



The Tributary

August 2009
Volume 2, Issue 2

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

Tributary on Chopping Block

By Deneen R., Area 76 Tributary Chair and Editor

Special Interest Articles:

- Future of Tributary
- Area feels pinch of lagging financial support.

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There has been some discussion and a supposed upcoming agenda item to discontinue The Tributary due to financial crunches within the treasury. That indeed would be a sad event, after the resurrection of the area publication.

The Tributary is an important venue in which trusted servants may report activities performed in the service to Area 76 AA. There are so many people in AA who have no idea what goes on with service at the area level. Some don't care, but most others aren't even aware. It's important for the fellowship to know what our trusted servants are doing to serve and how the funds that they provide through the 7th tradition basket are being used. The contributions of groups are the major funding of travel and expenses for area chairs and officers. The Tributary could be a valuable tool to provide connection, communication, and accountability to the fellowship of Area 76. If the Tributary survives the floor of the assembly, I think it should be a job expectation of all

area chairs and officers to submit an article twice a year.

Being a voice for the fellowship of members within area 76 is also another important feature of the Tributary. There is a fellowship section to include articles and letters from individual members. Anything from current events, issues relevant to AA, anecdotes, stories are included. What a wonderful place to pose questions and share experience, strength and hope.

Please contact your GSR or DCM and let them know how you feel about the Tributary.

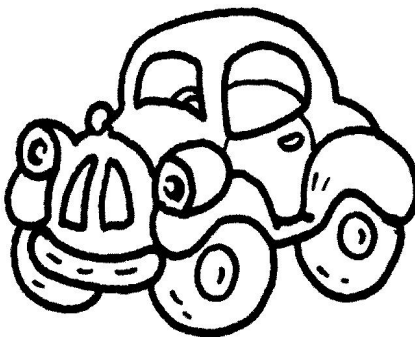
Feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, and submissions for upcoming Tributary issues

neened68@hotmail.com

Or mail to Deneen R

P.O. Box 1458

Sundance, WY 82729



Get in the Car

During the winter assembly, our delegate was sporting a lapel pin with the phrase, "Get in the Car". It prompted much amiable discussion about AA road trips and fun and fellowship experienced in the car on the way to AA functions.

See Fellowship Forum for more on this.

Registrar's Report

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.

Registrar encourages all to keep information updated

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.

Greetings Area 76

The Registrar position is doing well. We update information as it comes in. We update group changes such as GSR's and Alternate GSR's, someone's' email or physical address when changed, or even phone numbers. We do this for anyone listed on the records site. It is a simple process, but I cannot change what I do not know about. If there are changes just get them to me. You can reach me in a host of different ways:

1. Area 76 Website < <http://www.area76wyaa.org/registrar1.htm> >
The changes there are emailed to me directly from the form. I update from the information, provided. It is very important to make sure everything is accurate. If GSO sends communication and it is returned the individual or Group can be dropped from active status. It is not done without me getting notification and time allowed to clear it up. But several were dropped this year. A note of importance, if your group does not have a GSR or Primary contact they are marked inactive until we get that contact. This information can be included in the Regional directories. It is also used as mailing lists when asked for by Area members.
2. Email : registrar@area76wyaa.org; registrararea76@yahoo.com ; dmburns@lpbroadband.net ; av@lccc.wy.edu
These are ways to reach me via email. I had some instances where folks said they could not get a hold of me. For reference: registrar@area76wyaa.org; registrararea76@yahoo.com have had these since I took over the registrar position 4 years ago. dmburns@lpbroadband.net have had for over two years since they brought broadband internet to my little piece of heaven. av@lccc.wy.edu, have had this one for nearly 12 years. It is my work address, I look at it every day. If it changes, our IT people put a forward on it. I have not seen the forward ever deleted.
3. Snail Mail: P.O. Box 53 Burns, WY 82053. Been living in Burns for 5+ years and it hasn't changed. Some trivia I thought was interesting, when I became delegate my address was P.O. Box 53 Laramie. It changed when the Post Office started delivering mail to my house.
4. Phone: 307-630-3825 Cell. I have had this number going on three years. 307-316-0151 Home over two years, Work 307-778-1306, this one I have had for almost 12 years.

If you want to get me information it is quite easy. I am easily found and easily reached. Should be no reason why someone says I cannot get a hold of the registrar.

Registrar's Report, Cont.

Some other things I need to discuss.

Group updates: I sent 12 DCM's group update information the 9th of April. I asked to get them returned to me, at the latest, the assembly in Laramie. I was unable to make it due to road closures with our spring snowstorm. However, I sent out an email latter that week asking those who did not send them to me to do so. I sadly have to announce I only received group updates from Districts 5, 6, 9 and 12. I have heard nada from any of the others. Hope they are doing well?

Contacting the Registrar: I cannot say this enough; the registrar is the person who needs to get the group, DCM, and individual updates. We have a web portal called FNV (Fellowship New Vision). This is a website where I can enter information and it is immediate, except new groups and meetings that move to a different town or city. It causes a great delay to send them to GSO. Three days mailing time, 1-4 days getting through their mailing system, and whatever it takes to get verification if needed. So by contacting GSO it could be 10 days to 2 weeks before your information is updated. You contact the registrar, upon receipt of the information it is within 8 hours. Also this allows Area 76 to have the most up-to-date mailing lists available to it members.

Mailing lists: When the Registrar is asked to provide mailing lists it will be done so within 24 hours. Sometimes more quickly if some has asked for a list within 2 weeks of your request. It takes time to edit out information from what ids given through the FNV. There is a lot of unneeded information that has to be edited, and knowledge of how to do it. When individuals or groups ask for a mailing list I do not think they need

the name, or position, or what language they speak, all of which is exported from FNV. It is then needed to be imported into an EXCEL spreadsheet (recommended way) and then edited from there. The original document has 29-30 columns when you only need 4. It takes time and an understanding of what is needed.

Please do not get me wrong, I am not complaining. I just wanted everyone to know what the registrar does. That does not include the individual communications with GSO, the Records Dept., and our own trusted leaders. It can get hectic and frustrating. But I always get you what you ask for.

Please make a mental note, I do not sit by my computer, phone, or mailbox waiting for the information above. I also have a wonderful life. I have a loving wife and two wonderful little boys and stepson at home waiting for me. I am a full-time college employee, homeowner, and have recently started up my AV installation business. When I am not doing that I am a sponsor, volunteer fireman and ambulance driver, I love everything I am doing -- bar none! I do it all because I choose too, not because I have too. In AA I was shown how to make good choices along with choosing to live sober. I tell those who are struggling to keep coming back. Do what we do to get what we have. ☺

Thanks
Don M
Area 76 Registrar
307-630-3825
307-547-9293

Finance/Budget News

George S - Budget/Finance Chair

The Choice is Yours!

Do you like the way Area 76 is operating? Do you like the services Area 76 provides through its various Trusted Servants and Committees? If the answer is **YES** to these questions then increase your contributions to Area 76. If the answer is **NO** then change nothing and continue going as we have been and it will change.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS! While Area 76 is not in a financial crisis yet, we are in a financial dilemma, and are headed for a financial crisis if action is not taken real soon. Our contributions are down and expenses remain the same or are increasing. We cannot continue spending at the present rate for very long. At the present rate we will be using the prudent reserve for operating funds next year. Not a pleasant thought. The Finance Committee or the Area Treasurer does not set spending policy or priorities. The Area 76 Financial Guidelines, in Section IV, Paragraph 6 sets a list of priorities for reducing or eliminating expenditures. These will have to be adhered to in case our financial problems continue. Also not a pleasant thought.

The bottom line is: Either Area 76 brings in **MORE** or spends **LESS**.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

MINUTES FROM THE WINTER ASSEMBLY IN LARAMIE APRIL 3-5, 2009-
46 votes-2/3 votes=16

There was no microphone so it was very hard to hear what was being said, however I will do the best I can. If you find anything missing that you heard and maybe I missed, please feel free to let me know. Thank you.

8:00am Saturday- Area Committee meetings

Change to agenda

Committee chairs were given committee report sheets to fill out in the committee sessions, these sheets were to be given to the Secretary.

1. **9:35am-Saturday**-Pat opened the Assembly with the Serenity prayer. Pat thanked Laramie for all their hard work in getting the Assembly sight, food, hospitality, etc...New GSR's, Committee Chairs and DCM's were introduced and welcomed. Past Delegates were recognized.

2. **Minutes, Secretaries Report**-Lora D.-there was no microphone, so all the minutes were not read-Minutes were accepted as written.

3. **Treasures Report**-Allen W. - Read the treasurers report. He went over the process of Tax filing. Tax return is complete. Receipts are needed for re-imbursments. Report was approved as read.

4. Officers Report

Delegate-Brooke C-went over committee trade mark (horse and cowboy). Have to keep it in the State of Wyoming. Business agreement with the state-Chairperson can sign papers. Corrections would have an official letterhead. Vote was yes to use the bucking horse for the letter head. However, there was concern from an AA member who brought up the question of affiliation. She reports she went on 2 big trips and is not asking for reimbursement for the Area. She gave a report on the goings on. Casper WCRAASC committee did an excellent job. Forums are every other year-maybe have regional gatherings on the off years? Maybe for workshops? Nothing but service work sessions. There is a Forum in St. Cloud, MN from September 11-13, 2009-Enthusiasm and gratitude in action. She discussed taking personal inventory, District inventories, Group inventories, Area and General Service Conference inventories (with the question-what is the purpose?). Service Work structure does exist which helps make it possible for the message to be carried.

Alternate Delegate-Tim W Stated he was glad to be back after the physical problems he had experienced. He thanked everyone for the prayers and love. He reported he sat on the Finance Committee.

Archives-Dave Mc -not present-snowed in

Registrar-Don Mnot-present-snowed in

Chairperson-Pat M-talked about the call up meeting last night. He discussed Tradition 5, his experience and gave a brief history of AA. The importance of AA Unity, WCRAASC in Casper, WCRAAF in Minn. And Stepping Stones in NY were discussed.

5. Assemblies and Convention Reports:

2008 Fall Convention- Sheridan, WY.-Cheri W.- lost \$429.04 seed money-160 registered participants, brought in \$8054.26- \$170.00 will go back to the Area. Great convention

2009 Winter Assembly-Laramie-Tom H. - potluck at noon, snowing and please give to the 7th tradition.

2009 WCRAASC-Casper- Allen W. - Gratitude towards the Conference Committee and to the participants. 272 registered guests from the west central region. \$600.00 in the black. They did not pass the 7th tradition at the Speaker meeting.

2009 Spring Convention-Cheyenne-Dan- June 6-7, 2009 get on the mailing list-flyer is on the web-site, Hitching Post Inn is where the convention will be held. There will be workshops, speakers and everything is on track.

2009 Summer Business Assembly-Thermopolis- Lauralyn-Facility in the middle of town. Working on the particulars.

2009 Fall Convention-Rock Springs-Dave- October 23-25, 2009. Going according to guidelines, early registrations are greatly appreciated.

2010 Winter Assembly-Green River- working on it

2010-Spring Convention-Cody-Work in progress

2010-Summer Assembly-Evanston-working on it, hasn't nailed anything down at this point.

2010 Fall Convention-Gillette-Lyndsay-October 15-17, 2010-working on getting speakers may be at the Clarion.

6. **District Reports: 35 votes**

District 1-Lauralyn W 7 registered groups, District meetings have been successful. Taking meetings into the jails. 3 votes.

District 2-Jack K-40 meetings a week, jail meetings, prison meetings, treatment meeting, VA meeting, and a Campout in July. 5 votes.

District 3-Lyndsay S-13 registered groups, 1 Spanish speaking group, 1 young persons meeting. 6 votes

District 4-Callie P-not present-0 votes

District 5-Michelle S-14 registered groups, 53 meetings a week, working on corrections, Summer Assembly-4 votes

District 6-Lance B-Active groups, meetings in corrections facility, 63 meetings a week. 3 votes.

District 7-Mark W-Dan reported-5 groups active with jail meetings-2 votes

District 8-Mike S-Terry reported-3 votes

District 9-Dan R-3 groups, having problems getting District together, 8 meetings a week. 1 vote

District 10-Tom H-4 active groups, 16 meetings a week, early meetings 2 times a week, taking meetings into the jail. 5 votes

District 11-Louis R-4 registered groups, 2 non-registered groups, 11 meetings a week, supporting 2 institutions in the District. 2 votes

District 12-Dan M-13 groups, 59 meetings a week-1 vote

7. **Area Chairperson Reports: 6 votes**

Archives- Kevin T-exhibit, they have a new display for traveling archives for Conventions and Assemblies. Dave Mc H. moved all the Archives to the climate controlled storage. Working on categorizing the Archives. He is doing research on what other Areas are doing with their Archives.

Corrections-Ed P-11 committee members in committee this morning, lots of participation in local jails. He will send out the schedules for the prison meetings when he has the ok from the prisons. The agenda item #3 was discussed (area reimbursement for getting to prison meetings) Motion was read-there was much discussion. Finance Committee asked the assembly not support this motion. Treasurer-Allen-Realistically the budget is \$8000.00 more than we actually have.

Motion-that the item be tabled until after we vote on the proposed budget-seconded-passed

General Service conference agenda-Corrections- A. Review B. Stop the mailing C. consider D. we have no choice but to comply with the corrections facility.

No other considerations

CPC-Eddie R-

Finance/Budget-George S- six people present in committee. Items of financial concern were discussed. To include:

1. The GSC resolution concerning self-support. The committee made no recommendation.
2. The committee discussed at length our Area deficit crisis.
3. The committee discussed the Proposed Budget at length and voted to recommend a "DO NOT PASS" recommendation.
4. The committee discussed adjusting the Prudent Reserve to reflect a five-year average of expenses. Passed by the committee.
5. The committee discussed the changes in the Financial Guidelines necessary to implement the changes to the Prudent Reserve.
6. The committee discussed ways of encouraging DCMs and GSRs to promote contributions to Area 76.

7. The committee discussed the Floor Motion for Area to fund Travel Expenses to the Correctional institutions. Recommended a “DO NOT PASS” as written due to unavailability of funds.

Motion to accept finance committees Proposed Budget-committee recommendation was no to approve the proposed budget. 16 for/18 against-motion failed-budget does not pass.

Grapevine-Jane B-not present-Brooke reported for her-GSC agenda discussed-Gray pages were discussed at length. Please feel free to let Grapevine know what you think/feel about the Gray pages.

Guidelines-Rebecca Allen-2 in committee-

Motion-Accept Registrar Guidelines as written/presented to the Assembly-26 yes/12 no- motion passed-minority spoke-no one changed their vote.

Committee recommends we accept the motion. Motion to table the motion. That the guidelines be sent back to the Registrar to be reworded by the Guideline Committee. It will be on the next agenda.

Literature-Chris H- not present- Cheri W. reported on the GSC agenda

Treatment-Gary T-Went over the GSC agenda

Tributary-Deneen R 2 in committee- 2 tributaries per group. DCM's please take back to your GSR's that are not present. Her address has changed to Sundance. Please give articles for the Tributary. Districts need Tributary Chairs. She would like some suggested topics. What is the function of the Tributary? It is a communication tool which includes service stuff. She discussed possible subscription to the Tributary.

Public Information-Dan M-Discussed GSC agenda-Do we want the Agenda and Minutes from the Assemblies on the Web-site? He will take last names off the agendas and minutes. **Tabled until next assembly.**

Motion-to include a link to the national Al-anon pm the Area web-site. Seconded-30 for/4 against-minority spoke-call for change of vote-discussion-revote-28 for/7 against. Motion passed.

Considerations: Area 76 get a 1-800 number for all for Area 76. Some Districts can't afford or don't have access to an answering service.

Web-Site-Michael D-area76wyaa.org-was not given time to report

Brooke-talked about Report and Charter-she wants everyone to review the Charter

8. Old Business: none

9. Bids for:? Tabled until next Assembly

10. NEW BUSINESS:

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.26 for/12 against-minority spoke/no one changed their vote.

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.

Motion to table for next Assembly.

History

The Area 76 Registrar was elected to serve a 6 year tem 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.

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.

This motion was tabled for next Assembly

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. **Just a discussion item-take back to the groups-it may possibly be made into a motion for next Assembly.**

Submitted by: George S. Dist. 3

In the Fellowship of the Spirit, Lora D, Area 76 Secretary

Summer Assembly Agenda

Agenda for Area 76 Summer Assembly in Thermopolis August 14-16, 2009

8:00am Saturday- Area Committee meetings

1. **10:30am-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 new GSR's
- b. Introduce and welcome new Committee Chairs
- c. Past Delegates introduce themselves

2. **Minutes, Secretaries Report-Lora D.**-read minutes from last assembly

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

4. **Officers Report**

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

5. **Assemblies and Convention Reports:**

- 2009 Winter Assembly-Laramie-final report
- 2009 Spring Convention-Cheyenne-final report
- 2009 Summer Business Assembly-Thermopolis-
- 2009 Fall Convention-Rock Springs-
- 2010 Winter Business Assembly-Green River-
- 2010 Spring Convention-Cody-
- 2010 Summer Assembly-Evanston-
- 2010 Fall Convention-Gillette-

6. **Area Chairperson Reports:**

Archives- Kevin T-

That the Archives Committee discuss adding to its scope and responsibilities the General Service Conference agenda items concerning trustees and make a recommendation to the Assembly concerning this

Corrections-Ed P-

That the Corrections Committee discuss combining Corrections and Treatment scopes and responsibilities at the Area level and make a recommendation along with the Treatment Committee to the Assembly.

Discuss the request for sharing from the GSC concerning compliance with corrections facilities. (Background: The GSC Committee on Corrections has requested that the Fellowship send in sharing about compliance with corrections facilities concerning PREA, sponsorship agreements, anonymity issues, legally binding documents, etc. This item is to inform those involved with Corrections Committee activities about the request, and discuss the process to get the sharing to the staff and trustees.)

CPC-Eddie R-

That the CPC Committee discuss combining CPC and PI scopes and responsibilities at the Area level and make a recommendation along with the PI Committee to the Assembly.

Finance/Budget-George S-

Motion: That Area 76 reimburse districts for fuel and food costs of making trips to bring AA State Correctional Facilities. Submitted by Jack K-Dist.2. This motion was tabled at Laramie Assembly.

Grapevine-Jane B-**Guidelines-Rebecca A-**

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. Submitted by Don Myers, Area Registrar. This motion was tabled at the Laramie Assembly.

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.

That the Guidelines Committee consider adding to its scope and responsibilities the General Service Conference Agenda items concerning Report and Charter and make a recommendation to the Assembly concerning this matter. That the Guidelines Committee consider the need for additional time for the Area to conduct business and make a recommendation to the Assembly. (Background - The Area currently holds two Assemblies and two Conventions per year. At different times in the past, some business has been done on Saturday mornings of Conventions. Other times, Saturday mornings of Conventions has been utilized to disseminate information with no official business being done. Our current guidelines suggest that the Summer Assembly be held the last weekend in July or first weekend in August giving the Groups and Districts approximately one and a half months to receive information from the delegate concerning the GSC, discuss any issues or topics and send Area agenda items to the secretary for the Summer Assembly. If the delegate's report is given at the Summer Assembly, there is no time to create an informed conscience of the Groups and propose any current items in a timely fashion for the GSC agenda. Such agenda items could be heard by the Area at the Winter Assembly, but would then take an additional year to get on the GSC agenda. In addition, some Groups have voiced concerns over not knowing the candidates for elected Area positions until right at the time of voting.) Submitted by Brooke C.

- That Area 76 consider changing the present format (2 Assemblies & 2 Conventions to a format of 3 Assemblies- 1 Convention). Submitted by District #3, Area 76. I am looking at this move long term as a money-saving as well as a more diligent approach to Area 76 taking care of business.
- It is moved that Area 76 stop funding of the event known as the Fall Convention starting in 2011. That Area 76 hold two Business Assemblies per year, one at the time of the present Winter Assembly and the other in the time frame of the current Fall Convention.

BACKGROUND:

In recent times several Conventions have not been self-supporting. Area 76, at the present time, does not have funds to offset the losses from these conventions. Area 76 needs a minimum of two Business Assemblies per year to conduct Area business and give our Delegate needed input. This could mean quite a financial saving to Area 76.

SUBMITTED BY: The Finance & Budget Committee

That a new committee be formed whose scope would include GSC Committees of Agenda and of Policy/Admissions agenda items. That this new committee be made up of Area Officers who do not already have commitments to other committees (Alternate Delegate and Treasurer) and others interested in the committee's work. In addition, this Area Agenda/Policy Committee's scope could also include matters of Area agenda (themes, topics, workshops, etc) and Area policy (like the creation of a committee, communication, etc) to make recommendations to the Assembly.

Recommend the Report and Charter Committee address and remedy the inconsistencies between the Current Charter and the Original Charter, taking into account previous Advisory Actions and the Charter as to changes. (Background: There are numerous changes to the Current Charter that have no Advisory Actions in conjunction with them. The Charter requires a substantial unanimity of the Conference to change it (an advisory action). There is an Advisory Action saying the Original Charter should be included, with footnotes as to changes by Advisory Actions or editorial changes followed by the Current Charter. Somewhere along the way, footnotes have been added to the Current Charter as well, and changes have been made to the Current Charter that are not through Advisory Action and are not footnoted.) Submitted by Brooke C.

Report and Charter recommend adding the right of Petitions and Appeal to the Charter, with possible placement and wording as follows:

In Article 3, Conference Relation to AA, after "... and all hazardous deviations from AA Tradition." Insert "As such, the Conference recognizes both the right of any to petition for redress of grievances through written and/or oral report, and the right to appeal grievances through each level of the structure all the way forward to the AA movement itself." (Background: Reference the Introduction to the Concepts, all of Concept V, Concept VII, p31, Concept 10, p47, Concept XII, p68, and Final Conference Report from 1956 where Bill discussed right of petition and appeal. I am aware of at least four petitions to the Board that were appealed to the Conference, but not allowed to be heard. These were all important issues I believe should have been heard by the Conference and seen by the Fellowship (and probably still should be heard). While the trustees are currently working on a procedure for petitions to be heard by the Conference, I believe it is well past time to add the rights of petition and appeal to the Charter.) Submitted by Brooke C.

These items submitted by Brooke Collins, Background for Committees: Page S60 of The Service Manual outlines the current Conference Committees and their responsibilities. These committees are: Agenda, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Finance, Grapevine, Literature, Policy/Admissions, Public Information, Report and Charter,

Treatment and Trustees. Two secondary committees are: Archives and International Conventions/Regional Forums. Our Area committees are: Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Finance, Grapevine, Guidelines, Literature, Public Information, Treatment and Tributary.

There are a couple of things I would ask the groups of Area 76 to consider. One is with our financial status, would it be in our best interest to combine committees to best serve the needs of Area 76 with the money we have available? Second, we have a gap in our committees in that there are several GSC committees that have no corresponding Area committees. This means that when we are discussing GSC agenda items, there is no "usual" committee for them to go to. Additionally, if we have items to discuss and to propose as GSC agenda items, there are no committees for those items to go to, either. Examples are any of the agenda items under "Miscellaneous" where there is no "regular" committee whose scope it is to discuss and make recommendations on such things, though the Chair and Secretary may place them wherever seems appropriate.

The agenda items I have proposed are not the only possible options; they are just the ones I came up with. I would encourage everyone to discuss if tightening up on our committees is necessary, and if the additional committees are necessary, then discuss these options or any others. I also wonder if it would be good to try a two year experiment and evaluate if the changes -if any, were beneficial.

Literature-Chris H-

That the Literature Committee discuss bringing the Tributary Committee in as a sub-committee of the Literature Committee, with the Tributary editor continuing to be an appointed (?) position, chair of the sub-committee and member of the Literature Committee, (this would mimic the Webmaster position with the PI Committee) and along with the Tributary Committee, make a recommendation to the Assembly.

Discuss and make a recommendation to the Assembly on the following potential GSC agenda item: Editorial responsibilities of the Publications Department of the General Service Office be limited to the following

in pamphlets and literature where not otherwise specifically addressed by other Advisory Actions:

- § Update financial and publication data that changes on an annual basis;
- § Revise dates that require periodic updating;
- § Correct typographical and spelling errors;
- § Maintain any accurate indexing, pagination, and cross-referencing.

Submitted by Brooke C.

Treatment-Gary T-

That the Treatment Committee discuss combining Corrections and Treatment Committee scopes and responsibilities at the Area level and make a recommendation with the Corrections Committee to the Assembly.

Tributary-Deneen R-

That the Tributary Committee discuss bringing the Tributary Committee in as a sub-committee of the Literature Committee, with the Tributary editor continuing to be an appointed position, chair of the sub-committee and member of the Literature Committee, (this would mimic the Webmaster position with the PI Committee) and along with the Literature Committee, make a recommendation to the Assembly.

Public Information-Dan M-

Do we want the Agenda and Minutes from the Assemblies on the Web-site? He will take last names off the agendas and minutes.

Area 76 get a 1-800 number for all for Area 76. Some Districts can't afford or don't have access to an answering service. That the PI Committee discuss combining CPC and PI scopes and responsibilities at the Area level and make a recommendation along with the CPC Committee to the Assembly.*1

Create a GSC agenda item to stop the use of full faces in PSAs, videos, or any printed material etc.

Create a GSC agenda item to stop the utilization of actors in PSAs, videos, or any printed material, etc.

Create a GSC agenda item to assess what should be done with current PSAs, videos, or printed material that use full faces.

Create a GSC agenda item to assess what should be done with current PSAs, videos, or printed material that utilize actors.

Web-Site-Michael D-area76wyaa.org

7. District Reports:

8. Bids for:

9. Agenda Item from last Assembly:

MOTION ON TRUSTED SERVANT REPLACEMENT:

It is moved that in the event that, through catastrophe or resignation, of one or more of our 'Trusted Servants' become unable to serve that the remaining Trusted Servants, as a body, select a replacement(s) from members of Area 76 AA.

BACKGROUND:

While none of us like to think about such an occurrence, it could happen. We placed our confidence in our Trusted Servants when we elected them. They are the ones closest to the 'day to day' operation of our Area and have the best knowledge of its needs. A position such as the Treasurer would need an immediate replacement to keep the flow of 'normal' Area business moving forward.

SUBMITTED BY: George S. Dist. 3

10. Area Elections: total votes=

Fellowship Forum

Get in the Car. . .

Get in the car, but in my case, my sponsor strongly suggested that I get in the truck. And with less than two months sobriety, I came up with a lot of excuses why I shouldn't. The lack of funds and my granddaughter's birthday party seemed like justifiable reasons, not excuses. So, I struggled with this decision. I talked with my sponsor and I prayed. Then I talked to my son, then I lost sleep (my sponsor probably did, too), I prayed some more. That Friday morning, I found myself just getting in the truck. And we were off - me and three others, riding together and each on our own.

Several hours later, we reached Nebraska, and I was reminded of God's power and handiwork in the form of big, dark, swirling clouds outside the truck. I paid close attention, half expecting and half wanting to see a tornado form. But, it was as if a clear path was created for us to drive through, and we were spared the torrential rains and effects of a powerful storm going on all around us. Hmmm.

We finally reached North Platte to the sounds of wailing tornado sirens. We joked that they didn't need to go to such extremes to announce our arrival. When I registered at the Reunion, I was given a 50th Reunion medallion. Hmmm. That was cool, because a few days before that, I had told my sponsor I must return the two month medallion I had accepted because while it had been two months since my last drink, I had used a different substance to help me with my drinking urges. I accepted this new medallion as an honest replacement. I had earned this one by getting in the truck, and now I had something tangible in my hand to represent that.

Shortly after, I found myself standing in a crowd of a lot of people. Wow - only three familiar faces: the ones I had come with. My fears and insecurities were screaming in my head, "Great, what did I get myself in to?" The other three seemed fine. I found myself once again in life feeling alone in a crowd, and I wished for the solitude and comfort of my apartment back home.

My sponsor asked me how I was doing, and I said, "I have anxiety." She said, "Well, one of your assignments is to go up to people and introduce yourself." Hmmm. In my drinking days, that would have been cake, but now I felt like the crab without the protection of a shell. Nice.

Instead, I wandered into a meeting already in progress. I chose a chair on the outside, but chairs were rearranged so that I could be a part of the circle. My attempt to come in unnoticed had failed. As I listened to these strangers talk, I felt myself becoming a part of. They weren't members of my hometown, but they were just like me. When one woman shared, I had tears in my eyes, recognizing our commonality.

Then there was the man with the strong cane and booming voice. When he shared, he didn't beat around the bush to make his points. I found out he called himself "The Chip Guy." He loved giving away chips, and his pockets were full of them. He reached in his pocket and gave me two of them and asked me if I would be back next year. I told him I didn't know because my sponsor had made me come to this Reunion. His response was, "Well, I am not a young man, and I'll make you a deal. If I make it back next year, will you?" I said, "Sure, it's a deal." I walked away thinking, "He tricked me! How could I say no? He knew what he was doing." I love him for that!

Now, my sponsor said this trip was going to be fun, and while it had been cool, I was really wondering when the fun was going to start. It came the next morning, when several alcoholics entertained us with their willingness to share their talents of humor and acting in the form of a skit featuring Cinderdrunk, Little Red Newcomer and Sleep-Around Beauty. I loved being able to laugh at myself in the characters - proof that we are not a glum lot. I also enjoyed the talent show, with the singer that called herself "Perky" and that incredible singer who touched my heart. And with a prayer to God to not take myself so seriously, I even danced on Saturday night even though I swore I wasn't going to! And who knew those hospitality rooms were there for me?

I find it amazing that four alcoholic women who traveled over 500 miles, who stayed in one motel room with one bathroom, not only got along, but enjoyed each others company and even arrived on time (if not early) to the events. Talk about miracles! By the end of the weekend, I could be off meeting others without panicking if one of my hometown girls wasn't near by.

I've put down the bottle, gotten in the truck and now get to dance with God and with you. When the opportunity comes my way again, I pray for the willingness to get in the truck, and I hope that you will, too. See you on the road of happy destiny!

-Submitted by Syna B

My Introduction to the Service Manual

In my first six months of sobriety, I was invited to go to a Regional Forum in Bismarck, ND. It's not that I was particularly interested in what they would be doing; I just didn't want to stay home stuck with my own brain for a whole weekend, so I agreed to go. I was horrified when they picked me up. The car was some 1970s two-door model and it was packed with 4 other people. I squished myself into the corner of the backseat and looked around to the faces – all men of my father's age. They took little notice of me and continued their boisterous conversations. A break in the conversation came, and I innocently asked how long it would take to get there. The silence was penetrating. That's when the front passenger threw a paperback book into the backseat and said to me, "Here. Read this". It was the AA Service Manual. I decided I had at least six hours to kill in the car and that sleeping wouldn't be an option

given the noise level in the car. I began reading through, and as my interest increased, I began asking questions of clarification along the way. When I reached the section that details area positions, I asked the guys who the delegate was. They replied, "He's driving". I asked him if he was some kind of AA celebrity and he told me he was actually not very important at all. It wasn't contrived humility – it was real.

The rest of the weekend, is, as they say, "history". I fell in love with AA service. That delegate, Rod H., took me under his wing and patiently explained everything as it was happening, like a kind father teaching a young child something new. He continued to serve as a role model for many years after. Sadly, he passed away two summers ago, but his legacy is still felt.

Over the years, getting in the car has been interesting, scary, hilarious, but always a blessing. I got in a car and got stuck in a blizzard with sub-zero temps on

the way home from an AA business meeting, having to stop every few miles to scrape the ice from the inside of the windshield. I got in a car and drove with 7 other people from South Dakota to Toronto Canada to the AA International Convention where I met a woman who remains one of my closest friends today. I got in a car with a group from my home group and drove to Omaha to see Father Martin speak. I got in a car and have given and heard numerous 5th steps. I have worn out Bob E. (If you got sober in the 80's/90s you'll know who that is) speaker tapes and Clancy I CDs. I could go on and on with "get in the car" stories. I can't even begin to guess how many AA miles I have packed, but every single one of them was blessed with insight, companionship, hurting, healing, and recovery. And none of that would have ever happened if I didn't "Get in the Car".

-Submitted by Deneen R.

We Don't Have to Drink to Die.

We buried him yesterday. The County Coroner had published the required notices for next of kin and nobody had claimed the body. It was just his sponsor and I, no preacher even; the county doesn't pay for those. Not much of a send-off, and not the one David had asked for. A cheap coffin, a backhoe dug a hole, and that was it and another old AA gone.

He had been sober over 20 years and in AA over 30, a stern and rigid man who tried to soften his edges and never could. He was a loner, a fringer, and an isolated man at the edge of life's good things. He hung in there and in the end hung himself. I don't know why; I can't know. I know there had been a diagnosis of senile dementia, and I know that the doctor had added cancer to the list. But I've seen AA's deal with such things before. I don't know why David decided he couldn't..

It isn't the first time I've been through this in Alcoholics Anonymous. I've known several over the years who just up and walked out life's door one day. Sober, but were not happy. Sober, but were not at peace. Sober, but they died of alcoholism. Our disease doesn't need us to drink in order to kill us.

I wish more folks knew that, and appreciated it.

Alcoholism is the only disease that is entirely capable of fighting back. Alcoholism can take care of taking care of itself and emerge in new places and new forms when it isn't properly treated. That's because of the spiritual malady. Most people think that has something to do with prayer or with God. It doesn't. It has to do with 'our spirit'; that force which animates, motivates and propels us. As an alcoholic, my spirit is ill. It is flawed. My character, or basic nature, doesn't work right. At its root, it is a fundamental and irresolvable insecurity: a hole that can't ever be filled. It is an instinct run rampant, a desperate need for acceptance and love that cannot be met. It hurts. It fills one with fear. The selfishness and self-centeredness of the alcoholic lies here; *we are totally preoccupied with what is going on with ourselves on the inside.*

The slings and arrows of experience warped by this need drive us to the fringe, and the voices of the committee in our head keep us there. We are obsessed with ourselves, and from this condition of mind, the insanity of feelings gone haywire, we become self-medicators eventually. We discover alcohol or

something else, and the stuff quiets the voices, provides the relief we've never been able to find in any other way. It isn't any wonder we drink the way we do.

Some of us, in attempting to meet these crying demands of our spirit, become ill; we develop other malformations of behavior, and suffer in a hundred different ways.

God broke David's obsession to drink. But, I don't think David ever truly understood his disease. I say that because I watched him struggle with those old unresolved issues of his heart for years. His rigidity, coldness, aloofness, isolation and difficulty with other people were a reflection of the pain in his heart, of the disease of alcoholism gone deep inside, and still active.

Alcoholism didn't need David to drink in order to continue trying to kill him, and in the end, it succeeded. In the end, instead of self-abandoned, David abandoned hope, and discovered a bitter end.

Our recovery from alcoholism through the Steps must be a three-fold process. It is not one-dimensional. When we say, in AA, that we have a triangle; recovery, unity, service, we mean it. In working the Steps, I clear a

pathway for two purposes: first, to come into a group of human people and away from the fringe of society where I have spent most of my emotional life. Secondly, I *discover 'belonging' through service to the people* within that group. It is only this entire, threefold process that heals. It is especially true for those of us who suffer from the spiritual malady to a great degree.

Perhaps the 12th Step says it best:

'Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps (recovery), we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics (service) and practice these principles in all our affairs (unity).'

You see, I cannot hold back. I must not continue to suffer that shyness, aloneness, that overwhelming sense of self, in my affairs. I must get involved in a group of people to practice these principles in all my affairs.

Only the total approach is healing. Anything less is little more than driving my disease deep, and if I do that it will continue to eat away, trying to destroy me.

It destroyed David. This is a memorial to an old AA who gave his best shot, and I think David ended up on the plus side. It wasn't his fault; he seemed to have been born that way. There were a

lot of old ideas about self that David could never muster the willingness to let go of. He is at rest now. But it says somewhere that 'no matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.'

David cannot speak to his experience any longer; I am speaking in his memory. And I think that if David could talk to us today, he'd say, 'Work the complete program of recovery'!

God Bless!
Anonymous

-Submitted by Jack K.

Don't forget to check out the area website.

<http://www.area76wyaa.org>

**2009 Fall Convention October 23, 24, & 25
Holiday Inn, 1675 Sunset Blvd. Rock Springs, WY.**

Friday Night Speaker--A.A. Bob D., Las Vegas, Nevada

Saturday Speaker--Al-Anon Tracy L., California

A.A. Leora K., Islip, New York

Sunday Speaker--A.A. Donna H., Huntley, Montana

Early Registration Fee--\$25.00 Door--\$30.00

Banquet Fee--Prime Rib w/baked potato \$15.00

Early Registration & Banquet Reservations Cut Off Date 10/16/09

Reservations needed for special rate at Holiday Inn & Quality Inn

307-382-9200 (Block Room Request) by 10/9/09 rate: \$99.00--\$109.00

Contact Info: AA: Dave B. 307-362-1467

Al-Anon: Judy G. 307-875-6031

Send to 2009 Fall Convention PO Box 1172 Rock Springs, WY 82902

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