

Oregon Area Business Meeting Minutes

September 16-18, 2005

Yamhill Co. Fairgrounds

Hosted by Dist 22 – McMinnville, Oregon

(Note from Area Secretary:

The information below is a written record of the business meeting. I've done my best to capture what actually happened and get it down on paper for you! The discussion notes for the motions do not contain all of the discussion that actually happened, but should convey a good sense of opinions both for and against the various motions. Paraphrasing is sometimes necessary. Thank you!)

Area Chair Dave A. opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer, the reading of the Preamble (Jeff), the Twelve Traditions (Brenda, Dist 19) and the Twelve Concepts (Rick, Dist 8). He then introduced our past delegates: Helen M., Don J., and Darlene G. He then introduced our Pacific Regional Trustee: Phyllis H.

Roll

Area Secretary Suzanne B. called Roll.

Past Minutes

Minutes from the May 2005 assembly were approved as written with no amendments.

Area Officer Reports

The following Area Officers gave reports: (see attached written reports)

Eric K.	Alt. Delegate
Dave A.	Chair
Anne M.	Alt. Chair
Gus P.	Treasurer
	Motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Ray R., seconded and ok'd by all
Suzanne B.	Secretary
Bruce L.	Delegate (Bruce also gave his report from the International Convention in Toronto at this time)

At this time Phyllis H. got up and gave us a report as Pacific Regional Trustee.

Announcements:

(The following announcements were made through out the business meeting)

- ♦ Bruce L. has applications for the 2 available non-trustee positions at GSO. Travel back and forth to GSO will be compensated.
- ♦ Anne is soliciting ideas for the theme of the 2007 PRAASA conference.
- ♦ PNC 2006 will be held in Hermiston, E. Wa. Welcomed Michael with open arms, hotel rates have been approved – we got great meal prices, panel topics were discussed

Elections

Third Legacy of service was read by Angela of Dist.4.

Elections were held throughout the business meeting and the results are as follows:

Delegate: Eric K. elected

We wish to thank the following people that tendered their service resumes and stood for this position:

David A.
Debbie M.

Alternate Delegate: David A. elected

We wish to thank the following people that tendered their service resumes and stood for this position:

Julie B.
Javier P.

Chair: Anne M. elected

We wish to thank the following people that tendered their service resumes and stood for this position:

Chase B.
Javier P.
Jay S.
Anne

Alternate Chair: Chase B. elected

We wish to thank the following people that tendered their service resumes and stood for this position:

Les S.
Murray M.
Jay S.
Erik F.
Javier P.
Linda L.
Julie B.

Nominee for Pacific Regional Trustee: Darlene B. elected

We wish to thank the following people that tendered their service resumes and stood for this position:

Helen M.
Don J.

Old Business

Tabled Motion:

Motion: To change the rate that Oregon Area reimburses its Officers, Committee Members and Past Delegates for travel to assemblies, to \$150.00 per assembly.

Intent and Purpose: to reduce out of pocket expenses for attending members. This will increase the opportunity for all members to participate in service.

Current Practice: The existing rate is \$100.00 per assembly.

Financial Impact: In 2004 Oregon Area paid \$7500.00. At the new rate the cost would have been \$11,250.00 for an increase of \$3750.00.

Discussion:

Erik F: Are DCMs included?

Finance Comm. responded that no, a separate line item was made for that.

Ray R. Called for the question

Discussion ended

Motion was **Passed**.

Minority Opinion:

Steve W: Confused about the number of impacted members.

Fran: Worries if it's enough?

It was asked if any one wished to change their vote. A hand was raised. A motion to revote was seconded by Warren. Vote was taken.

Motion stands as Passed.

New Business

Motion 1:

Submitted by the Finance Committee

Motion: to increase the Alternate Chair's 2005 Budget by \$350.00
Intent and Purpose: To reimburse the Alternate Chairperson's expenses.
Current Practice: The current budget for the Alternate Chairperson is \$800.00
Financial Impact: \$350.00

Discussion:

Ray R. asked why was this necessary.

Anne responded that she had gone 2300 miles so far and had also spent more on printing expenses, her \$800 budget had been depleted and now she needs funding to help the next assembly planning committee prepare for their assembly. Her estimate was \$350.00 should cover it.

Debbie indicated that the financial statement shows otherwise.

Finance Committee responded that was before this assembly.

Question was called. We voted whether this was urgent or administrative. Vote was "Yes". Motion was passed.

Minority Opinion:

A member asked if she knew what the budget was, the why did she go over?

We were asked if anyone wished to change their vote. The body did not respond.

Motion Stands as **Passed**.

Motion 2:

Submitted by the Finance Committee

Motion: To increase the Grapevine Budget by \$400.00
Intent and Purpose: To reimburse the Grapevine Chair.
Current Practice: Budget is now \$800.00
Financial Impact: \$400.00

Discussion:

Darlene said she had been doing lots of workshops which is a good thing.

Wendy asked if the Grapevine committee was in the budget? Answer was yes. Point of clarification was made that money was for travel and other expenses.

Question was called. The body voted that this was urgent or administrative. Motion was passed.

Minority Opinion:

A member said more information was needed.

Darlene: wanted to clarify that it is not a permanent addition to her budget, just to cover what she'd spent so far.

Wendy: Can finance committee speak to this?

Les: Darlene came up short. She did lots of grapevine workshops. She bought calendars to sell and she needs to cover her costs.

The body did not support a revote.

Motion Stands as **Passed**.

Motion 3

2006 budget

Submitted by the Finance Committee

Budget was submitted with the following adjustments:

Alternate Chair line item increased to \$1500

Grapevine line item increased to \$1000

Motion was seconded.

Discussion:

Eric F.: Does this include changes from old business and travel changes?

Finance comm.: Yes they budgeted with these changes in mind.

Ray: called for the question

Motion was seconded

Vote was taken. Motion was Passed.

Minority opinion was we should take this back to the groups.

Body did not support a revote. Motion stands as **Passed**.

Motion 4:

Submitted by Eugene bid committee for WACY PAA 2006-2007

Motion: To submit a letter of support of the WACY PAA bid committee for Eugene Oregon. In this letter the committee requests the support from the area, as well as confirmation that no large-scale functions (International Conventions, Area Conventions, or such) will be taking place within 30 days of the proposed event in the Oregon Area. This includes all activities scheduled as of this time.

Proposed dates:

December 29th, 2006 – January 1st, 2007

January 4th, 2007 – January 7th, 2007

(dates are subject to minor changes)

WACY PAA (Western Area Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) is being held in Vancouver BC this year. A group of young people from our committee as well as some from Oregon at large will be taking a bid up to them over the new year. Here are some of the benefits of bringing the conference to Eugene, Oregon:

1. We will be able to reach a number of young people, and introduce young people to Alcoholics Anonymous, where they can find that they don't have to continue drinking.
2. Excess money will be divided among the districts in which the events will be held, our intergroup office as well as Oregon Area.
3. Fantastic opportunity to serve for young and the young at heart for AA.

Thank you for your consideration!

In love and service

Santana Walruff

General Service Liaison

Eugene Bid Committee for WACY PAA 2006-7

Discussion:

Cindy: Wants autonomy of the group to be stipulated and recommends change of wording to reflect that dance and fundraisers are not part of an AA function.

Jay: Attended WACY PAA in San Diego, everyone qualified for it: gray slow or no. 25-30 service manuals collected for the GSRs. Wonderful opportunity for young people to learn service. Encourage people to ask people to ask the question, what is WACY PAA?

Ray: asked if we could table this motion to take back to our groups?

Holly: there is a lack of youth in AA participation. Excited to see more.

Eric V.: The WACY PAA bid comm. needs to take this letter away from this assembly. Bid letter is needed for presentation in November.

Question was called.

Voted whether urgent or administrative? Yes.

Vote Passed.

Minority Opinion: why rush?

Motion stands as **Passed**.

Motion 5:

Submitted by the "Ad hoc committee for per diem rates and funding"

Motion: To change the Lodging per diem rate that Oregon Area reimburses its Officers and Service Committee Members from \$43.00 per day to \$65.00 per day.

Intent and Purpose: To reduce out of pocket expenses for trusted servants. This will increase the opportunity for all members to participate in general service. The current amount of \$43.00 has been used since September of 1989. Since then, the average lodging costs have increased substantially. The proposed amount is a "cap" meaning that

members typically make efforts to spend less than the maximum amount. Our committee has researched current lodging costs and recommends this increase.

Current Practice: The current rate is \$43 per night* This has been in effect since September 1989. Area committee members and officers performing duties and services between assemblies may use this rate. The per diem rate is not used for travel to assemblies, which is a separate allowance, and not within the scope of this motion.

*Area Guideline, Item k, under IV, C, 2

Financial Impact: In 2004, Oregon area paid \$1052.00 in lodging per diem reimbursements. With the proposed increase, that amount would have been around \$1590.00 for an increase of approximately \$538.00

Discussion:

The finance committee pointed out that this would take effect in the 2006 budget and that they had factored it in.

Myron: called for the question

It was called to a vote. When asked whether it was urgent or administrative the vote was no.

This motion has been **Tabled**.

Motion 6:

Submitted by the "Ad hoc committee for per diem rates and funding"

Motion: To change the rate that Oregon Area reimburses its Officers, Committee Members and Past Delegates for travel to assemblies to \$150.00 per assembly.

Intent and Purpose: To reduce out of pocket expenses for attending members. This will increase the opportunity for all members to participate in general service. Our Committee has researched the average increases in meal and lodging costs statewide, and we recommend this increase.

At the time this motion was submitted, a motion was currently tabled with the same request. If that motion has passed this motion is formally withdrawn.

This motion was withdrawn.

Motion 7:

Submitted by District 22

Motion: To eliminate the Oregon Area travel funding for the September Assembly chair.

Current Practice: Currently only the September Assembly chair is funded by the Oregon Area to attend assemblies.

Intent & Purpose: To eliminate special treatment for the September Assembly chair. Historically, until 1987, all voting motions, as well as for officers and budget, was done at the September assembly and this assembly chair was funded the same as an Area Officer. The three other assemblies were known as mini assemblies and the assembly chairs were not funded. This practice has continued despite the fact that voting on motions has been conducted at all quarterly assemblies for 18 years.

District 22, being fully self-supporting, has chosen as a district to fund our September assembly chair to present the required updated status reports. However, the DCM, or any other district member may make this report, if the chair is unable to attend. There is no longer a reason to treat the September chair differently than the other three assembly chairs.

Budgetary Impact: This motion will save the Oregon Area \$400 from its budget.

Finance committee gave it the rubber stamp of approval.

Discussion:

Don: All assembly chairs should be funded not just the September Assembly.

Another member pointed out that the districts should be self-supporting and that part of that is getting the chair to the assemblies. The point was made that if the district can't send their chair perhaps the DCM could give the report themselves for the chair. Suzanne brought up the invaluable nature of attending assemblies for the upcoming chairs, it gives them an opportunity to experience first hand the experiences of present assemblies and how they handle different situations. The point was made that not all districts can afford to send both the DCM and the Assembly chair. Wendy wanted to know where the line item was. Finance committee pointed out that it was a sub item under Area Travel line item. Someone pointed out that all other assembly chairs are expected to give a report at the assemblies. What had changed in the past 18 years? Robin brought up that the motion should be included to

say all assembly chairs are funded to attend assemblies. Jerry pointed out that the chairs only give reports if we have time to hear them after all business is done, why should we fund when they may or may not even give a report. Jack pointed out that anything that saves money is good. Finance report that last year they didn't even take the check. Someone pointed out that we need to fund anyone who cannot afford to go. Someone mentioned that the guidelines do not stipulate and that they don't have to use the money. Ad hoc committee is looking at this practice as it pertains to the guidelines (aka: the rumor and innuendo ad hoc committee). Suzanne pointed out that more than reports are given at the assemblies, that that is the least of the benefits to an area assembly planning committee attending previous assemblies.

Question was called. When asked if this was of an urgent or administrative nature the body voted no. This motion was **Tabled**.

Motion 8:

Presented by Victor A. GSR for the homegroup "Nuevo Amanecer"

Motion: We want to form a new geographic district to include Washington, Yamhill and Marion counties. We have nine groups that are supporting this motion.

Purpose: In order to better service our groups, we want to be an active district within the structure of the Oregon Area. According to the service manual, when a district reaches 20 or more groups it is time to consider opening a new district. District 34 has twice the suggested number of groups and is not a geographic group (which would include the entire state of Oregon). We have taken a group conscience that by forming this new district we give better service.

Monetary Impact: \$50 per assembly to enable the DCM to attend, or \$200 annually.

Enclosed you will find a map of the area in which we would like to operate as a district.

Discussion:

(secretarial note: I ask your indulgence as this was a long and heated debate, most of what was said was not picked up by the recorder and I had trouble keeping up with notes.)

Dave: Re-districting would mean that District 34 would still represent the rest of the area. Someone asked if anyone in District 34 would disagree with this motion. Sam pointed out that yes some do. Miguel: Many agree with having 2 districts but ask why they did not put a request in with District 34 first. Also why did they stop going to District 34 meetings in the first place? Some one came forth to say there were five or more meetings that wanted this so that's why they're here. Javier: District 34 agrees it could be time to split the district. When Umberto left there were only 15 groups now the number is closer to 40 with some groups as far away as Medford, Astoria and Hermiston. If the members had worked with the groups then the groups could have sent the GSRs to the district and voted for this to happen. It would have been a friendly amicable way for it to have happened but it didn't. They formed their own district on their own. Lots of problems with this. District 34 asks for support for 1st tradition of AA unity. Dist 34 has only 3-4 people that attend assemblies. They only come if there's a problem. Where are the other 31 groups? District 34 wants to take this slowly. District 34 wants to deal with it internally.

Francisco: Not against a new district just wants to know if it's really necessary.

Miguel: The information for the groups does not get through with the present DCM. With the Hispanic population growing at such a rate the DCM can't make it to all the groups. A member said while he respected the opinion of the current DCM, in 2000 there were only 20 groups. Now the groups are growing in number and only 27 are represented in the roster. The intention of this motion is to help not to hinder there are at least three counties involved in this and they need a district number in order to move forward. He cited the service manual on page 32 on formation of new districts. If membership gets too big it gets unwieldy. They did form a committee to discuss this and invited District 34 to attend but they chose not to.. The 1st concept indicates that the voice of the groups decide. Many groups support this and some do not want to get involved. Leadership is coming under criticism and sometimes lasting controversy. They must listen carefully to the fellowship. Sometimes they must be firm in their resolve.

Trina: was at first against it but now supports it. According to the Oregon Guidelines District 34 is not a geographic district and you can choose whether or not to attend.

Eric: We need to support District 34, If they need to redistrict it is something the groups should come together to accomplish. Another member said the District Committee member is the vital link

Ray: Suggest District 34 comes together and do it in unison in November

Guadalupe: Glad to see so many Hispanics, it shows how they can come together on a point of interest. She often wondered where all the groups were during District 34 meetings. Points out the service manual suggests 2 year sobriety to become a GSR yet many who are here have not been sober that long. How can we split into 2 when we cannot even support the one?

Another member commented that they were disappointed to see such a fight

Myron called for the question it was seconded and discussion was closed.

The body voted that it was neither urgent nor administrative.

The motion was **Tabled**.

Motion 9:

Submitted by the Oregon Area Access Committee

Motion: That the Oregon Area provide a letter of support for the formation of an Access Committee at the national level, for the GSO agenda.

Intent & Purpose: To give continuity to Access Committees throughout the United States and Canada. This would provide a GSO committee the time and energy to focus on gathering the experiences of those working with alcoholics with special needs. The information then would be shared with access committees, groups and individual members to help better serve alcoholics with accessibility/special needs issues.

Budgetary Impact: None

The question was called. Seconded. The body voted that this was neither urgent nor administrative.

This motion was **Tabled**.

Assembly Reports

(Turned in Reports attached)

Dist 1 hosting in Seaside in November 2005 presented by Jim

Districts 8 & 30 hosting in Coos Bay in February 2006 presented by Peggy Sue

District 14 will host May 2006 by given by Susan L.

Districts 24 & 27 will host September 2006 given by Don

This Assembly was hosted by District 22 and the report was given by Robert P.

Final Treasurer's Report

Incoming balance into the assembly \$37, 913.62

Checks written at the assembly: 12,616.63

Ending Balance **\$25, 296.99**