

GRAPE FREE PRESS

Area 25 Kansas
Summer 2018
Issue 2 / Vol 58

AREA ASSEMBLY

July 20-22, 2018

Quality Inn

2110 W. Crawford
St.

Salina, KS 67401
(785) 825-2111

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DELEGATE

Greetings, Area 25!

First – THANK YOU for your support and prayers and your trust in me to serve as your delegate. Bill wrote that he could tell the story of his spiritual experience in Town's Hospital, but he could never convey the experience itself. I feel much the same about the 68th General Service Conference. Despite decades of hearing delegates tell the stories of their Conference experiences, it was something far beyond anything I had imagined.

I'm looking forward to sharing with you as I travel the state and give my report. If your district hasn't yet scheduled this event, let me encourage you to do so, and to consider inviting our Alternate Delegate to give a presentation on the service structure. Colorado & N. Mexico are doing this, and they find it to be very useful.

It was inspiring to see the 136 members of the Conference working on many items which directly impact our primary purpose. Some of these include

- better outreach to military & veterans,
- new material for Spanish-speaking women
- improved process for polling the Conference delegates between annual meetings,
- updates & revisions to 30 pieces of literature & videos,
- new literature & videos
- an upgrade of La Viña
- outside sales for Grapevine,
- progress on A.A.'s presence on the internet,
- giving Remote Communities a place in the Conference under Treatment & Accessibilities
- the theme for 2019 of "Our Big Book: 80 Years, 71 Languages"
- some consideration of scheduling the 2035 International Convention to coincide with A.A.'s 100th (!!!) birthday on June 10, 2035.

The 68th GSC dealt with 143 items, approving 56 to become Conference Advisory Actions, reporting on 77 which became Committee Considerations, and voting down 10 of them. The Final Report will appear in late summer, but the Actions, Considerations, and a report of how I voted on each item & why, are in the folder GSO/Delegate in the Document Library on the Area website (ks-aa.org). I hope I've been accountable to you, but please contact me if you have any thoughts or questions on anything.

The Conference is not just a week in April, but a year-round process, and that will certainly be true this year. One issue, or perhaps a group of issues, has been the focus of a number of discussions this past year, and was reflected in two of the failing agenda items. In brief, A.A.W.S. filed a temporary restraining order (TRO) in May, 2017, to prevent the auction of the 1939 printer's copy of the manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous. This was not resolved until after the Conference this year. Some in the Fellowship felt the Board and A.A.W.S. were wrong to pursue a claim of ownership of this artifact through the courts; others supported the action. In the end, A.A. didn't wind up with the manuscript.

What I have observed is some erosion of Unity within Alcoholics Anonymous. Trust in the Board and G.S.O. has declined. As stated in Concept III

“Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other. Therefore we cannot do less than trust our leaders in service. The “Right of Decision” that we offer them is not only the practical means by which they may act and lead effectively, but it is also the symbol of our implicit confidence.” (Service Manual, pg. 14)

So obviously, anything that results in less than mutual trust is a matter of grave concern to our entire Fellowship.

The Manuscript deal is over and done with, but there is a pending problem which the Board will address in July. And the current climate of eroded trust and unity makes the Board’s and A.A.W.S.’s position one I don’t envy. This has to do with the infringement (if that’s the right term – I’m not a lawyer) of our most significant trademark, the very name of “Alcoholics Anonymous” and the abbreviation “A.A.” Check out this website:

<http://alcoholicsanonymous.com/>

This was discussed at the Conference. Realizing I hadn’t taken complete notes on this, I wrote to G.S.O. on May 7 and asked these questions:

- 1) Has A.A.W.S. already sent communication asking them to cease & desist?
- 2) If so, was there any response?
- 3) If communications have been sent, what’s the time line?
- 4) If they haven’t been sent, will the Fellowship be consulted first?

The General Manager responded on May 23 as follows:

- 1) “No action has been taken yet.”
- 2) (obviously, then there’s no response – my words, not the GM’s)
- 3) “There is no timeline in place; it’s been going on for some years. There have been interim communications with the domain name holder, but it’s not a static situation.
- 4) It’s on the Board’s agenda for their next meeting (July); ... it is very safe to say that A.A.W.S. will share any contemplated step with the Board, and that if any action is contemplated after that, there will be some form of direct communication with the Conference in a timely manner (possibly using the newly approved Conference polling process.)”

I think it is quite likely that I will get an email in August asking me to vote on some action(s). I REALLY need to hear from Area 25 on this, and I strongly encourage you to discuss this in district & group conscience meetings. It is May 30 as I write this, and the Board meeting is July 28-30, so it feels like a pretty short timeline for this to get out to the Fellowship in Kansas and back to me. Please make this a priority.

In Unity & Service –

Dave R, Delegate
Panel 68, Area 25 Kansas

AREA CHAIR

Greetings trusted servants

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a service workshop for District 10, and more than once the question came up of how to get new people involved in service. My answer was based on my own experience—sponsorship. I got involved in service work because my sponsor lovingly suggested that it might be good for my sobriety, and in turn I lovingly suggest that my sponsees get involved in service. If you want what we have...

Let's face it, service work can be a tough sell to a newcomer, so I encourage everyone to lovingly suggest to newcomers to attend their group's business meetings, district meetings, and yes, drag them to Area. It certainly helps, however, if it looks like we're having fun in service, and I have definitely had a lot of fun in my first six months as Area Chairperson. I'd like to thank everyone for helping this thing be kind of fun.

In April the Area Committee discussed the recommendations of two ad hoc committees. The recommendations of one of those committees—dealing with how the Area calculates its prudent reserve, will be voted on at the July Assembly.

The other committee was exploring the issue of the scheduling and frequency of Area Assemblies. Based on the feedback in April it was clear that there were a lot of unanswered questions, and the committee will continue to research the issue for further discussion in October.

This is a good illustration of the process in action—after the discussion in April it was obvious that more information was needed, rather than rush something forward without full consideration of the relevant implications. I'm reminded time and time again of something my first sponsor frequently told me: A.A. business is slow, and it should be. We get in trouble when we hurry.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in July!

Jon R.
Area Chairperson

AA Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

ALT. DELEGATE

Greeting Area 25 Members,

I attended the Southwest Regional Delegates Assembly in March and wanted to share a little of that with you in this letter. It was an amazing experience being able to work with the SWRDA Officers, Current and Past Trustees, Current and Past Delegates as well as other Alt. Delegates in the Southwest Region. The weekend was filled with numerous reports, presentations, a Mock GSC, and then on Sunday they held their business meeting. The Alt. Delegates met for lunch on Saturday to cover: SWRAASA 2018, selected 5 topics for each Area to present at SWRAASA in October, update on Southwest Regional Forum 2019, and elected 2019 Alt Delegate Chair and Secretary.

Area 25 topics for SWRAASA and their presenters are:

- Sponsorship: The Privilege of Passing it on ~ Dave R., Delegate P68/A25
- Tradition 11 ~ Sheri P., Alt. Delegate P68/A25
- Archives ~ Bridget B., Committee Chair A25
- Accessibilities ~ JR R., Committee Chair A25
- Singleness of Purpose ~ Carol R., Past Delegate P48/A25

The election of 2019 Alt. Delegate Chair is Sheri P., P68/A25 Kansas, and Secretary is Bill L., P68/A46 New Mexico.

Join us at the 2018 Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly that will be held in Branson, Missouri, October 5th-7th. "Service Begins with Us" This will be held at Branson Hilton Hotel and Convention Center. There is a lot to do in and around Branson, so think about making it a getaway for the entire family! Go to www.swraasa2018.org and get registered.

The Alt. Delegates will meet again at SWRAASA in October to further discuss their concerns regarding the costs of hosting SWRAASA and what that means to the Area that is due to host this Assembly. This concern originated for the question regarding seed money for this event, but changed focus when we discovered it was not the seed money in question but the cost of hosting such an event.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Sheri P., Alt. Delegate, Panel 68

ALT. CHAIR

We finalized the contract for hotel in 2019, Hilton Garden Inn, meeting there 3 times; April committee meetings will be held at Marriott.

- Darin H., Alt. Chair



ACCESSIBILITIES



Five people from 3 districts met. GSO is currently working on an update of the American Sign Language versions of the books Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. This to help address a need that was presented by District 19. We were all reminded of the "Hope at Home" phone meeting that takes place Mondays at 8:00 pm with a regular attendance of 10 to 12 members. It was suggested for us to find out about other phone meetings around our area and prepare a directory.

District 19 reported that the alternate chair had prepared a sheet for GSRs asking for accessibilities needs in their groups and the following were detected: translation for a Hispanic member, solutions for the deaf, child care needs, members that are homebound and need a meeting (chronic migraine). It was shared that a person with the migraine condition put together a group of her friends in the fellowship and created her own meeting at her home once a week. It was also mentioned that due to the nature of our common illness, it has been found that it may be hard for members with an accessibility need to ask for help. This underscores the importance of spreading the word by the GSR, and for that matter all of us that are aware, that there are solutions for most accessibilities needs.

There was a discussion on how Bluetooth devices can be used to help the deaf fully participate in meetings. More investigation will be made to be better informed about this solution.

District 10 shared that they have been working on a draft letter directed to the professionals stating the different services that Alcoholics Anonymous can support and provides to address accessibilities needs. The chair reported that they have also been working with the Federation for the Blind and the Department of Mental Health to carry the message and inform about solutions to accessibilities needs. They also mentioned that they had decided to stay away from the sanctioned daycare because of all the legal and liability implications. Mothers or fathers that have to take their young to meetings can make their own arrangements and take turns listening to the meeting and caring for the kids.

District 10 said that one of their groups has a Facebook account which is a secret group They have their process for enrollment whereas a possible candidate for membership has to be recommended by a good standing member and two other members have to sanction the inclusion of the new participant. The importance of it being a secret group was stressed because if it is only a private group, other people can see it.

District 23 shared that they have started a meeting by Skype which has about 25 members. The Area 25 Accessibilities Chair will reach out to GSO for information about the experience with these type of new technology meetings.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

- Carlos, Accessibilities Chair



AL-ANON LIASON

The 46th Annual Kansas AL-Anon & Alateen Conference: It's a Family Affair will be June 8-10, 2018 in Park City, Kansas. It will be held at the Best Western Wichita North Hotel. Mention code "Kansas AFG" for a special room rate of \$87.99. There will be speakers from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and California. The AA speaker will be Paula D. from Joplin, Missouri. Pre-registration is \$20 until May 18th, and \$25 after that. There will also be several drawings for those who have registered by May 1st, so register early! Doors open on Friday, June 8th at 3pm, and the conference closing is on Sunday at 11am. We hope to see many AA's there! AL-Anon's International Convention: Celebrating One Day at a Time is July 6-8 in Baltimore, Maryland. The AL-Anon Area Assembly is May 4-5 in Salina. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Anissa P.
Al-Anon Liaison



"Co-dependency is a possibility."

Live and let live!



CHRONICLER

There were 4 people in attendance from 2 districts at committee meetings. We discussed the difference between a chronicler and archivist and reviewed the job in service guidelines. The committee discussed the most important priorities and decided to focus on obtaining group histories; we will provide DCM with list of histories in groups and encourage them to get GSRs to update. Finally, we talked about the best way to store electronic files and will reach out to other areas for ideas. The Chronicler may reserve “Antiques Roadshow” at district events.

- Bridget B., Chronicler Chair

CORRECTIONS

Area 25 Corrections Conference was a huge success! Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it such a great event. Melissa, John, Bob, Kim, Ted and everyone else involved did a tremendous job. The bar has been set very high...

The Yellow Can Fund had an incredible first quarter for contributions and has already provided roughly \$,7000 in AA literature to groups behind the walls in 2018.

Yellow Can Mailing Address:

Yellow Can Fund
PO BOX 23117
Overland Park, KS 66283

*Please include Group Name, Group #, District # on Yellow Can contribution checks.



“One day at a time, that’s my motto.
It used to be, Catch me if you can.”

When ordering corrections Yellow Can literature please contact Christian Eikermann, but phone or text message to verify order details.

Christian Eikermann
cceikermann@gmail.com
913) 710-8169

We discussed the benefits of outside AA members acting as Alternate GSR for groups behind the walls in correctional facilities in Area 25. Obviously, incarcerated AA members cannot physically attend Area Assembly so outside members acting as Alternate GSR allows the conscience of the groups behind the walls to be heard at the Assembly. I did speak to Diane at the General Service Office about the idea and she said it is actually a fairly common practice and has been for many years.

- Christian E., Corrections Chair

CPC



We had 3 members from 3 Districts and discussed the progress of getting the "Letter to the Health Care Professionals" (F-210) into members' hands. I had positive responses when I handed them out at meetings when I explained to members what the purpose of the letter was. Brought 500 copies of the letter in January and took home 350. We need to do our best to give every member at least one copy to give to their doctor. Don't forget there is a Spanish version.

We're getting in touch with companies through EAP and Human Resources. What is best policy and pamphlets to use? "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace" (P54) is one of the pamphlets. We also have the chapter "To Employer" with a cover page titled "What About the Alcoholic Employee?" that has been made into booklet form. How can we best work with the courts? What are some of the courts in your area? Drug Courts? VA Courts? Johnson County has a Veterans Court that we will be looking into. Are there Veterans Administration offices, health clinics, or hospitals that we can contact?

Districts 9 and 10 created a list of volunteers that are working with the KU hospital transplant program. Was involved in the Health Fair at Kansas City, Kansas, Community College on April 10. District 5 is talking to members to get them more involved. District 10 is working on making connections with Fire Departments and EMS. I am hoping to make it to the Bridging the Gap Conference in Denver September.

It is with great pain I have made the decision to step down as your Area 25 Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair. In July 2017 I was able to answer yes to the five questions, but life happens. My wife has MS and its progression has not been on my timeline. My medical problems have gotten worse and it has become difficult to travel and give 100% at the assemblies and committee meetings. Today the only way I could answer yes to the five questions is with my ego. I am not stopping my commitment to A.A. service and we know there is plenty to be done locally.

- Ed M., CPC Chair

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GRAPEVINE

There were 6 people in attendance from 5 different districts. I am willing to come to district meetings with the Grapevine display. In July, Overland Park, Hunters Ridge and Topeka area banquet, state conference will have subscription raffles for the Grapevine. Ideas to promote the Grapevine include donating subscriptions for 1st year birthday, corrections, doctors offices. We hope to host an Area workshop on how to read/write/speak GV story submissions. Phone submissions available!

- Dawn M.

Should we give the districts a packet for GFP during meetings to distribute?

The guidelines have been changed so we no longer mail out GFP, but I'm willing to print them and bring copies if this is something districts want. Also, we may have quarterly themes and still would like to do one story per edition from a member.

If you or someone you know has a story or theme idea please email to gfp@kansas-aa.org.

- Molly M., GFP Chair

LITERATURE

The Literature Committee met at the April Committee meetings with 7 in attendance from 5 districts. High on the agenda was to discuss and engage in the mock conference to help prepare the Delegate for the Literature agenda items of the GSO Conference. The results of the Conference, as it pertains to Literature, will come from the Delegate. The remainder of the Committee meeting consisted of a roundtable discussion of how each district helps spread AA approved Literature and various places to do so. It was also noted that District #19 has begun highlighting a "Pamphlet of the Month" at their district meetings. Thanks for allowing me to serve and I hope to see everyone in July at the Assembly.

Terry L
Area #25 Literature Chair



PUBLIC INFORMATION

We discussed how people find us online using Siri, Google or any search engine. Tim talked about a fellow in a meeting that said this is where Siri sent him. One goal for July is to figure out how this happens and the chain of communication from meetings to district to area. But still be able to continue to do what we do now. AA flyers at the gas stations, grocery store etc. Thank you for letting me serve!

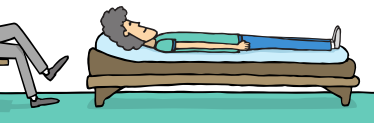
- JR R., PI Chair

REGISTRAR



Thank you all for your updates; the use of the change form is very appreciated!. Our Roster does not show anything but the alternate GSR's name, phone number, and e-mail. GSO still needs the full address; please put your full info on forms. Thank you all for your help

Sandy O. Registrar Chair



TREATMENT

Hello Area 25!!!

We had a small group at committee meetings in April, but a very productive discussion. People in attendance are active in their Home Groups and/or Districts in carrying the message to Treatment Centers and trying to Bridge the Gap (BTG) when they leave treatment. One is making a spread sheet with contacts for the treatment centers to have on file in there area, trying to get both male and female contacts from each group in their district. Some are taking meeting into treatment centers and some have treatment centers attend meetings at their home group. We reviewed pamphlets regarding treatment centers and working with professionals. It is suggested to read and know the information in those pamphlets before we hand them out to professionals.

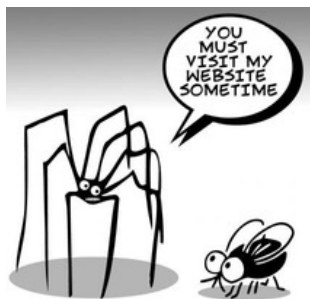
Discussion for Mock Conference with Delegate included: How might Area 25 help rural or remote areas? Discussion lead to the larger groups/cities, reaching out to small towns to see how they could help. Getting a carload and attending out of town meetings, including them in events, helping them get involved in their district.

Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook: We found the information in the Kit and Workbook to be very helpful and once again, suggested we become familiar with the information before we hand it to someone else.

BRIDGING THE GAP WORKSHOP WEEKEND - Denver, CO, Sept. 7-9, 2018. www.btgww.org

Cindy L. – Treatment Chair

WEBCHAIR



There were 5 in attendance from 2 districts. We have 847 e-mails active in mailchimp; you can sign up under email on area website. The committee reviewed some bullet points from last committee meeting:

- looking to get search bar on homepage
- figure out naming convention for files
- how we want to keep and handle files on site
- create some hot buttons for GFP
- agenda and guidelines
- work on connecting district and area website for meeting app

New Items: look into restructuring website navigation, making menus and pages easier to find, how web chair and chronicler/archivist can work together.

Remember, if you have suggestions or questions use the committee e-mail Area 25 chairpersons to the right person.

Thank you, Peter C.

Kansas Area 25 Assembly
July 2018 Agenda

A.A. – A Solution for All Generations

July 21-22, 2018

Quality Inn 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, Ks. (785) 825-2111

Friday, July 20 7:30 p.m.	Travel day, optional activity A.A. meeting		Regency Room
Saturday, July 21 9 – 9:50 am	DCM sharing session GSR sharing session		Duke Room Regency Room
10 – 10:50 am	Committee Meetings		To Be Assigned
<u>Committee</u>		<u>District</u>	<u>Chair</u>
Accessibilities		3, 10, 19	Carlos W.
Chronicler		26, 31, 4	Bridget B.
Corrections		24, 27, 9	Christian E.
Cooperation w/Professional Community		6, 11, 22	
Grapefree Press		8, 13, 16	Molly M.
Grapevine		2, 17	Dawn M.S.
Literature		5, 18, 21	Terry L.
Public Information		20, 23, 30	J.R. R.
Treatment		1, 7, 14	Cindy L.
Web		12, 15	Peter C.
11 am – 12 pm	Delegate report on General Service Conference		Regency Room
12 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK		
1:30 – 2:50 pm	Committee and DCM reports		Regency Room
2018 State Conference Report			Josh R.
Accessibilities			Carlos W.
Al-Anon Liaison			Anissa P.
Chronicler			Bridget B.
Corrections			Christian E.
Cooperation w/Professional Community			
Grapefree Press			Molly M.
Grapevine			Dawn M.S.
Literature			Terry L.
Public Information			J.R. R.
Treatment			Cindy L.
Web			Peter C.
DCM reports			
	<i>Note: Please provide estimate of voting members from each district to Alternate Chair and written copies of report to Secretary)</i>		
3:30 pm	Closed Business Meeting Opening of Assembly Roll Call Secretary Report Treasurers Report		Regency Room
			Jon R.
			Darin H.
			Andy K.
			Janet B.

Kansas Area 25 Assembly
July 2018 Agenda

KAAAAI Board Report	Jim H.
Delegate Report	Dave R.
Alt. Delegate Report	Sheri P.
Alt. Area Chair Report	Darrin H.

5-7 pm **DINNER BREAK**

7 pm Three Legacies Workshop Dave R. Regency Room

Sunday, July 22

9 am Closed Business Meeting, continued

New Business:

1. Approval of CPC chair to fill remaining rotation.
2. Request for reimbursement of \$325 plus gas money for past delegate who has been asked to present at SWRAASA.
3. Proposal to establish prudent reserve at \$22,000, calculated as 3 months' operating expenses (\$12,000) and a \$10,000 safety net for the Area Conference.
4. Selection of Area 25 candidate for Southwest Regional Trustee (see page S67, A.A. Service Manual).

Upcoming Events

Sept. 14-16, 2018: Kansas State Conference, Hyatt Regency, 400 W. Waterman, Wichita, KS.

October 5-7, 2018: Southwest Regional A.A. Service Assembly (SWRAASA), Branson, Mo.

Information at <http://swraasa2018.org/>

Oct. 19-20, 2018: Area Committee meetings, Quality Inn, 2110 W. Crawford, Salina, Ks.

April 28-May 4, 2019: General Service Conference, New York.

July 2-5, 2020: A.A. International Convention, Detroit, Michigan.

Pre-Register for just \$20 at www.ks-aa.org

61st Annual

KANSAS AREA 25 STATE CONFERENCE
"A.A. - A SOLUTION FOR ALL GENERATIONS"

14-16

SEPTEMBER

2018

at the

HYATT REGENCY

400 W Waterman St • Wichita, KS 67202

(316) 293-1234

* GROUP CODE FOR RESERVATION: A25

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Gary T. - Omaha, NE • Jennifer H. - Plano, TX

Don G. - Salina, KS • Mari G. - Ontario, Canada

ACTIVITIES:

Marathon Meetings • Workshops • Hospitality Room

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

2018 Conference Chair: Josh R. - 785-410-0958

2018 Co-Chair: Nathan N. - 785-309-9029

2018 Registration Chair: Le B. - 620-770-2119

HELP
WANTED!

STATE CONFERENCE GREETERS

What's the best way to meet new people in AA while being of service? Volunteering to be a greeter at State Conference, of course!

Sign-up for a shift by emailing ConferenceChair@Kansas-AA.org

If you'd like your events featured in the next
GFP, email flyers to gfp@ks-aa.org



NUTS & BOLTS

K A N S A S C I T Y

25th Anniversary

SATURDAY, JULY 28TH

FOUNDRY CHURCH

8835 Lackman Rd. Lenexa, KS 66219



WORKSHOP

1:00 - 3:00pm (Streetside Building)

POTLUCK DINNER

5:30pm (Streetside Building)

**Meat will be provided*

MAIN SPEAKER

7:00pm (Sanctuasium)

Mari G. (Toronto, Canada)

**Open Meeting*

*For additional information please feel free to contact:
Christian E. (913) 710-8169 OR Ann S. (913) 485-1037*