

NEWSLETTER

What It Means To Get "The Box" - Anonymous

Hello Oregon Area, I thought perhaps you may be interested in excerpts from my journal. Me being a new area servant, sponsors have encouraged me to write. It's rare but every once in a while a 'feeling' word worms its way into the text. Very rare. Anyhow...

Nov. 21 Break at the business meeting "THE BOX" is transferred to my care. Mid-size plastic storage tub. By the heft, it seems to contain a large volume of lead Babbitt. Break's over, my name is called and I join the rest of the act-outers at the long table. Wow (feeling word).

Before leaving town we decide prudence dictates. We add air to tires for return home. Also call GSO, leave message, name, phone #, and new service title in Area 58. Mileage almost cut in half due to excess weight. of "BOX." Did not know *if* we would make the crest of Sexton Summit.

Home at last. Unwisely decide to rest "BOX" on seat of rocker/recliner. Unfortunately Petee was lying in front of chair when "BOX" tipped out of chair. Rush Petee to Veterinary office.

Nov. 22 Up early due to fill-in person at desk in New York eagerly returning call before checking location of 58 and figuring time difference. I tell caller that while rescuing Petee from under contents of "BOX" I noticed more than one kit and may not need anymore sent to me. Begin looking over contents of "BOX." In fact "BOX" contains 6 complete kits as well as quite an assortment of AA information I cannot fathom has to do with this service position. Several questions arise during my investigation. First, could this "BOX" belong to not I but to Hal of archives, having been misplaced during their recent move? Another as I dig deeper: have any of the previous proprietors of this "BOX" had any sobriety? Not that I could recognize sobriety considering my recent behavior. Here is a photo of Gus when he was much younger. It's not dated but it's got to be from long ago cause he's wearing shorts, a Hawaiian shirt and his ponytail says late 1960's. The layers near the bottom make me wonder if the history of AA is in error about us starting in Akron because this "BOX" apparently began around the time Oregon achieved statehood.

That's about all for now. I am going to need to replace my paper shredder as it just burnt up while disposing of the fourteen inches of confidential conference agenda items background info that I found in the "BOX". On a happier (feeling word) note, the vet just rang and while it is still touch and go he thinks Petee, our St. Bernard, is going to survive his run-in with the box. ▲

Delegate News From NY - By Anne M.

Greetings from your Area 58 Delegate! I have just returned from attending the January Board meeting in New York and am filled with awe and gratitude. What I observed and felt and learned seemed like one continuous spiritual experience from start to finish. The long weekend consisted of Trustees' Committee meetings, two organized lunches and dinners, and a meeting of the full General Service Board. I came away with yet another insight into the deep commitment and dedication of our Trustees, Board members and G.S.O. staff to the Fellowship and Program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There were several presentations throughout the weekend as well as the various meetings, but one presentation in particular had a huge impact on me. The speaker was one of our alcoholic Trustees. How he explained our A.A. service structure made everything so clear to me that I just have to pass it on to you. (Continued on page 2)



For more information on Area 58, upcoming assemblies, service committees, contact information, and all sorts of gems, please visit:

(Delegate/NY Continued from pg. 1) Picture a building with a foundation and beams which support the floors, ceilings and walls. Inside the building very important things happen. It could be a State or Federal capitol building, a school, a hospital, etc. For my example, I am using a hospital because life and death decisions are made in hospitals. If the foundation cracks, the floors will buckle and crack. If the foundation crumbles, the beams will not be able to support the walls and ceilings. But the foundation and beams are not something we think about when we go into the hospital. We think about the life threatening and life saving events that take place. Our divinely inspired A.A. service structure can represent the foundation and beams of our Fellowship. Without this structure intact, the life and death stuff that happens in the home groups of A.A. may not take place. The service structure is somewhat transparent, in that we don't necessarily think about it when we are carrying the message of A.A. to a newcomer or even to someone who has achieved some sobriety but may be going through a rough time. We do what we do best ... we share our experience, strength and hope with that person and it may turn out to be a life saving act.

The work of those in general service -- meaning those who are of service to A.A. outside the home group -- may not be totally transparent, but we don't always think about them when it comes to 12-stepping the newcomer. I've heard mention that these are the folks who need or want the 'glory' or some sort of recognition or title. I've heard members comment that they don't attend their home group's business meetings, Area Assemblies or regional meetings because it's "just a bunch of politics." What I've known all along but what has now become crystal clear is that there are no politicians, definitely no glory and not much recognition for those participating in general service. But

thank goodness some members are willing and available to do it. Without those willing members, the A.A. structure would surely crumble and along with it would go the Fellowship. I don't know about you, but I would rather not face the task of trying to work the Program of A.A. without the Fellowship of A.A. And I think we all know what happens when an alcoholic quits working the Program.

I believe it's ok that we don't necessarily think about the behind the scenes work of our trusted servants when we get that 12-step call or approach a newcomer at a meeting. I also believe, however, that when a general service opportunity exists and goes unfilled, it creates a tiny, little crack in the foundation. When the only person to fill a position is someone who is 'railroaded' into it as a joke, the little crack becomes larger. When home group members refuse to hear their GSR's report when he/she returns from a District meeting or Assembly, the cracks become even larger. When we spend our 7th Tradition contributions on non-AA published literature or other non-essentials instead of sending our excess monies to support the various levels of the A.A. service structure, the foundation starts to buckle. When it's rainy and windy outside or we're tired and don't feel like keeping our commitment to take a meeting to the alcoholics inside the hospitals, jails and treatment facilities, the ceiling starts to sag. I think you get the picture. The bottom line is that the A.A. structure needs our support in terms of our hard earned cash and our hard to find time. Without it, our Fellowship becomes fractured and we become disconnected. The next time someone asks you if you are 'available' for general service, how will you respond? ▲

Top 12 Great Things About Being a DCM

By Kate B. D6

12. The GSRs—they are awesome.
11. Still getting to go to assemblies and be a part of the Oregon Area.
10. Visiting meetings in the District to see why they don't show up!
9. Learning love and tolerance, more.
8. Facilitating District meetings, and watching an informed group conscience take place.
7. DCM sharing sessions—still the same problems and therefore same solutions.
6. Listening to the GSR check-ins at district
5. Penny's/Lauri's email reminders for reports!
4. Learning yet another job in AA, that I (at one time) had no idea existed.
3. Road trips with Rhonda (still getting to have them!)
2. PRAASA: GO TO PRAASA!!!!
1. Being a part of something much bigger than I could ever be on my own.



Top 12 Things That Get Alcoholics Into Trouble

By Will M. D19

12. Relationships
11. "Knowing" stuff
10. Really good ideas
9. Authority
8. Authority figures
7. Relationships
6. Thinking too much
5. Not thinking at all
4. Thinking in general
3. Having no money
2. Having lots of money
1. Did I mention relationships?



Service Requests by Kelly K. D16

"Please don't let me say yes to anymore commitments!"

That's what I said to my boyfriend a month before the November 2010 Area Assembly. I was registration chair for the assembly, GSR for my home group, as well as speaker chair for the Southern Oregon Jamboree. I loved being speaker chair for the Jamboree. I got to listen to tons of speaker CDs from all over the country then finally put a face to the voice when they came to Medford.

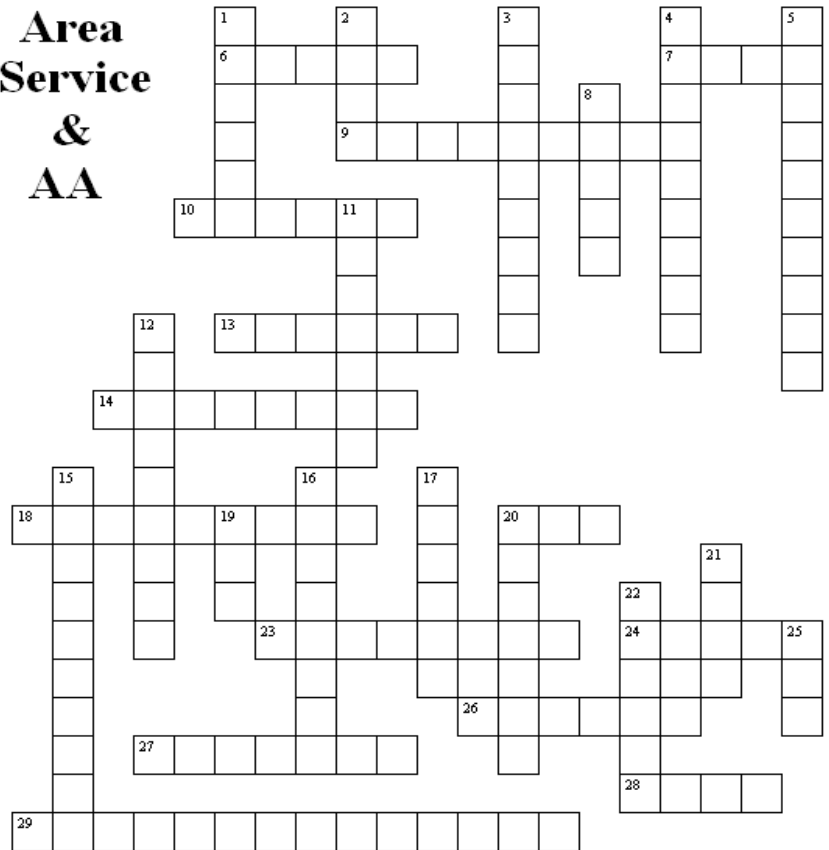
When asked if I would like to be registration chair for the assembly the year before I thought no problem. Once the Jamboree actually gets here there's not much left to do except hope everyone else loves the speakers as much as I did. Since I had never even worked on a registration committee before, I was absolutely positive I was going to screw this up royally. I even announced at a planning meeting that I was the one who was going to ruin the whole assembly. That's when someone reminded me of a little thing called The 3rd Step. I also had a very patient Assembly Chair to go to with the many questions I had, who had been registration chair the last time District 16 hosted an assembly.

By taking every task step by step, trusting in God, and trusting the process, everything came together the last week before the assembly. The weekend I had so dreaded was finally here and I enjoyed every single moment of it! I was so sad when it was all over on Sunday.

If I had it to do over I wouldn't have said no to any one of my commitments.

Being involved in service at this level has given me a feeling of self worth I never imagined possible. ▲

Area Service & AA



ACROSS

- 6 Easy contact
- 7 Part of our code
- 9 Grenadier
- 10 Service Geeks of the West unite!
- 13 List of Business
- 14 Meetings all weekend
- 18 Next assembly
- 20 Starts serenity and 3rd Step
- 23 Hal and Bob
- 24 Found in Finance - Always!
- 26 Askit
- 27 Record of Business
- 28 The Gen. Assembly
- 29 Closes lots of meetings

DOWN

- 1 'M' in DCM
- 2 Between C and T in CTF
- 3 Call it
- 4 If the primary can't
- 5 The #1 offender
- 8 First things ____
- 11 Program Mentor
- 12 Meeting in Print
- 15 Assembly of Delegates
- 16 Meeting of GSRs
- 17 The 'P' in PI
- 19 Not a glum ____
- 20 ____ Service Rep.
- 21 Bob's wife
- 22 Can provide ASL
- 25 Response to AA service request

Answers on last page

FAQs ABOUT AREA 58 AND GENERAL SERVICE (from www.aa-oregon.org)

What is the Area Assembly? The Area Assembly is a meeting of G.S.R.s and committee members to discuss area affairs and to elect officers and a delegate to the General Service Conference, held in New York. **May anyone attend the Area Assembly?** All members of A.A. are encouraged to participate in the workshops and sharing sessions of the Assembly. **Where and When is the Assembly?** They are held four times per year, in different parts of the state. See the AA Events Calendar. **How does my District host an Area Assembly?** Districts interested in hosting an Area Assembly may want to visit Assembly Planning. **Who serves on the Area Committee?** The committee consists of the D.C.M.s of each of the participating districts, the elected area officers and committee chairpersons, the delegate and alternate delegate. **Who is eligible to vote during Area Assemblies?** Basically, the area committee or their alternate, all G.S.R.s or their alternate, the delegate and alternate and the area chairperson and alternate are voting members. See Voting Procedures at Area Assemblies for how they do it. **Where should my AA group send donations to Oregon Area?** Oregon Area Treasury 1900 NE 3rd St, Ste 106-172 Bend OR 97701 ▲

Particulars of the "Pre-Conference" Assembly & Why It's Important

A few words from your Delegate
about the February Assembly, and Beyond
(this is important stuff, so listen up)

At this particular Assembly ... to be held in Eugene at the Valley River Inn February 25th - 27th ... members of Oregon Area take the opportunity to preview and discuss the same topics that will be discussed at the General Service Conference in New York. Saturday afternoon sessions will find GSRs and DCMs gathered together to accomplish these discussions. DCMs will then be asked to facilitate more discussions back in the Districts and provide a summary of comments to Chase, your Alternate Delegate, by April 20. He will compile all the various summaries in time for me to review the material on the way to the Conference.

Each District will choose how to conduct the discussions on their assigned agenda items. Some Districts hold the discussions during their next regularly scheduled District meeting. Some put on a workshop and potluck to gather as many home group members as possible. There is no lack of creative ways to assemble everyone in the District -- not just GSRs -- to discuss the matters at hand. The more people who are exposed to the topics, the better the discussion. I encourage all of you to participate if you possibly can. Ask your GSR to let you know what your District is planning and when the meeting or workshop will be held. Be a part of your group's voice to the General Service Conference by sharing your experience, strength and hope on each item. Bring your spouses and friends and make an afternoon or evening of it. Ask lots of questions and get informed. Be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Participating in the Conference process by making your voice heard could start you on the same amazing journey that has led me to this point. What a gift you have given me by electing me as your Delegate. It is an honor and privilege to serve you.

Anne M.
Panel 60 Oregon Area Delegate
delegate@aa-oregon.org ▲

Answers to crossword: 1d - Member, 2d - With, 3d - Question, 4d - Alternate, 5d - Resentment, 8d - First, 11d - Sponsor, 12d - Grapevine, 15d - Conference, 16d - District, 17d - Public, 19d - Lot, 20d - General, 21d - Anne, 22d - Access, 25d - Yes, 6a - Email, 7a - Love, 9a - Hampshire, 10a - PRAASA, 13a - Agenda, 14a - Marathon, 18a - Corvallis, 20a - God, 23a - Archives, 24a - Candy, 26a - Basket, 27a - Minutes, 28a - September, 29a - KeepComingBack

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

- Men's March Retreat, St. Benedicts, McKenzie Bridge, OR, March 4-6
- PRAASA Honolulu, HI, March 4-6
- Sacramento Spring Fling <http://www.sacspringfling.org>
- Rogue Round Up, Grants Pass, OR, May 6-8
- Pacific Northwest Conference 2011 PNC in Bend, OR, June 24-26
- Summerfest, Eugene, OR, July 16-18
- ICYPAA, San Francisco, CA, Sept. 2-5

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 Corvallis, 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. ▲