



# Gratitude Gazette

Fall 2010

## Are we delegating our 12 step work to outside entities?

AA at its core is the magic that happens when one alcoholic talks to another alcoholic and the newcomer is able to get passed their ego, and other character defects enough to here the message and gain enough hope to take actions that are not natural to them. While we are often ready for the member who shows up at a meeting, we can do much better at connecting with the alcoholic who reaches out for help from outside a meeting. Many alcoholics can't afford treatment or a hospital and are terrified to leave their home. All of our service committees are designed to allow this connection to occur. The corrections and treatment committee brings AA literature and meetings to members in institutions. The grapevine committee helps use the grapevine, which brings the AA message to members in written form. The PI committee and CPC bring information to the public and professionals that can then refer alcoholics to our fellowship. All of these committees are in place, at their essence, to facility one alcoholic carrying the message to another alcoholic and allowing the magic we all know so well to happen. So whenever possible when these committees do their job and an alcoholic reaches out for help, we need to be there to answer the call figuratively and literally.

How many AA members have been on a twelve step call? Probably very few have been on a traditional call where members go to an alcoholic's home or hospital bed and extend the hand of AA. I think we can improve our service to the Alcoholic who still suffers and strengthen our existing fellowship by getting more members involved in answering twelve step calls that come to central services. Currently if an alcoholic calls after hours they are referred to an answering service which then attempts to forward the call to one of the AA's signed up to receive forwarded calls. While this system does eventually put a caller in touch with an AA member, we can do much better. Our responsibility statement says that *"I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."* So when someone reaches out for help by calling us after hours, is it responsible to have the hand of a call service always be there to forward someone to AA? As AA members we need to take responsibility for our own calls and this will require many more members to get involved with Central Services and start a broad discussion to address this issue. We can't simply sit back and expect the staff to do everything, we need to get more involved as a fellowship and work with the staff at Central Services to come up with a better solution. I don't pretend to know the answer, but I think through an informed group conscience we can create a better system.

Here are a few ideas for how we could better answer our own 12 step calls that can be explored. First, we could have more people available to receive calls by having a person dedicated a day or two per month where the AA phone line is forwarded directly to their phone. So that when someone calls the number it is answered by an alcoholic directly. Another idea is to have a phone available in the meeting area of Central Services. Each group that meets there could have a service person, who is trained and responsible for answering the phone. I think this would also increase the number of groups who have meetings at Central Services because this ability to receive calls will help increase the newcomers at the meeting which is extremely healthy for any group. If twelve step calls come in a couple of members from the group could easily go meet the person calling. There is tremendous spirituality in a person calling for help and immediately another alcoholic is on the other end of the phone to take their call and then that person shows up at their house immediately or when the person sobers up the next day. We could have home groups scheduled one night per month to answer phones from the time Central Services closes until it opens in the morning. Even if nobody calls there would be great fellowship and twelve step work occurring between the members that evening. These are just a few ideas and I know there are many more out there. As a fellowship we should have a kind of inventory to explore how we can better serve the alcoholic who still suffers, and really examine if our current system is the best possible way to receive our twelve step calls.

# **Its almost time for rotation- Get Involved in General Service**

Your GSR's will elect new area chairpersons for the next two years this October in Wentzville Mo. I know as elections begin to happen at the area, district, and group level each rotation I start to discuss with my sponsor and friends what I'm going to get involved in for the next rotation. Whether you stand for a position at any level of service or commit to work on a committee, there are many opportunities for service. Below is a very brief introduction to all of the service committees at the area level and contact info. Although it may not be the most exciting reading, I think it is always good for newcomers to service and seasoned service workers to take a look at the general service opportunities that are available and decide where we can be of service. For more detail on these committees you can visit [eamo.org](http://eamo.org) and explore each committee and the links provided, attend a district meeting in your district, or contact the chairperson at the phone or email numbers provided.

## **Area Committee Information**

**Corrections:** This committee is concerned with the alcoholic "behind the walls," whether in a long or short-term institution.

Get involved in carrying the message behind the walls., as a one time speaker or regular volunteer  
Start Corresponding with an inmate-AA has a great need for mail correspondents  
Use the video for it sure beats sitting in a cell for a workshop

**Contact:** 314-644-1130 or [corrections@eamo.org](mailto:corrections@eamo.org)

**Treatment:** This committee works to further the acceptance of AA in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and similar facilities, and to bring additional help to alcoholics under treatment there.

**Contact:** 314-644-1130 or [treatment@eamo.org](mailto:treatment@eamo.org)

**Grapevine Committee:** This Committee works to make sure that members are aware of the Fellowships international journal and the enhancements to sobriety it offers.

The grapevine has a display that can be used for a workshop or group event  
There are back issues for service projects available as well

**Contact:** 314-644-1130 or email [grapevine@eamo.org](mailto:grapevine@eamo.org)

**Public Information:** This committee tries to carry the message and provides information about the fellowship to the public.

This committee conducts the following activities: distributing public service announcements, manning tables and booths at local health fairs, distributing young people's videos and literature to schools and libraries, giving presentations and delivering meetings to Drug Courts and their clients, and working to keep the fellowship informed about speaking to non-AA's and our anonymity practices.

**Contact:** 314-644-1130 or email [pi@eamo.org](mailto:pi@eamo.org)

## Area Committee Information Continued

**Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee:** This Committee seeks to create mutual understanding and cooperation between the Fellowship and those professional groups and individuals concerned with alcoholism and the sick alcoholic.

This committee is involved in mailing letters to professionals to inform them about Alcoholics Anonymous and manning booths at conventions attended by professionals who deal with alcoholics.

**Contact: 314-644-1130 or email [cpc@eamo.org](mailto:cpc@eamo.org)**

**Archives Committee:** This committee is concerned with preserving and organizing records of local AA history. The Eastern Missouri archive exists as a repository for early artifacts, correspondence, and other historically informative materials for the area. Materials are gathered, organized, indexed, protected, preserved, and made available to interested members and students/researchers of A.A. history.

Current activities include updating the Eastern Area history, compiling district histories, taping old-timers stories, and collecting materials of historical significance.

**Contact: 314-644-1130 or email [archives@eamo.org](mailto:archives@eamo.org)**

**Special Needs/Accessibility Committee:** This committee works to ensure that both AA's message and its meetings are accessible to alcoholics with special needs.

Some of the activities this committee participates in include providing special needs workshops, training and utilizing district special needs/accessibility committee liaisons, contacting nursing homes, assisting deaf alcoholics, set-up and support Spanish speaking meetings, improves accuracy of meeting directories, maintains a special needs/accessibility lending library.

**Contact: 314-614-1130 or email [sna@eamo.org](mailto:sna@eamo.org)**

**Gratitude Gazette Committee:** This committee distributes the gratitude gazette, solicits submissions and story ideas, and helps design the newsletter layout.

**Contact: 314-644-1130 or email [gazette@eamo.org](mailto:gazette@eamo.org)**

**Bridging the Gap Committee:** This committee works to help alcoholics coming out of alcoholic treatment centers or correctional facilities to make the transition from there into the AA program.

This committee designs and makes available contact forms for members bringing meetings and info to alcoholics in institutions. In addition, the committee manages the forms and helps connect the new AA member to the fellowship when they leave an institution.

**Contact: 314-644-1130 or email [btg@eamo.org](mailto:btg@eamo.org)**

**State Convention Committee:** This committee works together with the Western Area on planning the annual State Convention.

**Contact: 314-644-1130 or email [stateconvention@eamo.org](mailto:stateconvention@eamo.org)**

## Hi Everyone!!

We wanted to send a very big thank you to all who supported the 2010 Missouri State Convention. We were a big success, because of you. Recovery, Unity and Service were always in motion, as we came together to share, to listen, and just enjoy the experience of our A. A. Fellowship.

If you were there, you know the speakers were great, the food was excellent, and the entertainment was some of the finest around!! Not to forget what a wonderful experience we had meeting new people and seeing old friends again.



Our next Missouri State Convention is August 5 - 7, 2011

Our main speakers will be:  
Friday night: Tracey M. Dallas, TX  
Saturday a.m.: Julio E. GSO NY  
Saturday p.m.: Max M. Chicago IL  
Sunday a.m.: Mary P. Orlando FL

Of course, there will be many more things happening between, for the fun and fellowship we all come to enjoy at convention. Once again, thank you for supporting "your" Missouri State Convention. The committee and volunteers did all the work, but it took you to make it the grand success it was!!

Yours in service,  
Pat B.  
2011 MOSC Chair

# Area Bulletin Board

**Gratitude Gazette Now Available by E-Mail Subscriptions:** The quarterly Gazette can be emailed to you as soon as it is published. To subscribe, simply request at [gazette@eamo.org](mailto:gazette@eamo.org). Visit the Gazette at our Area website: [www.eamo.org](http://www.eamo.org). Check past issues and articles.

**MONTHLY IR MEETING:**  
3rd Tuesdays, 8PM

St. Mary's Hospital Cafeteria 6400 Clayton Rd., St. Louis

## Visit The Eastern Area Online

*Visit us online at [eamo.org](http://eamo.org) and find out what is going at the area as well as how you can help. Check out the website for answers to these commonly asked questions?*

**Who is my DCM and when is the district meeting?  
What are the area committees and who do I contact to get involved?**

To receive the **Gratitude Gazette** via E-Mail, drop us a line at [gazette@eamo.org](mailto:gazette@eamo.org) and include your email address



Anyone wishing to correspond with or submit materials for publication in the Gratitude Gazette may contact: [gazette@eamo.org](mailto:gazette@eamo.org) or write to: **Editor, Gratitude Gazette, c/o Eastern Area Office, 2863 Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63143.** Submissions should be received four weeks prior to the next Area Assembly for consideration of publication in that issue.