

Fall 2011

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NEWSLETTER

www.aa-oregon.org

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AA

OREGON . AREA 58

▲ The General Assembly Edition ▲

Look Well to This Day

- Anonymous, 50 B.C.

Look well to this day,
For it and it alone is life.

In its brief course

Lies all the essence of your existence:

The Glory of Growth

The Satisfaction of Achievement

The Splendor of Beauty

For yesterday is but a dream,

And tomorrow is but a vision.

But today well lived makes every yesterday a
dream of happiness,

And every tomorrow a vision of hope. ▲



▲ Did You Know: Business Meeting Minutes

Did you know that all of our business meetings are available in their “minutes” form online at www.aa-oregon.org? There’s other great stuff there, too.

For more info on minutes, feel free to contact our Secretary, Lauri S. at secretary@aa-oregon.org

For more info on the website, contact the Webservant at webmaster@aa-oregon.org

Oregon Area Delegate News Anne M., Panel 60 Delegate

Greetings from your Delegate on tour! Since the May Assembly, I’ve reported on the 61st General Service Conference (GSC) on 14 occasions to 26 participating Districts. I have only 3 more reports scheduled, including a report to the Mill Creek group in the Oregon State Penitentiary. I still have plenty of open weekends after the September Assembly, so I’m hoping the remaining 11 Districts will invite me to come and give a Conference report . . . hint, hint ☺ My schedule is posted on the Oregon Area website, www.aa-oregon.org/delegate.

There will never be enough time to give a full verbal report on everything that happened at the Conference, but you can find the outcomes of all the Conference agenda items on the Delegate’s page on the website (above). If you have a passion for a particular committee or agenda item and want to know what happened, you will find the answers there. Feel free to email or call me if you have specific questions or need more detail. I will also take a few moments here to inform you of a couple of newsy items I just learned from the General Service Office (G.S.O.) in New York.

Electronic Availability of *The A.A. Grapevine, Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*: The 61st GSC approved an initiative to permit the A.A. Grapevine’s use of digital technologies for the sale and distribution of the magazine and other books and products to be delivered to smartphones, tablets, e-readers, etc. An “app” is being developed now, and although I can’t say when you will be able to receive your Grapevine products via the various digital media, know that it is in the works. At the same time, the General Service Office (G.S.O.) has been working on their “Ebook” project which will allow you to download the “Big Book,” the “12 by 12” and other books and pamphlets to your electronic devices. I have recently heard that the project is on schedule and the rollout is anticipated in October -- just one month away. I have not yet heard the price, but to have the availability of the Conference approved versions of our literature ... published by A.A. for A.A. with profits going to A.A. ... this is very exciting indeed!

(Continued on page 3)

Spanish Speaking Districts, By Rosa P.

Districts 28, 34 and 35 had a busy quarter with lots of action!

District 35 hosted our Delegate Anne M. for the Post Conference Delegate's Report with a good turnout. There was a good Q&A session at the end. District 35 served fresh Service that was delicious and we had cake with almond flavored icing and fruit in it too. We have translated the text on our Delegate's PowerPoint presentation and with two members, each taking a hand at translating, and they were excellent, both of them helping to make the report very comprehensive and very interesting. Thank you District 35 for your wonderful hospitality.

Spanish speaking District 28 hosted Alt Delegate, Chase B., and Chair Gus P, at their Intergroup Office in Salem for a workshop on Anonymity. It was titled "Myth Busters." Humorous, factual information on forming of our traditions of anonymity and the hammering out of anvils of experience how important our anonymity is. The content of the video part was excellent as well as the commentary concerning information Gus and Chase derived from our A.A. literature concerning anonymity. Well worth seeing. A workshop not to be missed and so apropos for our current times with the discussions on anonymity in the digital age.

The District 28 Intergroup Office was very well stocked with literature. We were all surprised at the amount of literature. We were served hot chicken with mole sauce fresh made, delicious rice, refried beans and panes, which is Mexican breads, coffee and sodas. It was well attended. Thank you District 28 for your lovely hospitality.

On August 28th, our Delegate Anne M. gave the Delegate's Post Conference Report at the hospital in Salem. It was hosted by District 4 and District 28 was invited as well. It was a consensus that Anne M. took us to New York with her and the interest by all was very evident. We enjoyed Anne's photos of the trip to New York. A warm sliced ham was brought in, with fresh buns, finger foods, sodas and cookies by District 4. Nice refreshments, and of great interest was the 3-ring binder our Delegate Anne was given for the work that the committees had to do while attending the conference. Anne passed around the binder and just to touch it and to be allowed to look through the contents and to know where it came from was a very moving experience for each one of us.

We continue to translate documents, agendas, flyers and more items as well. Our search for new translation equipment continues. We have equipment in mind, but it seems that their production of the newer model won't be ready until the end of the year. The discussion continues and we are praying for the solution.

The past Translation/Interpretation Chair, Lorena G. and I will be traveling to Richland, WA to attend the "Local Forum" on Sept 9th and 10th. Both Lorena and I have been asked to share on a panel on Saturday afternoon. Our topic will be the attendance of Hispanic women in meetings of A.A. The theme



T F I N A N C E V D K F C F U
K R D A O A A T N U A J O J Q
S N I C L I T E R A T U R E U
G H F C M W T E H G V T R S G
G L B E W Y R A T E R C E S R
W L S P S A H E M E S I C C C
N O I T A L S N A R T U T P E
I U V A P T A S X I O U I U C
R L I N R E U T L Q B F O B C
T O F C J R C I I Z U Q N L T
F J P E E N C N F P Z U S I M
L W P R I A H C O S S E C C A
Q H X D F T J N H C D O I X G
B F L K D E L E G A T E H N I
W B U W M B U D Z P E H A N T

Translation, CPC, Secretary, Delegate, Alternate, Hospitals, Chair, Finance, Treasurer, GSR, DCM, Concepts, Public, Corrections, Facilities, Literature, Access, Web, Acceptance

is Barriers, Cultural, Language, Geographical, Diversity etc. There will be panels on Hispanic women, Native American women, Russian, Gay, Lesbian, Trans-sexual members as topics. Lorena has started Spanish speaking women's meetings and is very active in the Spanish speaking A.A. community, attending many meetings, traveling great distances to support the Spanish speaking women at the meetings.

Lorena G. served as the Spanish Speaking Meeting Chair for the 44th International Women's Conference held in Portland in Feb of 2008. During that time, serving as chair, I was in contact with a woman at GSO. Her name was Eva Sanchez. We have learned she is the Friday night speaker. I haven't told Lorena yet and will surprise her and introduce her. I will let her know what a key part in our conference planning that Eva S., played and that Lorena didn't even know that. We are looking forward to meeting other A.A. members at the "Local Forum."

The Saturday night speaker will be our Pacific Regional Trustee, Rod B., from Salt Lake City, Utah. We hope to take many notes and come back and report to all of you what we learned at this "Local Forum." ▲

Anonymity on the Internet: There has been so much talk and concern about how we are and are not maintaining our anonymity on the Internet, and in particular on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Myspace, that the GSC chose to have that as the theme for next year's Conference. The full theme will be: "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age" Next year's workshop topic is: "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare." Along with the discussion/presentation topics that are listed in the Conference outcomes document mentioned above, these are all wonderful topics for groups and Districts who are hosting workshops from now until next year's Conference. I encourage all of you to be talking about these issues and sharing your experience, strength and hope with your friends, fellow home group members, and with your General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM). Your individual and group conscience will be important for your next Delegate.

Delegate Election at the September Assembly: And speaking of your next Delegate, please do not forget that you will be electing a new Delegate, Area Chairperson and the Alternates for those two positions at the next Assembly in McMinnville. Information about the Assembly as well as a registration form and the weekend agenda is available on the Area website (www.aa-oregon.org). Our new Pacific Region Trustee, Rod B., will be helping with the third legacy election and will also be the banquet speaker on Saturday evening. He has a powerful story, so I hope you will all come and help him feel welcome in Oregon Area.

Thanks to everyone who has participated so far in the Conference reporting process. If at any time there are questions, please contact me at delegate@aa-oregon.org. ▲

Top 12 Reasons to Submit an Article for the Area Newsletter

Submitted by the Spiritual Knife (I did that for Chase)

12. You will be famous! (at least among us, for one assembly, or maybe just at your table)
11. You will be immortalized on the Area website
10. You can show your sponsor you're doing service
09. You'll be added to our archives
08. Chase will ask for your autograph
07. Can you paper your bird cage with something special just from you? Yes, you can!
06. You will be a published author!
05. You can use the Newsletter to carry the message
04. More pages in the newsletter could mean more Sudoku
03. It's fun
02. You can show it off at your Home Group anniversary picnic And ...
01. You can answer with a confident "YES" when asked by the Newsletter Chair if you have written an article yet. ▲

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 majority 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 be mindful of things that have already been said). During full debate, pro and con is resumed. The question may again be called, seconded, and requires a 2/3 majority to end debate. 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 case, 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) ▲

NOT ORGANIZED

"Alcoholics Anonymous is not organized in the formal or political sense. There are no governing officers, no rules or regulations, no fees or dues. The need for certain services to alcoholics and their families throughout the world has, however, been apparent from the beginning of the Fellowship. Inquiries have to be answered. Literature has to be written, printed, and distributed. Requests for help are followed up."

LOCAL

Most communities have autonomous A.A. Groups which conduct A.A. meetings and organize volunteers from their membership to help with a variety of service activities. [A.A. Districts](#) are composed of representative members from local A.A. groups (G.S.R., or General Service Representative), and a local District is coordinated by a D.C.M. (District Committee Member), These are rotating service positions. These local service entities form the base of the Conference Service Structure which guides Alcoholics Anonymous.

Larger metropolitan communities with the need for more services often have an Intergroup or Central Office, which provides facilities, phone answering, printed meeting schedules, and helps coordinate service activities. Intergroups and Central Offices work in conjunction and cooperation with the Conference Service Structure, but are separate entities responsible to their local groups, for both historical and practical reasons.

REGIONAL

Areas such as Oregon Area 58, are typically state or province wide service bodies made up of G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, Area Officers, and Service Committees. Oregon Area holds assemblies in the form of [quarterly business meetings](#) in various parts of the state, and does not maintain fixed facilities. We coordinate and help educate A.A. members in providing recovery resources. A delegate is elected which participates in the General Service Conference.

US & CANADA

A General Service Conference, consisting of 93 delegates from A.A. areas in the United States and Canada, and trustees, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors, and staff from the General Service Office and the Grapevine in New York, meets once a year and provides a link between the groups throughout the U.S. and Canada and the trustees who serve as custodians of A.A. tradition and interpreters of policies affecting the Fellowship as a whole. ▲

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

- High Desert Round Up 9/23-25 in Bend, Bend Armory, 875 SW Simpson, Bend OR 97702
- Archive Repository Open House, 10/1 at 15th and Umatilla, Saint Helens, OR
- WACYPAA 15 1/26-29 in Las Vegas
- 25th Annual Sobriety by the Sea, 9/23-25 in Crescent City, CA
- 21st Annual Native American Indian AA Convention, 10/ - 9 in Las Vegas www.nai-aa.org
- 25th Annual Promises in Paradise AA Convention 10/28-30, St. Thomas Virgin Islands (why not?)
- Sober in Seaside New Years Eve Round Up 12/31-1/1

Upcoming AREA 58 Assemblies

- Quarterly Assembly November 18th, District 9 to host in Portland, OR
- Pre-Conference Assembly February 24th, District 30 will host, Gold Beach, OR
- Post-Conference Assembly May 18th, District 27 to host in Clackamas, OR



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. ▲