

NEWSLETTER

New Home For Area Archives



Archives Repository – Closed, Safe & Secure

Area Archives Get A New Home by Hal E.

Previously the Oregon Area Archives were housed in several storage units. With the help of an awesome moving crew the archives are now located in a secure building in St. Helens, Oregon. In late February or early March anyone will be able to visit and view the new facility. Please contact archives@aa-oregon.org for an appointment. ▲



Archives Repository – Open For Easy Browsing

Our Primary Purpose by Anita B.

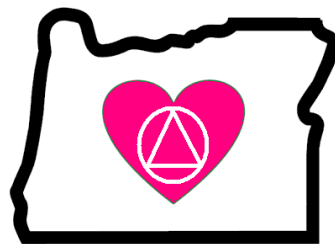
When we say sobriety is a matter of life and death, we mean it. Of course some of our members die from other causes in sobriety (cancer, heart attack, stroke, fatal traffic crashes), but sometimes our friends relapse and can't get back. One of our sayings to encourage relapsers to return to our fellowship is, "We don't shoot our wounded." In the last four years I have lost two friends and one sponsee to suicide, as well as other members from liver complications and diabetes.

Are we diligent enough in our 12th stepping of newbies or chronic relapsers? Do we pay attention when someone stands waiting while we chat with one another before or after a meeting? Do we offer compassion and concern when we see someone in tears? Do we go the extra mile for someone who is struggling financially and just needs bus fare to get to a meeting or a ride home? Am I willing to respond to all of these questions in a positive and useful manner in God's will?

I pray, Our Creator, that I am ALWAYS. ▲

What Is The Oregon Area?

The Oregon Area is comprised of 1,037 meetings and more than 19,964 members. Area 58 AA meetings are comprised of separate and autonomous Alcoholics Anonymous groups in Oregon and a small part of Washington. It is part of the larger service structure of A.A. in North America.



We provide assistance to the groups in our common effort to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Source: aa-oregon.org ▲

Online Ask-it-Basket. Have you ever wondered why we have an upside-down service triangle or why our Delegate becomes the Grapevine Chair after they rotate from their Delegate term? You can always take such questions to each assembly and put them in the Ask-it-Basket. AND NOW there is an ONLINE Ask-it-Basket where you can pose your questions to the Past Delegates from the convenience of your own computer. What!? You ask. There *sure* is! Just go to: <http://www.aa-oregon.org/ask-it-basket.htm> and enter your question and contact information and Viola! Try it. ▲

Oregon Area Delegate News By Anne M.

Greetings once again from your Delegate on tour. I continue to travel around the Oregon Area to report on the outcomes of the 2010 General Service Conference. I have a few more reports scheduled, so if you haven't made it to a session yet, there is still time.

In my last newsletter article I mentioned two surveys that members were requested to complete and return to me. The deadlines for returning those surveys have now passed. The survey developed by G.S.O. to help them determine what literature and other information (if any) the membership would like delivered electronically has been summarized and submitted by the due date. Out of the 144 surveys received, 86 percent are interested in reading A.A. literature on a mobile device. Laptops and computers were by far the favored method for electronic delivery, but 23 percent indicated a desire for access via a smartphone and 8 percent would use an electronic reader. Of the list of books to be made accessible, the "Big Book" and "12 x 12" were overwhelming favorites to be made available electronically. Did you know they are already posted on A.A.'s official website? You can go to www.aa.org and click on ***Read the Big Book and Twelve and Twelve*** right from the home page. The pamphlets requested for electronic delivery were spread fairly evenly among the most popular titles such as *The A.A. Group* and *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship*. If it's just information you need, you should know that virtually every pamphlet published by A.A. can be read via the A.A. website. Whether or not these books and pamphlets can be made available for download, to access on mobile devices, to print, and whether there will be a cost involved, is more than likely the question to be discussed in the months to come. Stay tuned for more information on this topic.

And speaking of electronic delivery, did you know that you can now make individual and group contributions online? Yes it's true! You can send your group's contribution or your birthday contribution (or a general /undesignated contribution) via the G.S.O. website noted above. Click on ***AA Member Contributions Online***, fill out a few questions, and voilá -- your contribution will be credited. Yes, you can still obtain a birthday envelope from your GSR, your DCM, perhaps from your local Intergroup Office, or from me to send in your check, but the ability to do this online is a new option that you might want to try out! Perhaps you don't know what a 'birthday contribution' is or how much to send to be fully self-supporting (Tradition 7)? These are great questions to



discuss at your monthly group and District meetings. Your District can host a Seventh Tradition workshop, or have a panel discussion of all the Traditions. With wintry days ahead, workshops are a wonderful way to spend a weekend morning or afternoon, especially when a potluck is involved!

The results of the Grapevine survey will not be available for some time. More than two-thirds of the Areas are using the survey, which was developed by one of the Panel 59 Delegates who has since volunteered to spearhead the project of channeling the survey information to the Grapevine Board. I suspect a final report will be made available but perhaps not before the next General Service Conference. It would seem likely that some changes to the Grapevine will be discussed as part of next year's Conference agenda. I can tell you that 191 surveys were returned to me by the due date. The entries from each survey were entered onto a spreadsheet, also developed by one of the Delegates, and the results were forwarded to a committee that is compiling the data. Seventy of those returning surveys currently subscribe to the Grapevine, 106 do not subscribe, and 15 did not respond to the question. Of those who do not subscribe, about twenty percent said they would subscribe if it could be made available electronically. Beyond that, we will need to wait for a more detailed analysis of the data and perhaps follow up information from the Grapevine Board.



One final note. I received a letter from Julio E., who is Secretary to the Trustees' Committee on Literature. The Committee is looking to fill two openings for nontrustee appointed committee members. I have information and resume forms if you or anyone you know is interested in applying for a position. You may recall that a DCM in the Portland metro area became an appointed committee member on this same committee several years ago. I can put you in touch with her if you have direct questions or possibly I can answer them for you. Please send me an email (delegate@aa-oregon.org) to let me know you are interested. Resumes must be submitted to G.S.O. by December 15, 2010.

I'm anxious to see many of you at the upcoming Assembly in Medford. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as your Delegate!



GSR SCHOOL & DELEGATE'S POST CONFERENCE REPORT Spanish Speaking Districts, October 24 by Rosa P. Translation Chair

The meeting began with lots of coffee and Mexican panes or we call them pastries. We were with lots of warm hospitality. We began at 10 am and were beginning to run over at 3 pm. A group conscience was taken at the end and they voted to extend the time 1 to 1 1/2 hours longer. Using simultaneous translation by Miguel T. and Lorena G. and being a translator, I stayed until it ended as I am learning so much about this position.

I feel it is important to help the Spanish speaking community/ members become more and more involved in their own translation and help make learning English fun for them. I am amazed at how far the three Spanish Speaking Districts in Oregon have come in that area in just the last year alone and years previous. We are tracking the progress of the beginning of the Spanish Speaking community in A.A. and their involvement in the Oregon Area #58 and putting it into a format so it can be read in our Spanish Speaking Committee Archives file with easy access to this information.

Chase B., Alt Delegate presided over the GSR School using a PowerPoint presentation with the text in Spanish and in English. That included more of our translation of text efforts. We perform simultaneous translation from English to Spanish during the presentation and also for the Q and A, Comments etc.

After lunch, which was a great freshly prepared Mexican meal, Anne M., Oregon Area Delegate, gave the Oregon Area Delegate's Post Conference Report from NY, which she attended this past April.

There was a packed room, sometimes standing room only. There was tremendous, focused interest and intense attentive listening. Anne passed out handouts which spurred many questions and there wasn't time for her to answer all of them. Anne hopes to and is offering to meet with the Spanish Speaking members before or after their District meetings to continue providing the answers and any other information the Spanish speaking member's request. It takes tremendous focus and attention to detail for simultaneous interpretation and we are all learning so much. We have a great team and all are contributing to this endeavor. We cannot out give God. I found it very inspirational to see the Spanish Speaking group where we met have the Twelve Concepts hanging on their meeting room wall. It was the big white pull down rendition. I do not see those in English speaking meeting rooms very often. I was amazed at how well versed and interested the Latinos are in understanding the Concepts. Lorena has uploaded the Twelve Concepts in Spanish to the Oregon Area website. Thank you Rick for your assistance as well.

Lorena is currently preparing some information to put on the website for the new RSGs. Over and over, the Spanish Speaking members speak up about taking responsibility for their own recovery in every aspect of what A.A. offers them.

McMinnville September 2011 Assembly Need a place to stay? Your Group/District can't afford a hotel room? District 22, Host of your 2011 September General Service Assembly, is looking to see if there is any interest for visiting DCMs and GSRs to save on motel expenses by staying with host families in the McMinnville / Newberg area. Please contact Vaughn, Hospitality Chair or John R., Assembly Co-Chair if you are interested.

Vaughn W. Phone: 503-899-5425 Email: gr8ful4today@yahoo.com or

John R. Phone: 503-481-3782 Email: johnnyrock@frontier.com

District 22 will be hosting an Old-timers Speaker Meeting in mid February. This meeting will be a fund raiser for the Oregon Area 58 September 2011 General Service Assembly which will be hosted by District 22. Please help spread the word that we will be looking for volunteer speakers with 20+ years of recovery to share their experience, strength and hope. There will be lots of raffle prizes too! Speakers will be drawn from the hat and asked to share for 10 minutes. More information will be available soon. For any questions please contact: Ken M. at Oldtimers211@yahoo.com or call 503-538-9221 ▲

ITEMS OF NOTE FROM THE GSR SCHOOL

- GSRs are known as RSGs in the Spanish Speaking recovery community.
- GSRs are the main link between the groups, the individuals and the rest of A.A. worldwide
- There are 3 Spanish Speaking Districts in Oregon (Districts 28, 34 and 35)
- Translation enables our members to better carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholico
- The GSR school format is being translated for the Spanish Archives and future use

Spanish Contact Info:

Spanish Intergroup in Salem

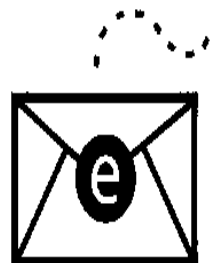
Oficina Intergupal Hispana De Salem Oregon
3545 Portland Rd NE, Suite 230 | Salem, OR 97303
503-363-4882

Spanish Districts:

Dcm28@aa-oregon.org
Dcm34@aa-oregon.org
Dcm35@aa-oregon.org

Translation Chair: Lorena G.
translation@aa-oregon.org

Translation Co-Chair: Rosa P.
translation-alt@aa-oregon.org ▲



ARE YOU NEW TO AREA SERVICE? LOOK HERE

After a little while around here, and after seeing the magic of a few November rotations, some of us might forget what it was like to be a brand new GSR or DCM, or to be new on a Service Committee. Let's be mindful of our newest members and seek them out at this assembly. We can offer our guidance and support. We can suggest Round Tables that might best suit their needs, the needs of the members they serve, and their interests.

If you are new, ask as many questions as you can. Try to arrive at scheduled meetings early so that you can get a good seat, and carry a pen or pencil and something to write on. On this page some things have been included that might offer some guidance: **A District Report** (far right) if you need to construct one for your own district or are interested in what might be contained within one; **Voting Procedures** (below) as a reminder for how and why we do things the way we do at our business meeting on Sunday; and finally a bit about some of our **Service Committees** (opposite page). You will hear more about all of our service committees as you visit the round tables available at the November Assembly this weekend. ▲

BUSINESS MEETING VOTING PROCEDURES

If it sounds confusing, it will make more sense when you see it in practice. Ask your DCM or an Area Committee member for help. We all know that in the beginning our voting procedure at Oregon Area Assemblies can be mystifying. It will make more sense as we go along. Here's what to expect: A motion is made. If it does not receive a second, it dies. That means we will not discuss it on the floor. If it does get a second, debate is opened. Debate is ended if there are no more speakers at the mic or if the question is called. Only a registered voter may call the question, and not if they have started by speaking *for* or *against* the motion. A second is required, or debate resumes. 2/3 majority will end the debate, or debate resumes. Either way, once debate ends, a sense of the group will be taken by simple majority, to vote or table the motion to take it back to the groups. This is asked by the chair if the motion is "urgent or administrative." If it is then the motion will be put to the floor for a vote right then and not taken back to the groups. If it is not, it is sent back to the groups to gain as much of an informed group conscience as possible. When a motion is voted on, it requires a 2/3 majority to pass. The minority is asked if they wish to speak to their position. As a result of what is said, the winning side is asked if there is a motion to re-vote. This also requires a second. A simple majority is required to re-vote. If the majority is in favor of a re-vote, then the floor is opened once again for debate, just like at the beginning of the motion (though the body is asked to

A DISTRICT REPORT BY STEVE B

If you would like to submit yours, please do!

Hello Area 58!! My name is Steve and I'm an alcoholic, my sobriety date is 05/26/04 and I'm the DCM for District 9 in NW Portland. My sponsor and Service sponsor is Reggie F. of Vancouver, WA. My home group is the Men's Round Table, 7:30pm Wednesdays in the Alano Club in NW Portland. Here's my report:

Attendance has been great: 12 or more GSRs (plus officers) at every district meeting.

We successfully voted in a new Treasurer: Stephanie C. and a new Secretary: Carol K., they've hit the ground running and are already helping our district run even more smoothly

Our district has teamed up with district 15 to host an upcoming workshop: Service-A-Palooza on Saturday November 13, from noon to 4pm in the basement of the NW Alano Club. The focus will be on experience, strength and hope in regards to service in AA (general, group and alcoholic to alcoholic). We have 3 panels of speakers and Anne M. will take us home with her Post Conference Delegate Report. It looks to be a truly spiritual experience – and you're all invited!!!

Our district is working on a bid for a 2011 Area 58 Assembly. If we're successful this would be our first assembly in over 10 years.

A bunch of us are caravanning to the Medford Assembly and are looking forward to having a blast together!!!

I'm approaching the end of my first year as DCM for District 9 and I have to say it's been a truly wonderful spiritual experience so far and I feel very blessed. This next year may go by much too fast. Yours In Love And Service, Steve B. DCM District 9 ▲

be mindful of things that have already been said). During full debate, both pro and con are resumed. The question may again be called, seconded, requiring a 2/3 majority to end debate again. A sense of the group may be taken by simple majority to vote or table. If voted on, the motion must have a 2/3 majority to pass. Debate has ended. And in some cases, the body is unanimous (that means that we have all voted the same). In some cases, the body appears to be so evenly split on the vote that a "hand-count" must be taken. During a hand-count, each registered voter reports their vote (GSRs to their DCMs) and Area Committee Chairs and DCMs tally the vote and report it to the Secretary during a second roll call. Then, the vote is physically tallied, rather than by a show of hands, and majority rules apply. Debate on a tabled motion will be resumed under old business at the next assembly, and the voting process will be the same as above. If it sounds strange, it becomes easier the more you experience it. Get a good service sponsor and ask a lot of questions. ▲

(info paraphrased [bootlegged] from aa-oregon.org by Rhonda Z. Newsletter Chair)

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

The Translation Committee coordinates and facilitates translation of documents such as the Delegate's post-conference report, Oregon Area business meeting minutes, Area motions, Area assembly agendas, and other Area and district-related documents. Additionally, it organizes interpretation services to assist non-English-speaking AA members to understand discussion and participate at all levels of Area service. This includes Area assembly business meetings, GSR sharing sessions, district reports, standing committee and Area Officer workshops, among other sessions. Please submit other translation requests by email to translation@aa-oregon.org or translation-alt@aa-oregon.org. Attach a Word or Excel document with the text you want translated, and indicate a preferred due date. **Please allow a minimum of 10 days** for fulfillment of all translation requests. Documents that are not related to Area or district business may be translated at the discretion of the translation committee based on time available. ▲

PUBLIC INFORMATION or P.I.

To serve as a resource for District P.I. Committees by providing information from GSO and other Areas through workshops, presentations and mailings. Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of local Public Information committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media. Contact: North. pi-n@aa-oregon.org or South. pi-s@aa-oregon.org ▲

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Back By Unpopular Demand: Sudoku! Fill the grid so that each row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9

ACCESS COMMITTEE

To assist the Alcoholics Anonymous groups in Oregon to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still-suffering alcoholics and current members with access / special needs. The Oregon Area Access Committee provides information from GSO and other Area's to Groups, Districts, Intergroups, and Service Committees. This is done through workshops, presentations, mailings etc. We want to help alcoholics who are deaf or hard of hearing, who live in rural areas/isolated, home or hospital bound, who do not have transportation or unable to drive themselves due to health conditions or DUI, who live in nursing homes/foster care homes, who use a wheel chair, walker, or cane, who are blind or have low vision, who have limited English reading/writing skills, who are single parents that are unable to find suitable child care to attend meetings, are developmentally disabled. We are looking for AA members with the desire to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic to be on the Oregon Area Access Committee. You don't have to have prior knowledge in the area of access nor do you have to be a person with access needs yourself. But if you are an AA member that has Access needs yourself PLEASE join us. You can teach us how to help you and others with similar needs. Contact: access@aa-oregon.org ▲

W E B S I T E

The purpose of our web site is to assist the Alcoholics Anonymous groups of Oregon to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still-suffering alcoholic; to facilitate communication among General Service Representatives (GSR's), District Committee Members (DCM's), Area Committee members, and Area Officers; to improve an understanding of the workings of Oregon Area 58 in order to encourage participation in service work. Our primary purpose is to stay sober, and to help others recover from alcoholism. Website Submissions: Calendar Submissions: If you would like to link a flyer to your calendar event, send it as an attachment in an email to the webservant (preferably as an Adobe .pdf or .jpg image). Updating Committee pages: Committee Chairs may submit changes to their committee page(s) by copying the text from your page, emailing webservant@aa-oregon.org with the changed text, and any other details. Links, graphics, etc. may be included as attachments. Updating District Pages: DCM's may add or change meeting schedules by obtaining a password from the webmaster, then clicking on the Edit button at the bottom of your District page. Translations: please go to the Translation Committee page for document translation questions. [Our] web site observes the traditions of A.A., and is regulated by the group conscience of the Website Committee, and the Oregon Area Committee. ▲



SKIP'S AA IN THE DIGITAL AGE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS



Our Alternate Chair, Skip A., was invited to contribute at a workshop hosted by Districts 10 and 31 called "AA in the Digital Age." This is a hot topic right now in our fellowship. Because there are concerns about our traditions and our anonymity, such talks and workshops will likely continue. Perhaps your own group will join the dialogue and maybe even organize its own workshop. Here are some of the highlights of Skip's portion of the presentation:

...The technology I speak of here today is that found in the use of personal and workplace computers and cellphones. Almost any cellphone produced today is a mini-computer, and has become a mobile computer for many. On it, we can take photos, receive and send emails, work on documents and spreadsheets, and access the internet to name just a few. The typical way we communicate with each other digitally is via email, texting, and social networking.... So, in my personal use of this technology, I have found that erring on the side of caution, or our beloved term "PAUSING", has often helped me avert possible mistakes like I have just described. As a recovering alcoholic, the Traditions guide me to protect what has proven to save my and life and countless others. The easiest way I can do so is to be **IMPECCABLE** with the information about Alcoholics Anonymous that I transmit. Whether it be relating my experience, our Area Guidelines, oral traditions, or something from our literature, I find I must do so with utmost care to be fair, loving, and accurate... So, I should take great care when I am quoting from memory, or typing too fast, or in a hurry, or considering relating someone else's experience apart from mine, or transmitting "opinions" in place of experience. All these are tripping points for me when I am not in humility, or when acting from a place of fear... digital technology poses an additional means, by which misstatements and misquotes of our precious literature and oral traditions can occur... our Eleventh Tradition...states "we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films". And even the long form states "that our [last] names and pictures as AA members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed". So, it's not a stretch to understand that if we take this seriously, we need to be as educated as we can about where and how we put our personal information on the internet.

... we have a lot of educating and sharing with each other ahead if we are to use this wonderful technology to help the alcoholic who still suffers. ▲

BACKPAGE EXTRAS

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information please visit www.aa-oregon.org or the respective hosts' websites. To submit an event to be included in the newsletter, please send it to newsletter@aa-oregon.org

- Altered Attitudes Thanksgiving November 25, 12 - 5:30 6th & John Adams St in Oregon City
- Dist 23 GSR School - Saturday December 4th at 19200 Willamette Dr. West Linn at 11:00 AM
- WACYCAA in Yosemite December 10-12
- AREA 58 Orientation in Eugene January 15, 2011
- Sacramento Spring Fling <http://www.sacspringfling.org>
- Pacific Northwest Conference 2011 PNC in Bend the weekend of June 24, 2011.

Upcoming AREA 58 Assemblies

- Pre-conference Assembly February Eugene and Springfield Districts 6,19,20,3, February 25-27 at the Valley River Inn
- Post-conference Assembly in Albany, May 20th 2011 at the Ashbrook Independent School
- General Assembly September 16th 2011, District 22 will host in McMinnville at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds



OREGON AREA 58 NEWSLETTER Want to submit an article? Articles should focus on stories, group news, district news, or other service activities in Oregon Area 58. We may edit your submission for formatting purposes. Please have these to the Newsletter Chair 1 month prior to the next Assembly. Email the Newsletter Chair at newsletter@aa-oregon.org and please use the subject heading: "**AREA 58 Submission**" If you don't hear back, always feel free to resubmit. Junk mail filter applies. ▲