA does and does not do". Would like to take AA literature to Doctors, Lawyers, etc.

Finance/Budget-George S- 9 in attendance in committee. Discussed motions on the agenda for today.

Expenditures and the need for receipts were discussed.

Grapevine-Jane B-6 in attendance in committee. Gray pages from the Grapevine, ways to use old Grapevines and Subscriptions were discussed. Give a Grapevine and a phone list to a newcomer. She will be doing an inventory on Grapevine items.

Guidelines-Rebecca A- 4 in attendance in committee. Outdated guidelines-they will be updated by the Chairperson.

Literature-Chris H- 3 people in committee. Discussed Literature. Buy, Buy, Buy. How to make it easier for Districts to buy Literature. He's got lots and lots of Literature.

Treatment-Gary Th- 4 in attendance in committee. A lot of committed AA's. Brainstormed different ways to approach new comers. He sees no need for "Bridging the Gap". Other Districts please pass on this information.

Tributary-Deneen R- 2 copies for groups. DCM's get some for no present GSR's. 4 in committee. Begging people to contribute. Recommendations: 1. Tributary have themes 2. see all Districts have a Tributary Chair or Representative. 3. Calendar of events included. Please contact her when you have an event, please send to her e-mail or through the web site.

Public Information-Dan M -Tony reported-Dan was not present- 5 in committee. Discussed the web site, Literature on the web site and Bridging the Gap. AA meeting at a treatment center for young people was discussed.

Web-Site-Michael D -area76wyaa.org- Passwords and e-mail addresses are done. There is a sharing of mailboxes. Some committees will be sharing mailboxes. There are instructions. Domain name was going to expire June 30, 2008. He explained what happened. Up to date to June 30, 2009. He would like to do a 5-year contract. Forms for group changes, Literature prices and order forms will be on the web site. Please give him information on what's going on so he can get them on the web site. 2 questions were presented: 1. Do you want the Agendas and past minutes for Assemblies on the web site? (left unanswered) 2. Do we want a link on the web site to Al-anon? (needs approval from Assembly)

7. District Reports:

District 1-Roland M-3 votes-7 registered groups 6 are active. All groups are growing.

District 2-Jack K-4 votes- 13 registered groups, 40 meetings a week. 5 are active in District. We visit groups that are not active. Jail meetings in Sheridan and Buffalo. Wylstar and VA meetings. For Unity we have a traveling Pot luck and Speaker meetings 4x a year. Annual picnic will be August 10, 2008 in Story, Wyoming.

District 3-Lyndsay S-9 votes- 12 registered groups, 2 not registered 35 meetings a week. Pig Roast flyers are on table. Newcastel Honor Farm meeting we hope.

District 4-Callie P- Pat M- no votes- AA going strong. Campout in August.

District 5-Dean S-4 votes- 14 registered groups-6 acting GSR's, 59 meetings a week. Jail meeting is still going.

District is rotating from week to week. Unity Campout-flyers and meeting schedules are on the table.

District 6-Lance B-10 votes-63 meetings a week, 55 open, 8 closed, speaker meeting 1x a week, 200 active members. Committees are going well and we are self-supporting. August 15-17, 2008 picnic on Casper Mountain. WCRAASC in Casper.

District 7-Mark W-2 votes-6 registered groups, 4 contributing, 1 active District Servant, 39-40 meetings a week.

District 8-Mike S- 3 votes-6 groups, 2 are very active, 40 meetings a week, and 3 jail meetings a week. Fall 2009 Convention.

District 9-Dan R-not present

District 10-Rebecca A- 1 vote-4 groups, 16 meetings a week, jail meeting, Winter Business Assembly.

District 11-Louis R.- 1 vote-4 registered groups, 13 meetings a week, 9 are open meetings. About 40 members.
District 12-Dan M- Dave C. - 2 votes- 13 groups, 45 meetings, 2 clubs in town, big on recovery.53 votes total

8. Old Business: There is none

9. Bids for:

2010 Winter Assembly- Green River
2010 Spring Convention-Cody
2010 Summer Assembly-Afton
2010 Fall Convention-Gillette

10. Agenda Items:

1. Motion to have the seed money for Conventions increased from \$600 to \$1200

Background: Because of the cost of plane tickets and other travel for speakers, the current seed money is not an adequate amount for Conventions.

Submitted by:

Dan M (motion for Lloyd K, District 12).

DCM District 12

Much discussion-motion seconded- vote- 20 for 29 against-motion failed-minority spoke-no one changed their vote-

motion failed

2. MOTION TO ADD Item 2, Section VI of the Financial Guidelines

Area 76 has established Tax-Exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (3) Public Charity. As a Tax-Exempt organization, Area 76 is required to file a yearly tax return with the Internal Revenue Service.

Background:

This item needs to be added to clarify the Area's status and its requirements. Instructions for filing will be listed in Section IV, Treasures Responsibilities.

Submitted by:

George S. Finance Committee Chair

Motion passed unanimously

3. MOTION TO ADD Item 8 to Section IV of the Financial Guidelines

The Area Treasurer shall be responsible for filing the Area's annual tax return with the Internal Revenue Service.

Publication 557, "Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization" and Publication 4221-PC "Compliance Guide for 501 (c) (3) Public Charities" are available from the Internal Revenue Service and provide the necessary information relating to our record keeping and filing requirements.

Background:

As Area 76 has recently been awarded "Public Charity" status with the IRS we as an Area will be required to file a return on an annual basis. This addition to the Financial Guidelines gives our Area Treasurer instructions on this requirement.

Submitted by:

George S. Finance Committee Chair

Motion passed unanimously

4. MOTION TO REVISE Item 6, Section II of the Financial Guidelines

The Area Finance Chair will have primary responsibility for preparation of the annual budget. The Area Chairperson or Area Secretary shall furnish The Finance Committee Chair with a list of all Trusted Servants and all Committee Chairpersons, with addresses, by November 1st of each year. The Finance Chair shall mail a "BUDGET REQUEST" form to each of these individuals by December 1st of each year. The Trusted Servants and Chair people shall return these budget requests to the Finance Committee Chair by January 1st of each year. The Finance Committee Chair shall then compile the budget and mail a copy, electronically or by U.S.P.S., to each Trusted Servant and Committee Chair for revisions or corrections by February 1st. Any revisions or corrections must be sent to the Finance Committee Chair not later than March 1st for inclusion in the budget.

Background:

The item, as currently written, leaves open large areas of responsibility in the budget process. The Finance Chair cannot start the budget process until they have a list of people that will be budgeting. After that there needs to be a definite

timetable for the progression of the budget process, with deadlines, to insure the budget is finished for presentation at the Winter Business Assembly.

Submitted by: George S.
Finance Committee Chair

Motion passed-minority spoke-motion passes

5. MOTION TO CHANGE ITEM 7, SECTION II of the Area 76 Financial Guidelines

The sentences that currently read:

The Area Delegate shall be responsible for requesting funds in the yearly budget to reimburse (up to but not exceeding 2) members accompanying him/her to a Regional Forum or Regional Service Conference for the upcoming year. These *ad hoc* servants may obtain "seed money" for the budgeted amount 60 days prior to the event.

Needs to be changed to read as follows:

The Area Delegate shall be responsible for requesting funds in the yearly budget to reimburse the Area Alternate Delegate and the Area Chairperson to accompany him/her to a Regional Forum or Regional Service Conference. These trusted servants may obtain "seed money" for the budgeted amount 60 days prior to the event.

Background:

This change is necessary to make the Financial Guidelines coincide with a motion passed, as amended, at the Area 76 Summer Assembly July 12th, 1997. The motion, as amended, in the minutes of that assembly, reads as follows:

d. (John V, DCM District 8) For the long term health of Area 76, the Area should require our elected chairman to attend West Central Regional Forums and Conferences and money should be budgeted for expenses for said activity. Because of the critical nature of the chairman's position, his responsibility to the Area, and the need to further enhance the service structure of our Area, the chairperson needs the exposure and information gathered from such regional events. Seconded by Craig H. After a brief discussion, Steve R. made an amendment to the motion: That the Delegate be accompanied to Regional Forums and Conferences by the Alternate Delegate and the Chairman and that they will be the "presenters" at these events. If they are not able to go, the Delegate would choose an alternate. Nina and Carl B. pointed out that GSO select who the presenters are at the Forums, so the clause that they be "presenters" be removed from the amendment. The amendment passed 35 to 15. The amended motion passed 33 to 23. (After the vote was completed. Chairman Bob J. Suggested that today's newly elected Chairman to St. Paul.)

The Finance Committee, as such, has no opinion on who attends the Regional events. That choice should be placed with this Assembly. Our primary concern is having the Financial Guidelines read as to the consensus of Assembly. There has been considerable discussion among present and past Trusted servants on Regional attendance. The Finance Committee needs the Assembly to discuss and adopt this so that in budgeting and disbursement of funds the Finance Committee Chair and the Area Treasurer have a concise path to follow.

Submitted by:
George S.
Finance Committee Chair

Original motion was withdrawn

Motion to amend the motion to change from Alternate Delegate and Area Chairperson to 2 persons of delegates choosing. seconded

Amendment-29 yes and 12 no

Amendment failed it was not a 2/3 majority vote.

"It was stated that the 2006 Area 76 Financial Guidelines super ceded the 1997 motion".

Chair entertains a floor action by Brook C.-Delegate went over the Area 76 Agenda items to consider for the 59th GSC. The "Gray Pages" in the Grapevine were discussed at length. This issue was to be taken back to the groups for discussion

but is not being submitted for a motion at this time. She will be making a draft of the motions and send them via e-mail to DCM's, Area Officers and Committee Chairs for review.

In the Fellowship of the Spirit,
Lora D

Agenda for the Area 76 2009 Winter Business Assembly in Laramie April 3-5, 2009

8:00 am Saturday- Area Committee meetings

1. **9:00am-open the Assembly- Chairperson-Pat M.**-Reflect on why we are here, moment of silence for our members who passed away this year, The Serenity Prayer.

- a. Introduce and welcome any new GSR's/DCM's
- b. Introduce and welcome any new Committee Chairs
- c. Past Delegates introduce themselves

2. **Minutes, Secretaries Report**-Lora D.

3. **Treasures Report**-Allen W.

4. **Officers Report**

- Delegate-Brooke C.
- Alternate Delegate-Tim W
- Archivist-Dave Mc
- Registrar-Don M
- Chairperson-Pat M

5. **Assemblies and Convention Reports:**

- 2008 Summer Assembly-Lander
- 2008 Fall Convention- Sheridan, WY.
- 2009 Winter Assembly- Laramie
- 2009 WCRAASC- Casper
- 2009 Spring Convention-Cheyenne
- 2009 Fall Convention-Rock Springs
- 2010 Winter Assembly-Green River
- 2010 Spring Convention –Cody
- 2010 Summer Assembly-Aftonish
- 2010 Fall Convention-Gillette

6. **Area Chairperson Reports:**

- Archives- Kevin T
- Corrections-Ed P
- CPC-Eddie R
- Finance/Budget-George S
- Grapevine-Jane B
- Guidelines-Rebecca A
- Literature-Chris H
- Treatment-Gary T
- Tributary-Deneen R
- Public Information-Dan M
- Web-Site-Michael D -area76wyaa.org

7. **District Reports:**

- District 1-Roland M
- District 2-Jack K
- District 3-Lyndsay S
- District 4-Callie P
- District 5-Dean S
- District 6-Lance B
- District 7-Mark W
- District 8-Mike S
- District 9-Dan R

District 10-Tom H
District 11-Louis A. R
District 12-Dan M

8. Old Business: 2 questions were presented from the Web Master at the assembly in Lander: Mike D.

1. Do you want the Agendas and past minutes for Assemblies on the web site?
2. Do we want a link on the web site to Al-anon?

9. Bids for:

2011 Winter Assembly-
2011 Spring Convention-
2011 Summer Assembly-
2011 Fall Convention-

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Delegate: GSC Agenda

Agenda Items:

Area 76 Registrar

The Registrar develops and maintains records for the groups for Area 76. This record keeping includes group names, addresses, meeting times, GSR contact information and group status through the General Service Office's Fellowship New Vision (FNV) website.

The registrar should have a "reasonable amount of sobriety", which might mean at least 5 years or more of continual sobriety. The registrar should have a good understanding of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, as well as, a firm understanding of the tradition of anonymity within all levels of service within Alcoholics Anonymous. The registrar should have the time and commitment to serve the fellowship of Area 76 and be well based in the program of recovery.

The registrar should be familiar with and have access to the Internet and maintain a verifiable email address for the records department at the General Service Office and for members of Area 76. The registrar should be well organized and computer literate to responsibly fulfill the duties of this very important position. The registrar will also provide mailing labels as requested. These labels will be provided electronically to members, committees, and groups who may request them.

The position of registrar was created in 2005 with the registrar taking office on January 1, 2006; and was implemented as a six-year term to provide consistency of record keeping for Area 76. The registrar position will be rotated again in 2012 with election being held in 2011 and every 6 years thereafter.

1. Motion: to accept description of The Area Registrar Position by the Area 76 Assembly.

History

When the Area Registrar position was created it was determined that a description be developed for future Registrar. This is the end result.

2. Motion: That area 76 Elect/Appoint an Alternate Area Registrar to maintain consistency within the Area 76 Registrar position to a 6-year term, with the alternate permitted to stand for Registrar when the position is available.

History

The Area 76 Registrar was elected to serve a 6-year term to provide consistency within the records keeping of the area. The Alternate will help provide more of the desired consistency and will have ample training and support from and for the Registrar.

Submitted by: Don M.-Area 76 Registrar

3. Motion: That Area 76 reimburse districts for fuel and food costs of making trips to bring AA meetings into the corrections facilities at Lusk and Rawlins.

Background: Area 76 Corrections Committee undertakes to bring AA meetings into the men's and women's state prisons once a month. As an Area function, this should be supported by Area 76 funds. While each district is scheduled to provide prison meetings four times a year, often circumstances require that some districts provide meetings more often. This creates a larger financial burden for districts that pick up the slack. Additionally, some districts have smaller treasuries than others, which may hinder their ability to carry the message into the prisons. Some districts also incur greater expenses on prison trips because of their greater distances from the facilities.

Therefore, in order for our Area Corrections to be fully self-supporting, and to encourage the greatest participation, District Two proposes this motion.

Submitted by: Jack K, DCM-District 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

At the present time Area 76 has no means in place for the replacement of its Trusted Servants, other than the Delegate, in the event of resignation or catastrophe. While none of us like to think of that likelihood there is always that possibility. It might be in the best interest of the Area to have a laid out means for the replacement of the Trusted Servant(s) in case of

such an occurrence. Some ideas might be 1. – An election of a replacement as the very first item of business at the next regular Assembly, 2. – Appointment of a replacement by the Chairperson or 3. – The remaining Trusted Servants as a body select a replacement. I feel this is something that needs to be addressed.

Submitted by: George S. Dist. 3

Agenda submitted by Lora D., Area 76 Secretary

Capture Serenity

2009 Area 76 Spring Convention Hitching Post Inn 1700 West Lincolnway Cheyenne, WY

Marathon
Meetings

June 5 6 7

Al-Anon speakers

Saturday 7-9 pm

Workshops

AA Speakers:

Sunday 9-10 am

Friday 8-9 pm:

Banquet

Eric W. from Rawlins, WY

Saturday 8:15-9:15pm:

Bob H. From Billings, MT

Sunday 10:15-11:15 am:

Chris and Beth D. from Rapid City, SD

Dance and DJ
Saturday night
from 9:30-12

for room reservations
at the Hitching Post,
call 307-638-3301

Fellowship Forum

OLD TIME AA

- 1- It's not old behavior if I'm still doing it.
- 2- All we ask is that you completely change your attitude, as soon as possible.
- 3- An alcoholic is a person who wants to be held while he's isolating.
- 4- Sobriety is the leading cause of relapse.
- 5- A treatment center is where you go and pay \$15,000 to find out that AA meetings are free.
- 6- Once I become proud of my humility, I've lost it.
- 7- The good news is you get your emotions back; the bad news is you get your emotions back.
- 8- If drinking is interfering with your work, you're probably a heavy drinker. If work is interfering with your drinking, you're probably an Alcoholic.
- 9- I often obsessively pursue feeling good, no matter how bad it makes me feel.
- 10- In order to change the way we feel we need to change the way we act. There is only one way to coast, and that is down hill.
- 11- How come if alcohol kills millions of brain cells, it never killed the ones that made me want to drink?
- 12- From a newcomer reading the 'Promises' for the first time: "We will comprehend the word cemetery and we will know peace."
- 13- If God were small enough to be understood, He wouldn't be big enough to be God!
- 14- If you want to quit drinking; you are going to have to quit drinking.
- 15- Newcomer: How do I know how many meetings I should attend each week?
Old-timer: Gradually cut back until you get drunk. Then you'll know.
- 16- I would rather go through life sober, believing I am an alcoholic, than go through life drunk, trying to convince myself that I am not an alcoholic.
- 17- Resentments are like stray cats: if you don't feed them, they'll go away.
- 18-The difference between a problem drinker and an alcoholic is that:
(A)When alcohol is taken away from the problem drinker, the problem goes away.
(B)When alcohol is taken away from the alcoholic, the problem begins.
- 19- Before I came into AA, I was dead, but I did not know enough to lie down.
- 20- This is a One Day at a Time program. If you are clean and sober today, you are tied for first place in AA.

Butt Prints in the Sand Submitted by Kristi D

One night I had a wondrous dream
One set of footprints there was seen
The footprints of my precious Lord
But mine were not along the shore.
But then some stranger prints appeared
And I asked the Lord 'What have we here?'
Those prints are large and round and neat
But Lord, they are too big for feet
"My child, " He said in somber tones
"For miles I carried you alone

I challenged you to walk in faith
But you refused and made me wait
You disobeyed, you would not grow
The walk of faith, you would not know
So I got tired, I got fed up
And there I dropped you on your butt
Because in life, there come a time
When one must fight and one must climb
When one must rise and take a stand
Or leave their butt prints in the sand

Check out the Area Website!
www.area76wya.org

***Don't forget to send flyers of your
Area 76 events!***