



Area 25

Kansas

grape free press

Fall 2020

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NEW ARTICLE

*Carrying the Message
During COVID.*



www.ks-aa.org

the twelve steps of alcoholics anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

the twelve traditions of alcoholics anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

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WE NEED YOU!

Please see the last page of this document for a flyer on Grape Free Press submissions. Please feel free to print the page out to share with your group! If you have any questions, feel free to contact at gfp@ks-aa.org

Thank you! In love and service,

Grape Free Press Editor, Amanda G.

contacts

Delegate Sheri P. – delegate@ks-aa.org

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Grapevine Patty G. – grapevine@ks-aa.org

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Literature Geno R. – literature@ks-aa.org

Public Information Sonia F. – publicinformation@ks-aa.org

Registrar Dennis G. – registrar@ks-aa.org

Treatment Susie H. – treatment@ks-aa.org

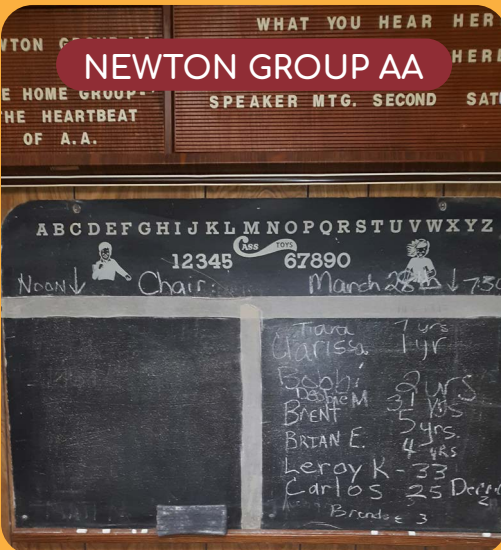
Webchair Sarah D. – webchair@ks-aa.org

events

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE
Kansas Area 25 Virtual Committee Meetings	Oct 17	Virtual via Zoom
Kansas Area 25 Assembly	Jan 15-17, 2020	Salina, KS

birthdays

Terry L - Front Street AA Dodge City - July 27, 1990 (30 Years)



In July we celebrated birthdays from March to May on the 11th of July. And June and July birthdays celebrated on the 25th of July. We did celebrate more than 111 years continue sobriety for the month of August.

Frank, Newton Group AA

area committee reports

delegate

Greetings Area 25 Members,

Wishing you all good health and safety as we continue to work together to carry the message during this difficult time.

I had the privilege of sharing my delegate report at the Area 25 Assembly via Zoom in July and again on August 8th, which was hosted by District 23. If your district or group would like me to share this with you please contact me at delegate@ks-aa.org. I have also posted an anonymity protected version of this report on the Area website under documents / GSO Delegate that you can view at any time.

The Area Chair and I plan to provide a Delegate and State of the Area report via Zoom mid-September. Since the State Conference was canceled, we felt it was important to keep the Area informed on what is happening. I believe Darin also plans a Question and Answer session directly following the reports. We hope to see you there.

I have received hard copies of the 70th General Service Conference Final Report and will get those out to members when we are able to gather again. I asked Sarah, our Web Chair, to post the anonymity protected electronic copy of 70th General Service Conference Final Report (English and Spanish) on the Area 25 Website. Sarah has also placed a button on our main web page for easy access to these reports.

I can't begin to describe the dedication and hard work our General Service Office and its two affiliated boards are doing to continue to ensure the health, safety, and future of this fellowship. Their efforts have been absolutely amazing.

What is happening at the General Service Office Level?

The financials reported in the 70th General Service Conference Final Report are what was presented to the Conference in May. The audited 2019 Financials were approved July 13, 2020 and a supplemental (electronic) report should be available sometime in September. I will provide more details in my Delegate Report mid-September.

Leslie Backus, Class A trustee and treasurer of the General Service Board, presented the Audited 2019 Financials via Zoom on August 15th to the 70th General Service Conference members.

The General Service Office has revised their 2020 budget, reducing it by around 2.5 million to accommodate the impact Covid-19 has had on our fellowship.

The AAWS Self-Support Subcommittee would like to thank all of the members, groups, districts, and areas that have shown an AMAZING level of 7th Tradition Support for AA work being done at the General Service Office.

I outlined in my Delegate report the financial shortfalls that were accruing due to Covid-19 in both 7th Tradition and Literature sales along with the \$3 million dollar drawdown taken from our prudent reserve to keep services going. In May, our 7th Tradition self-support reached \$838 thousand, June \$898 thousand and July reached \$1.1 million while our Literature sales still remain well below normal levels. Your 7th Tradition efforts are truly keeping the wheels turning for ongoing services provided by the General Service Office.

It was approved by the Trustees General Service Conference Committee: That the General Service Board begin planning for the likelihood of a virtual General Service Conference from April 18th - 24th, 2021, and that planning involve the 71st General Service Conference delegate members, while acknowledging that if and when circumstances allow, an in-person Conference is always preferred.

The contract with Brooklyn N.Y. for the 71st General Service Conference has been canceled. This is to ensure we have no pending legal obligations should the Conference be required to meet virtually again in 2021. If the Conference is held in-person, they will secure another location.

As you know all Regional Forums were canceled for 2020 and they have also canceled them for 2021. It was approved at the General Service Board the first of August to hold a virtual US/Canada 2020 Regional Forum(s) in November of 2020. It is proposed that on November 7th it would be held for the Eastern part of US and Canada and on November 14th it will be held for the Western part of US and Canada. (which is us) I will keep you posted. All Forums scheduled for 2021 will be held virtually on the dates they were scheduled.

It is still unknown when the General Service Office will re-open. All General Service Office staff are still working from home, however the 8th floor renovation has been completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. I am deeply grateful to be allowed this privilege.

Yours in Service,

Sheri P., P70/A25 Delegate

area committee reports

alternate delegate

Greetings Area 25,

It was good to see everyone at Assembly in July even though it wasn't in person, and I look forward to a seeing everyone at the October Committee meetings.

Speaking of October, the Southwest Region AA Service Assembly (SWRAASA) has been canceled this year. The Alternate Delegates from the Southwest Region had a conference call in early August and were informed by the host area, Northwest Texas (Area 66) of this decision. I know this was a heartbreaking decision for Area 66 because SWRAASA only comes around to each Area once every 22 years, but it was the necessary decision in light of the ongoing pandemic.

During the discussion of whether to cancel SWRAASA, the two points of discussion that seemed to have the most impact were (a) Tradition Four, and the potential negative impact on AA as a whole if their were to be a COVID outbreak that was traced to an AA event, and (b) the negative impact on anonymity in the event of an outbreak that would require AA groups and members to comply with a lawfully-issued contact tracing order. This was in addition to the concern for the health and safety of individual AA members, with the recognition that many members of AA have health issues that place them in high-risk categories.

In the end, it was decided that the risk to both individual AA members, and the risk to AA as a whole, outweighed any potential benefit to holding SWRAASA this year and therefore it was canceled.

There are still ongoing discussions about possible accommodations or changes so that Northwest Texas does not have to wait another 22 years to host SWRAASA, but those discussions are in the extremely preliminary stages and there is no useful information to pass along at this time. I will be sure to relay any information to Area 25 as it becomes reliable and available.

These are difficult times that require difficult decisions, and the right thing is not always the easy thing, but I am encouraged that the spiritual principles of the steps, traditions, and concepts seem to be holding true regardless of whatever new and unprecedented challenges AA is forced to confront.

In Love and Service,

Jon R.

area chair

Hello Area 25,

Hello Area 25! I hope this finds all of you happy and safe amongst these uncertain times. I have spoken to a lot of people in the Area over the last few months and engaged in meetings on line and in person. I can say Area 25 is still carrying the message. I do hope you all enjoyed the updated Delegates Report and the State Of The Area. Our Delegate, Sheri P. thought it to be a good opportunity for us to continue the tradition of doing this event even though our Area 25 Conference was canceled. I do have a lot of hope that moving into 2021, we will see each other back face to face and in touch with the fellowship once again. Please join us October 17th for the Area 25 Committee meetings. Stay safe on the front line of life and keep an eye out for those needing our help however and wherever that may be.

Yours in Love & Service,

Darin H.

alternate area chair

I hope everyone has had a great summer. We had a great Area Assembly in July even if it was virtual.

During the assembly we decided that starting in 2021 we will have our Assemblies at the Webster Conference Center in Salina. For 2021 only the Committee meetings will be at the Quality Inn but the plan is for 2022 the Committee meetings to be held at the Webster Conference Center as well. We are very excited to move to this new venue.

With the decision for the October Committee meeting to be conducted via Zoom don't forget to cancel any motel reservations you may have made.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service

In Love and Service,

Bridget B.

area committee reports

chronicler

We had five people who participated in the Zoom meeting at the July Assembly. District 10 has a new chronicler chair. GSO has asked for input in updating the Archives workbook. We discussed how, what, and where districts are storing their information. District 19 has begun to store their files in the cloud. Our next focus will be on updating group histories.

In Love and Service,

Heather G.

public information

Our last committee meeting was strange it was the first time I participated in a committee meeting virtually, I mean lately that is the norm, and like any alcoholic I balked before investigating, however taking the action of participating and being prepared it was an opportunity to overcome fears and doubts and have god show me the way.

We had 8 people in attendance from 5 different districts. The main topic of course was how with COVID19 do we get the message across and in places that are now not so public? We discussed some of the obstacles and how do we use the digital age to our advantage. Some of the discussion was based on the digital platform and how to get people to the new zoom meetings as well as face book meetings and getting information about alcoholics anonymous to schools and churches. We discussed over coming some of the obstacles we are facing now such as going into some schools and churches is not so welcomed, because now it poses a health risk. Some of the suggestions and actions being taken are – along with phone numbers on the flyers we have zoom numbers and with the new digital age there is more opportunity to carry the message from linked in as well as Facebook. It was a great discussion and some exciting things are happening in AA even with all that is going on in the world.

It's a privilege to serve in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for the opportunity.

In Love and Service,

Sonia F.

area committee reports

corrections

Due to the current COVID restrictions with correctional facilities, we are collaborating on how we can reach those behind the walls who are in need of meetings and literature. GSO has requested an update on the status for meetings and what we can do to help carry the message into corrections. We will have an update after the next committee meeting on which facilities are allowing us back in. We are all hopeful we can resume this quickly as it is so important to be available to the inmates.

In Love and Service,

Michelle D.

grape free press

Greetings Area 25,

I hope everyone is safe and healthy. Please send GFP Winter Edition submissions, such as, events, birthdays (September, October, and November Birthdays), memoriams, etc., to gfp@ks-aa.org by December 1st.

I have created a flyer at the end of this document that may be printed and posted in meeting rooms to help inform Area Members about the GFP and the need for submissions. Feel free to share with your districts/groups.

In Love and Service,

Amanda G.



CARRYING THE MESSAGE DURING COVID

During these uncertain times, carrying the message has been a bit of a challenge. Zoom meetings, in person meetings, and hybrid meetings are decisions that had to be made. Making sure we can carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic is an important part of our program and recovery.

The Famous Baldwin Group in Baldwin City, Kansas, has been able to do just that.

When the pandemic first came about, we went to Zoom meetings for a couple of months. Then we came across an outside shelter to meet at for the summer months. Still keeping our distance, wearing masks, we were able to help one another through these crazy times.

The Midland Railway Depot is the perfect secluded place to meet. Being able to be in person and talk with other alcoholics can be so reassuring we're not fighting this fight alone. Just having the presence of others is comforting.

Lisa R.

Baldwin City, KS

Kansas Area 25 Committee Meetings October 2020 Agenda

“A Clear Vision For You”

Saturday, October 17th

9:00-10:00

Committee Meetings

Committee	District	Chair
Accessibilities	23-24-21	Ben S.
Chronicler	19-31-26	Heather G.
Corrections	2-14-9	Michelle D.
Cooperation w/Professional Community	18-27-25	Jody H.
Grape Free Press	11-22	Amanda G.
Grapevine	10-1-12	Patty G.
Literature	6-13-4	Geno R.
Public Information	3-8-16	Sonia F.
Treatment	26-5-15	Susie H.
Web	7-22-17	Sarah D.

10:15-12:00

Business Meeting

Chair Report	Darin H.
Secretary	Jerry W.
Treasurer's report	Josh R.
Delegate	Sheri P.
Alt. Delegate	Jon R.
Alt. Chair	Bridget B.
State Conference Chair	Michele R..
Accessibilities	Ben S.
Al-Anon Liaison	Baylee B.
Chronicler	Heather G.
Corrections	Michelle D.
Cooperation w/Professional Community	Jody H.
Grape Free Press	Amanda G.
Grapevine	Patty G.
Literature	Geno R.
Public Information	Sonia F.
Registrar	Dennis G.
Treatment	Susie H.
Web	Sarah D

DCM Reports

New Business:

1. Draw committee assignment for both even & odd districts

Upcoming Events:

Area Assembly January 2021 15th-17th

LUNCH BREAK IF NECESSARY, @ 12:00



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KANSAS AREA 25 GRAPE FREE PRESS

WE NEED YOU!

Area members, *Kansas Area 25 Grape Free Press* needs your help to spread the word that we are seeking submissions.

Submissions may include:

- Sobriety Birthdays
- Memoriums
- Group Events
- Articles (i.e., Service Work Stories)

Publishing Months:

- December
- March
- June
- September

**Submissions are due the 1st of month
the issue will be published.**

**Send submissions or any questions to
gfp@ks-aa.org**



The current issue of the Grape Free Press is always available for free at ks-aa.org under the "Documents" tab on the menu.

Paper copies available for pickup at Area Assembly and Area Committee Meetings