

The Tributary

Issue 2010-Q1

Green River Assembly Mar 28-30



The Tributaries have been a part of Area 76 for many years. The recent issues have been put online. These 2008 and 2009 issues are worth printing out a few copies to have lying around meeting rooms. They show Area 76 to be active and responsible, and the articles are mostly timeless.

This and future issues will be smaller -- will not have flyers, agendas, minutes, etc. (These will still be online.)

The next issue will have the theme "The AA Triangle". On your drive home, compose a paragraph or 2 for the next Tributary. When you get home, e-mail it to axxx@xxx.xxx. See my paragraph below.



---- From the Delegate ---- ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY

Greetings Area 76!

I was trying to figure out something to submit for this edition of the Tributary, when I saw that one little word at the bottom of Dave C's request for submissions....."Accountability".

My first thought was "What's the difference between accountability and responsibility"? So, out came the dictionary. Webster's dictionary defines "Accountable" as ANSWERABLE, RESPONSIBLE and EXPLICABLE. They define "Responsible" as
1: liable to be called upon to answer for one's acts or decisions: ANSWERABLE
2: able to fulfill one's obligations: RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY
3: able to choose for oneself between right and wrong
4: involving accountability or important duties.

I then proceeded to page through our Conference Approved literature, which included the AA Service Manual and The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, trying to find information on the use of these two words. Surprisingly, in my short period of research, I found many places where the word "Responsible" or "Responsibility" is used. In fact, these two words are used multiple times in the Twelve Concepts. However, nowhere did I find use of the word "Accountability". Apparently, Bill W. must have been trying to make some kind of distinct separation of these two definitions in his writings. So, once again, the individuality of our program is left to personal interpretation.....

For me, I have a difficult time seeing much difference between use of these two words and their definitions. I was raised in a good family and taught decent values. My parents taught us their beliefs in the difference between right and wrong. It's obvious that throughout my drinking career, these values were not active and I was truly not accountable or responsible to anyone or anything, even though I thought I was. The power of the ego, when in the delusion of alcoholism, is absolutely astonishing to me!

It has been my experience that responsibility comes with sobriety. Whether I like it or not, I am responsible to those I serve, be it my family, my employer, Alcoholics Anonymous, our Area and all of you. I'm certainly not a perfect individual, but I can attempt to do the best that I possibly can. Thanks to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, when I fall short in my responsibilities, I have a way to deal with those imperfections and for today, can live life on life's terms, free from the bondage of Alcoholism.

It's a great honor and privilege to serve as your Area Delegate and I thank you for this opportunity!

In love and service, Allen W.

---- From the Alternate ----

I am your alternate delegate for area 76. Recently I had the privilege of attending the WCRAAC in Dubuque, Ia. The theme was basically communication. I was invited to give a brief presentation on the duties of the GSR and DCM in the communication process with GSO. I referred to the service manual for a brief description of those duties. Actually I believe the duties start with the

individual member and his/her sponsor. I shared from my own experience with learning the principles of the twelve steps for my personal sobriety. The traditions were next and then my group selected me for GSR so I got to become familiar with the 12 concepts.

For a self-centered alcoholic such as me to learn and grasp these principles is a miracle. I am grateful to realize that after 21 years in the rooms of AA I still have so much to experience and learn from the basic principles of the steps.

Get in the truck, car, plane, Greg B.

----- From the Chairperson -----

Hello Area 76!

Thanks to everyone who has helped with what's seemed like a pretty smooth transition into our new rotation. A few things to report to you...

Attended the WCRAASC in Dubuque and, as always, learned a lot. I did a presentation on the Conference Agenda Selection Process on Sunday along with our Alternate Delegate, Greg. I'll try to make sure there are copies of those around for anyone who'd like to see it. While there, I touched base with most of the other 7 Area Chairs from our Region. We've opened up email communication so that we can pick each others' brains about Area stuff. (They are getting short-changed!) My first question to them is about Area inventories. As I get info on how and when some of the Areas accomplish their inventories, I'll share it with you in case some of it might work for us.

Our first Area Committee Chair teleconference went fairly smoothly. We talked first about Concept III and the right of decision. The most important parts of that being: right of decision should not be used outside the scope of responsibility, should always be fully and honestly reported, and should not be used as an excuse for not consulting those who ought to be consulted. We then talked about the Area Agenda, the GSC Agenda, and the process of getting the information out. I look forward to using teleconferences more in the future. The cost to the Area was about \$30.

Hope everyone has safe travels! Congratulations to our Area Treasurer on baby Andrew!

Brooke

----- From the Secretary -----

Greetings Area 76!

I want to start by thanking you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve at the Area level! My

sobriety date is September 5, 1985. I was very fortunate in that from the very beginning of my sobriety I was taught the joy and fun of service work. My ego, of course, came into play right away, believing that no one could possibly make better coffee, or set up better tables and chairs, or wash better ashtrays than me! I also believed that I was surely "one up" on those "other people" that only go to one meeting a week and don't get in on all the "secret" information that get's talked about at district and area business meetings!

I have since learned that the farther up (or maybe down) the ladder in AA you go, the more people get to tell you what to do. I have also learned the sense of gratitude increases tenfold. "I am responsible" means a great deal to me today, at many different levels. I still want to be the "best" at what I do in AA. But it is no longer about my ego. It is about a sense of responsibility and accountability and the humbling desire to "pay it forward" and give back to AA in every small way I can, every chance I get. AA grants me a life beyond my wildest dreams every single day. I don't have to do much of anything, but every opportunity I get to make it just a little sweeter than it already is, I'm there!!! Never miss a chance to give back to this miraculous program that has given so much to you for fun and for free! You will never regret it!

Yours in the service and the fellowship, Brenda J., Area 76 "Secretart"

---- From the Treasurer ----

---- From the Archivist ----

---- From the Registrar ----

Extremely important!! Just received from GSO.

To have your Group/District information included in the 2010 Regional Directories, updates must be received by the Area Registrar to place in the FNV by Friday April 23rd, 2010. Email to registrar@area76wyaa.org

[FNV: GSO's Fellowship New Vision program]

Hard copy updates should be received at the GSO Records department by April 9th, 2010 to be included in the 2010 Regional Directories, this will allow enough time for the processing to be completed in co-ordination with the FNV date referenced above.

Contact information without a phone number cannot be included in the directories. The directories are published to assist traveling AA's reach out to find a meeting wherever they may be. That makes a phone number a very important piece of information we provide in the directories.

Permission to include a group contact's name and phone number in the directories must be indicated on Group forms received. A request not to list or no indication at all will exclude that particular contact person and possibly the group from being published in the regional directories.

Should you have questions, please contact the Area Registrar at xxx
registrar@area76wyaa.org
Don M. / xxx / xxx



---- From Archives ----

---- From Corrections ----

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be of service to Area 76. To be honest, I really felt my area service days were over but I guess God (and Brooke) had other plans.

I want to thank Ed P., Suzanna and Duffy for the support and help I've received from them. They have been a great help already. Hopefully, with all of your help and support, we can keep the prison visits going and get all of our districts involved in this important aspect of service work. Reaching out to those who are incarcerated helps us all.

I hope to see you in Green River!

In service, Sally W.

---- From CPC ----

(Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Greetings to Area 76

I am awarded the honor of being the CPC Chairman for Area 76. I have been studying the CPC Kit from General Service Office and am looking at possibilities of sharing the information with local CPC chairs to bring awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous to the community and preserve what AA is and what it is not as this appears to be an issue with some professionals in some locales. It is important to establish good working relationships with our local professionals and provide them with the information they might need when encountering potential members.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with all my fellow servants in our Area. I am excited about the upcoming Assembly and getting input from all the District CPC Chairs. The Friday evening workshop, March 26, will be an opportunity to meet and discuss direction on what we are trying to accomplish.

Yours in service, Rob S.

---- From Finance/Budget ----

Financial Accountability

This year when AA members suggested that inflation had really had an impact on AA's self-support, I decided to take a good look at it. What I found really shocked me because I thought that I was being generous when I began a couple years ago to donate 2 dollars at a meeting. This is what I found:

It was around 1960 that members began the long running tradition of dropping a dollar into the hat with some regularity. Here is a visual to help understand how inflation has impacted our dollar today. Try to imagine with me this scenario: At a AA meeting in 1960 the hat has just about gone all the way around the room and an old timer reaches for his wallet and the hat and is suddenly and magically transported into a meeting in the year 2009.

As he drops his dollar bill in, inflation changes it and all the other money in the hat into its current value. Stunned, he stares into the hat and what he sees instead of dollar bills is the real value of the money donated, all pennies, nickels and dimes with a few quarters. He looks around and wonders what's going on. Everyone including himself had drawn money from their wallets, not their pockets. What happened?

Inflation is what happened. In 2009, our dollar was only worth 14 cents compared to what it was worth in 1960. Even if everyone at that meeting had put in a five dollar bill, it would still have been changed to all coins in the hat, each donation worth only 80 cents. To match one 1960's dollar we would have to donate \$7.16 today.

Once I realized this, I began donating \$5 at a meeting and I don't feel generous. Like all great lessons, this one will take some time to work its magic on me. Someday I hope to be fully accountable to our fellowship and the principles of responsibility. If you would like to check the inflation details go to: <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>

With love in service, Jon M.

---- From Grapevine ----

---- From Guidelines/R&C ----

(Report & Charter)

Hello Area 76 AA

Just a quick note to what we have been doing. We have a couple of Area agenda items that we will be discussing in Committee.

But mainly, as you know, Report and Charter was added to guidelines responsibilities. So the GSO agenda does have a few items and plenty of

background material that we have been going over and will discuss more in area committee. We will go over these at the Assembly.

Been playing catch-up on who is or was or wants to be working on this committee. If you are looking for a committee to sit on at the Assembly in Green River, we always have room for one more. Please join us! See You in Green River.

Yours in Service Dean S.

---- From Literature ----

---- From Public Information ----

---- From Treatment & Facilities ----

Hi my name is David B. and I am an Alcoholic and Area 76 TF Chair.

I want to thank the Area Chair for asking me to be of service as TF Chair.

I have little experience in the treatment part of recovery. All I know about treatment facilities is my stay in one for 28 days. July 1992 I was in Casper and my job thought it would be a good idea if I wanted to continue to work for them; not to mention that I could not sit up for more than 10 minutes at a time, could not sign my name so anybody could read it, and could not drive. My niece drove me to Casper and helped me check in on June 30 at around midnight.

So the next few days they kept me on a regimen of pills to help me thru the pains of withdrawals. By July 4th I was coming down and feeling the misery and hurt. On the 4th the people that had been there for more than a week got to go to the fireworks display downtown. A younger guy and I were not allowed to go, so he and I sat in the yard outside the building and smoked cigarettes and got madder.

Did I mention there was a 7 foot fence around the yard? Well the kid said he had had enough of the place so he went and climbed the fence. I was in no shape to climb it so I stayed. The people in charge were not happy. Everybody else came back and all went to bed.

The next morning we had to go to a room where they kept our shavers. On my way down the hall I noticed in one of the rooms off to the side that there was somebody in an orange outfit strapped down to a bed and it dawned on me it was that kid. After I saw that I decided -- not to jump the fence.

Things did get better, they fed us good, and we read meditations in the morning and talked as a group about them. We had counseling, group and individual; we had exercise twice a day; read in the

big book and went to a meeting either in the facility or out to different meetings around Casper.

On the last day of treatment I had to talk with my main counselor (he was a recovering alcoholic) and before it was over he asked me a question. Did I want to stay sober? And I said yes. I liked what I had found so he handed me a note that gave me the meeting times, the address and a name of somebody in the fellowship in Rock Springs. So that's how I started on the road to recovery.

Well, as Area 76 TF Chair the first thing I would like to do is establish better communication between the districts. First I contacted all the DCMs in the districts and ask them to put me in touch with their district TF or HI chairs and if none, please inform me of what was going on in their districts associated to treatment.

I got a wonderful response. Now I am trying to put together a portfolio of the information I received, so we can have a well informed committee meeting at the Green River Business Assembly on Cooperating with the Treatment Facilities, Area Agendas Items and GSC Agenda Items.

Thank You, David B.

---- From Tributary ----

I love service work. It's an essential ingredient in my recipe for sobriety. The best part is associating with people who have abilities and take part in "paying it back" (I read that somewhere in this issue).

So it's all a learning experience. I didn't allow enough time to get this done, so it's pretty plain, and I just hope there are not too many mistakes.

Note: The last page has a calendar of events, deadlines, and other vital information.

To finish from page 1, I myself am "brief and to the point". I enjoy short articles, like Jim H's. So don't feel you have to write a page.

I have the officer/chair/DCM email list to dun them for articles, **but I would like contributions from others as well.** I'll be trying to contact you through your DCM's, but please follow the directions at the top of page 1 -- whip your contribution together now, before you forget your great ideas.

In service, Dave C.

---- From the Webmaster ----

I am honored to be the new Area Web master. However, I don't like the term "web master". It seems presumptuous since I could not master my drinking, master my not drinking, or even master

my sponsees effectively. I have needed help to do any of those things and I need help to make the Area 76 web site current, pertinent, and useful.

I have built a new web site. It is based on Web 2.0 technology so it is much more interactive. Members of AA can now upload event flyers, send meeting schedule updates, or enter events to the site from within the site. Members can subscribe to RSS feed and view newly entered events, news, or flyers from their mashups. If none of this makes sense then don't sweat it. If it does then help me make the Area 76 web site the community portal for meetings, events, and news.

Who knows, next year we may want to have blogs, forums, and wikis.

Wayne H.



---- From District 1 Cody ----

---- From District 2 Sheridan ----

Hello from District 2, in Sheridan and Johnson counties. If you are ever up our way, we have 28 meetings a week, with 13 registered groups. It's not hard to find a meeting every day, at noon and in the evening. Our hotline number is answered 24/7 and will put anyone in touch with an alcoholic at any time of the day. We also continue to carry the message at both women's and men's WYSTAR treatment facilities with meetings and panel discussions. The VA clients now have a meeting on their grounds, and our treatment committee is working with NSI, a youth facility, to inform them of what AA has to offer. We also continue to take meetings into the jails in both Sheridan and Buffalo. Our corrections committee also goes on the road to the prison meetings.

With the new rotation of committee chairs and GSRs, we have a number of new faces at the district meetings, and I am grateful to the people who came before me, 'cuz that gives me a resource which I am happy to take advantage of. Learning how to be a DCM is rewarding, but one of the most difficult things I've attempted.

On the social side of things, our district continues to have the 5th Sunday potlucks with AA and Al-Anon speakers. We will be having our annual rodeo/parade/picnic in July, and our district 2 picnic at the end of August. We will also, in conjunction with district 1, have another mountain campout.

Cheri W., District 2 DCM

- From District 3 Gillette ----
- From District 4 Jackson ----
- From District 5 Riverton/Lander ----
- From District 6 Casper ----
- From District 7 Evanston ----
- From District 8 Rock Springs/Green River ----
- From District 9 Rawlins ----
- From District 10 Laramie ----
- From District 11 Wheatland/Torrington ----
- From District 12 Cheyenne ----



---- Assembly Procedures (Brooke) ----

All A.A. Members have a voice at Area 76

Assemblies. **Who Can Vote:**

- GSRs (alternate GSR if the GSR is not present)
- DCMs (alternate DCMs if the DCM is not present)
- Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs
- Area Officers

Concept XII, Warranty Four: "That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity." Substantial unanimity means 2/3 of the voters present. On very important matters, the chair may request substantial unanimity be 3/4. Less important matters can be decided on a simple majority.

Motions requiring seconds, discussions and votes:

- Accepting Secretary's Report
- Accepting Treasurer's Report
- Floor Actions (motions made from the floor) to be heard at the end of the Assembly

Committee Reports:

- Committee Recommendation is a motion coming out of the committee. It is considered a seconded motion requiring discussion and vote.
- Additional Considerations are all other items discussed in committee not being put on the floor for a vote.
- The Committee Chair will read the report, and the floor will be opened for the Assembly to discuss and vote on each recommendation. For additional considerations, the floor will be opened to the Assembly to ask any questions of the committee. General Service Conference agenda items will be read out as additional considerations. The committee will share anything significant on each agenda item and the floor will once again be opened for discussion of the item and for the Delegate to get a sense of the Assembly.

Floor Actions: After committee reports begin, any voting member of the Assembly may submit a floor action. Please put it in writing, read it to the Assembly, and turn it in to the Secretary.

Bids for Assemblies and Conventions decided on simple majority.

---- **Notes on Robert's Rules of Order (Brooke)** ----

In a recorded telephone conversation with Bill W. from 1951, I heard Bill say, "We keep it so goddam simple, it gets complicated ." This was particularly funny to me because I was working on the Committee Workshop details. Here's another one of A.A.'s seemingly impossible objectives: the least possible organization while still trying to get something done. Keep it simple, but not so simple that it gets complicated!

At most levels of our service structure, we use - sometimes very loosely - Robert's Rules of Order to conduct business. We have a chair for the body, motions and seconds, discussions and votes, reports from officers and committees, amendments, and the always popular motion to adjourn. Nothing compels us as a Fellowship to abide by Robert's Rules, but in general, we find use of them a beneficial way of conducting our meetings, assemblies and conferences.

While it's very helpful to know procedures to keep up with what's going on, it is well to note that there are aspects of Robert's Rules that are not supported by our time-honored Traditions and Concepts. Tradition Two states that we have one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. It doesn't say Robert's Rules is the ultimate authority. If you want to see how procedures can really bog things down, spend a few hours watching CSPAN.

Consider the following:

1. Motion to Call the Question - This motion (when agreed upon by half plus one of the voting members) brings discussion to an end and forces a vote on the motion that is on the floor. I personally like having this in my arsenal, especially if I'm tired or irritated. But is calling the question consistent with allowing full debate to prevent hasty or uninformed decisions?

2. Decline to consider - This motion (when agreed upon by half plus one of the voting members) kills the floor action (motion from the floor) without any discussion. Again, handy to have around, but how respectful is it to kill a motion without discussion? Does this honor the minority?

3. Quorum - Having a quorum means that at least 2/3 of all eligible voting members are present. With over a hundred groups, the DCMs, our Area Officers and Committee Chairs, we would need over 80 voting members to conduct any business. While I'm hopeful, meeting and maintaining quorums at Area Assemblies has always been a challenge. Another important A.A. principle is proportion (participation) which is written into the Charter and Concepts. In accordance, the GSR and DCM votes ought to outnumber the officer and committee chair votes by 2/3. This makes it possible for the groups to overthrow the Area if they ever need to. I'm not trying to start a revolution, mind you, but if the groups ever desire to do so, they should absolutely be able.

4. Take no action - This means that it has been voted on to do nothing with the item being addressed. I've always wondered at the honesty of this. Does it mean, "We hated it?" or "We couldn't do anything with it?" or "We're tired?" If nothing is done with it, the item is dead with no mention of why. Does that uphold any of our principles?

My whole point is that loosely following Robert's Rules is a pretty civil way for us to conduct business. But when things get heated or boring or I'm trying to get my way, it's natural to start looking for a procedure rather than to re-double efforts to look for the voice of a loving God. It's up to us all to make sure we're shooting toward our highest spiritual ideals.

---- **From Cheri W. (Feb 8)** ----

I bought a new computer. My old one was pretty much a dinosaur, and I can see how this new one will make my job as DCM so much easier. I am having so much fun playing around and finding all the features that will help me, both in my AA capacity and in my personal life. I have finally entered the 21st century! As I was playing around, though, it occurred to me that this could also cause some problems. It seems to be too easy for me to forget that as DCM, I also need to make sure I am physically present when needed.

It would be simpler if I could just email information and hope that all the GSRs pass on the info to their groups; I can send a reminder of a district meeting; I can chat with my sponsor online; I can even download the Big Book. Wow, if I wanted to, I could even have our district meeting via the computer. That way, no one has to go out in the nasty weather.

It's just too easy for me to take the personal out of this program. Electronic medium is great for getting the information out to a lot of people at

once, but I need to remember that the single most important aspect of this program is one alcoholic sharing with another. There's a magic that happens when I meet with my sponsor, or sit next to a newcomer and welcome her to our program. It's exciting to attend a district meeting and have new GSRs show up, not sure of what they need to be doing, but willing to learn and be of service. It's great to attend other meetings and hear workshops or functions being announced because we sent hard copies of the minutes to a group that doesn't attend district.

The computer will make my life easier in some ways, but I know I need to be cautious of allowing it to do my job. I need to be present in the triangle of recovery, unity and service.

Cheri W.

---- From Kevin T (Feb 12) ----

Good Morning Area 76. Hope all is well with everyone.

I drove to Green River yesterday for Bill C's funeral. Members from around the state were present to pay their respects to Bill and support his wife Pam in her loss. Bill was a good friend of mine and in earlier years, the Tomahawk group (Green River) was my home group while I worked out of 1620 Carpenters Local at Bridger and the mines and lived in the Green River area.

There was a time during my stay in Green River that my only transportation was a 10 speed bike -- the judicial system thought I should have some time off from too much driving for a while!!! Every time I saw Bill at a meeting, convention or an assembly, he would lean back and smile and say "Hey Kevin, your bike is still in my garage -- haha". I replied, "we should put it in the archives -- haha." I always enjoyed the meetings there and always left with hope and laughter after every meeting. Bill was always there and the rest of you too! Including Moose, Bill G, Tim, Terry, Robert. So I ask the old boy upstairs to look over Bill for us and tell him thanks for being there for us.

Take care everyone, Kevin T.

---- From Jim H. (Mar 7) ----

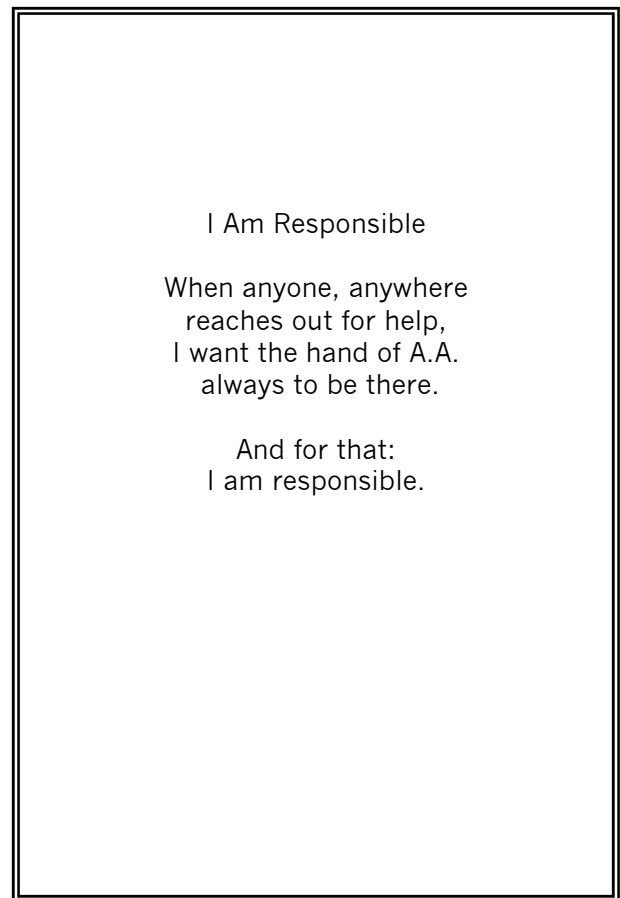
[Jim H is an old-timer around Cheyenne who gave a talk to physicians at the 1980 AA International in New Orleans. A conversation at a local meeting resulted in his writing this article]

Father Ed Dowling, Catholic Jesuit Priest, entered Bill Wilson's life on a cold day in 1940 in the middle of the night, following an AA meeting at the AA

building in 334½ west 24th St in New York City. He was an older, white haired man limping on a cane who said he had heard about AA and was interested in the similarity between the Jesuit's exercises of St. Ignacious and the 12 steps of AA, which he had been studying during his work with alcoholics out west.

This led to an all night discussion in which Bill W. completed by taking his 4th and 5th step with Fr. Ed. This event returned Bill W.'s focus from a period of egotistical efforts to claim some glory for himself to the cloak of anonymity and the pathway of AA's struggle to spread the gospel of the Big Book.

[There are 3 AAWS books on AA history: [A.A. Comes of Age](#) - How A.A. started and evolved. [Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers](#) - Dr. Bob's life story and recollections. [Pass It On](#) - Bill's biography and A.A.'s growth.]



Calendar, Deadlines, Links on next page

Events, Deadlines, and Links

(Additions, corrections to xxx@xxx.xxx)

From the Guidelines:

Mar-Apr: Winter Assembly
May-Jun: Spring Convention
Jul-Aug: Summer Assembly
Oct-Nov: Fall Convention

2010 Dates:

Mar 26–28 Winter Assembly, Green River
Apr 18-24 General Service Conference, New York
May 15 **Deadline** – Agenda Items (secretary)
May 15 **Deadline** – Tributary submissions
May 28–30 Spring Convention, Cody
Jul 1-4 2010 International Convention,
San Antonio
Jul 30–Aug 1 Summer Assembly, Evanston
Oct 15–17 Fall Convention, Gillette
Nov 12-14 WC Regional Forum, Rapid City

2011 Dates:

_____ Spring Convention, _____
_____ WCRAASC, _____
_____ Fall Convention, _____

Local Events (add yours):

Jun 18–20 '10 June Jamboree, Mills

Links:

Website: <http://area76wyaa.org>

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Registrar: Don M

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Area Contributions: Kim G

(Checks payable to Area 76)

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treasurer@area76wyaa.org