



Rolling downhill and pickin' up speed...

Kind of hard to believe that this service rotation is winding to its inevitable conclusion, isn't it? But here we are at the June assembly, and the *very next one* is our two-day election marathon. Are you thinking about what job you'll be doing next rotation? Maybe even more important: Are you thinking about who'll be doing **your** job next rotation? Are you ready to help them step into place as seamlessly as possible? Or are you just getting ready to hand them that bushel basket of randomly related stuff you've collected and yell "So long, farewell, *auf Wiedersehen*, good-bye!" Jeez, we hope that's a rhetorical question. Be prepared, my compañeros. The way we handle rotation may be just be one of the most important aspects of our service lives.

And speaking of our lives, it's **convention** time. Yeeeh haw! We're back at the Capitol Plaza (one of your editor's absolute favorite convention sites), where we can completely transform the hotel into Sobriety Central. This year's convention has an astounding schedule – not just great speakers, but a full line up of great workshops, meetings, and socialization. If you can be glum here, you can be glum anywhere... and please don't take that as a challenge. There is still time to pre-register. At last account, there were still about 100 rooms left at the special reduced rate. Don't count on them lasting. Book now and be sure of the rate.

Your editor attended the last State Convention committee meeting and this is one event you do **NOT** want to miss even a minute of. There are non-stop workshops all day Saturday and one on Sunday in addition to the usual wonderful stuff like banquets, barbeques and marathon meetings. So come early and bring a whole flock of pigeons! Remember how special that first convention was for you? Why not share that great feeling with a newcomer.

- Editor.

Get ready for SWRAASA

October's a busy month for service workers. Just one weekend after the election assembly, it's time for the Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, more commonly known as SWRAASA. Alternate delegate Pat B. will be making a presentation at the June assembly about the merits and rewards of SWRAASA attendance. If you don't get to hear her, just ask anyone who's ever been. It's an unforgettable, inspiring, and immensely energizing experience.

This year's assembly is in Wichita, KS at the Hilton Wichita Airport Executive Conference Center. It's the ultimate learning experience for people who care about the future of Alcoholics Anonymous and want to work for that future. Pick up a flyer at District, at Area, at almost any meeting, or download one from www.ksarea25aa.org/page4.htm. Every service worker deserves to go to at least one SWRAASA meeting, and this one is within driving distance.



Missouri State Convention Offers Stellar Schedule in Jefferson City!

The Missouri State Convention is returning to Jefferson City with some post-4th of July fireworks this July 14, 15, and 16 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Committee members from eastern and western Missouri have put together an incredible array of speakers, marathon meetings, Al Anon events, and workshops... not to mention two dances, a festive banquet, barbeques and ice cream socials. Oh yeah! I forgot the early morning bike rides along the historic Katy Trail. The only possible down side is the undeniable fact that you're just not going to be able to do it all unless you've found a way to be two (or more) places at once.

The carved-in-stone version of the schedule is still being worked out, but Friday evening will feature speakers Gloria S. from Area 39 and Carl M. from Covena, CA, as well as Alia M., our late-night young people's speaker. Of course, there will also be Big Book Trivia, an ice cream social, and, of course, a dance.

But don't stay up too late, because the workshops and speakers start bright and early. How good are these workshops? Can you say "Corrections with Tom I. and the Twelve Concepts with Jim F.?" Sure you can! Saturday speakers include Henry B. from Louisiana, Gary K.– yes, our Southwest Regional Trustee, and keynote speaker Tom I. from North Carolina. The afternoon Al-Anon speaker is Judy H. from Gladstone, MO.

Saturday features a wide range of workshops, as well as the meetings. There's also a special lunch, marathon meetings, long-timers' meetings, young peoples' meetings, ice cream socials, *another* dance, and... Are you getting the idea? There's NO way you're going to have time to be bored, let alone sleep – the eating's pretty well taken care of with the scheduled meals and the hospitality rooms, but the sleep is up to you!

Our Sunday morning speaker is Wayne B. from Santa Monica, California. And after that... well... the state convention committee meets to start all over again.

There are still about a hundred hotel rooms left at the special discounted rate – you *must* mention the Missouri State Convention (or MSC) to get the special rate, and you have to register by phone – registering on the hotel web site will *not* get your discount rate, and the convention crew won't get credit for your room (and that's important

(Continued on the back page...)

2006 General Service Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations

Well, the 2006 General Service Conference has come and gone. When the final report comes out later this year, get it and read it. It may not be *The Da Vinci Code*, but it's important reading none the less, and there's no controversy about its relevance – this is the real thing for A.A. members. From the June-July issue of *Box 4-5-9*, here is a bit of what went on:

Conference Advisory Actions represent recommendations made by the standing committees and approved by the Conference body as a whole; or recommendations discussed and voted upon by all Conference members during general sessions. Some Advisory Actions and a few additional committee considerations appear below in condensed form. A complete list will be published in the *Final Conference Report*.

ADVISORY ACTIONS

Agenda – that the theme for the 2007 General Service Conference be: "Our 12th Step Responsibility -- Are We Going to Any Length?"; that the Workshop topic for the 2007 General Service Conference be "Spiritual Value of Our A.A. Dollars."

Cooperation With the Professional Community -- that three short video segments be produced that can be accessed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields, and brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community, with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000.

Correctional -- that the draft manuscript of *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* be approved; that an informational media presentation be developed featuring someone highly credible in the corrections field introducing A.A. to training academies and in-service training programs for corrections personnel and be brought back to the 2007 Conference Committee on Corrections.

Finance -- that the word "donation" be replaced with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature.

Literature -- that the revised draft pamphlet "Too Young?" be approved; that the revised draft pamphlet "It Happened to Alice!" be approved; that the draft manuscript of the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." be approved; that the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, continue to be developed and that a report be brought back to the 2007 Conference Literature Committee.

Policy/Admissions -- that current General Service members and G.S.O. staff members from other countries be granted admission as observers, upon their request, to the annual General Service Conference of the U.S. and Canada, that admission is not to exceed two countries and two representatives per country, one being a board member an/or one G.S.O. staff member at each General Service Conference; that the request for admission be made through the General Service Office in New York, and that decisions regarding responsibility for guest observer expenses be at the discretion of the General Service Board.

Public Information – that the television public service announcement (P.S.A.) "Testimonials" developed by the trustees' Public Information committee be approved completing a four year replacement schedule initiated by the 2002 Conference; that the section on "Marital Status" on the "A.A. Membership

Survey Questionnaire" be revised and re-titled as "Domestic Status" with the following four options: Married, Single, Divorced, Other (please specify _____).

Report and Charter -- that the graphic "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group," as it appeared in the 1998-1999 edition, be restored in Chapter 2 of *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Treatment Facilities – that the phrase "and other noncorrectional environments" be added to the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities so that it will read as follows: "The purpose of a treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments, and to set up means of 'bridging the gap' from the facility to the A.A. community. The committee will review all aspects of service to A.A. groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other noncorrectional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements."

Trustees -- that the slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the G.S.B. in April 2006; that the slate of directors of the A.A. World Services Corporate Board be elected at the annual meeting of the A.A.W.S. Board in April 2006; that the slate of directors of the Grapevine Corporate Board be elected at the annual meeting of the Grapevine Board in April 2006.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Archives -- considered annually reviewing a list to be compiled by G.S.O.'s archivist of the proposed archival recordings (format to be determined by A.A.W.S.) to be produced for sale by A.A.W.S. so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

Grapevine -- that the A.A. Grapevine board consider the suggestion that the A.A. Grapevine produce an anthology of La Vina stories in the year 2007 or later.

International Conventions/A.A. Regional Forums -- the committee noted the addition of registration flyers to the Regional Forums section of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site; that the report on the 2005 International Convention be accepted.

– Reprinted from "Box 4-5-9", June-July 2006. Used with permission

WELCOME TO
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



GSO Web Page has a new look!

If you haven't visited the official A.A. web site for a while (it's at www.aa.org or www.alcoholics-anonymous.org you're in for a surprise. Nonalcoholic designer and web manager Daniel Brown says, "The primary purpose of the redesign has been usability," and has arranged the content to make it easy for visitors to find what they're looking for. Check it out today!

Excruciatingly cool graphic from www.aa.org. Information excerpted from *Box 4-5-9* (April-May 2006, p 1) with permission of AA World Services, Inc.

From the delegate's desk –

Greetings to all in the Eastern Area – It is with mixed emotions that I sit and write my portion of this edition of the Gazette. I have attended my second and final General Service Conference, and now must come among you and attempt to share with all of you what we did during that week. I was told that this would be a life changing experience and I wasn't lied to. To be given the opportunity to participate in something of this magnitude was well beyond anything I could have imagined for myself when I came to this program back in 1989. I can tell you that we did not break A.A., and that it is in good hands with those selected to serve as Panel 56 Delegates. Three of the four Panel 56ers from the Southwest Region will be serving as chairs for their respective committees; the fourth will be serving as the alternate chair on both of the committees he serves on.

Since my return, I have already made several trips to Districts to share what occurred at the Conference and to provide the groups with a copy of the Conference Actions. I will continue to visit the Districts until I get to every one of them. I really appreciate the efforts of the DCM's in making these visits possible.

My assignment was to the CPC Committee. We first met with the Trustees for questions and clarification of issues and then separately as a committee to determine what if any actions we would put forward to the Conference. We recommended that the Conference approve the creation of three short video segments. These clips are to be used on the A.A. Web site to guide professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields. They will enable them to see what A.A. is and what it has to offer and direct them on how to contact A.A. in their area of the country for personal, one-on-one, communication. We are continuing in our efforts to collect and make available all training presentations for CPC volunteers and CPC presentations for professionals to Area, District and Local CPC Committees.

Since I could only reduce the size of the list Conference Actions and Additional Considerations to ten (10) pages of small print I will not attempt to post them here. I will share them at the Assembly with the GSRs and attempt to answer any questions you may have. Copies have already been shared with each DCM, Area Chair, Area Officer and past Delegates. If you want to see what we did before I get to your district please check with them for a copy. Please remember that we must protect the anonymity of those whose names are listed in it.

I received news from Gary K., our Regional Trustee, this week that the percentage of groups contributing to GSO from our Area is slightly ahead of the same time last year. Let's keep the effort going to get all groups participating in self-support. Less than half of all groups participate in support of the GSO. Visit a group that hasn't been to your District meeting in a while and invite them to attend then bring them with you to the next Area Assembly in October.

The Southwest Region will be selecting a new Trustee, to replace Gary K., at next years Conference. There will be an opening for a new Class A following the conclusion of the 57th Conference, as Allen A. will rotate off the General Service Board.

Other issues::

We have a new Archivist, Amy Filiatreau, working at the General Service Office. Amy comes to New York via Washington DC, Chicago, Texas and Louisville, Kentucky. She is one of those people with many letters behind her name, two of which are not

A.A. However, she has close ties with A.A., and attended her first open A.A. meeting at age 12. Like many others, affected by the alcoholic, she has reason to believe in Alcoholics Anonymous and what it can do for the family as well. Her presentation was well received by the Conference and even generated a floor action to get that presentation made available to the Delegates.

A relocation study was done to determine whether it would be financially feasible to move the General Service Office to another location. The locations that were used for comparisons were Los Angeles, Dallas and Indianapolis. The requirements include access to an international airport and comparable space. Based on relocation costs, salaries and utilities it is still cheaper to stay in New York than it would be to move. I have the study for anyone that is interested in viewing it.

Don M., Delegate 55/27 from Louisiana, thanked everyone for their offers of aid and support following Hurricane Katrina. He said that A. A. is alive and well there and that if you really want to do something for Louisiana you should come and enjoy some southern hospitality as they host the ICYPAA on June 29th -July 2nd in New Orleans, LA and the National Archives Workshop from the 14th -17th of September, 2006 in Baton Rouge, LA.

There are a couple events that you may wish to add to your calendar: The **Missouri State Convention** in Jefferson City, MO, July 14-16, and **SWRAASA**, Wichita, KS, October 13-15.

– Yours in service, *Chip B, Delegate 55/38 Eastern MO*

Notes from the chair

Elections are around the corner. The area elections are in October, the district elections are in September, and most groups hold elections in August (only two months away!) or at the last group conscience before the district election. (Some groups hold group inventories in July as a way to encourage people to stand for jobs.) After the elections we encourage newly-elected servants to attend district and area events and start reading the service manual right away, prior to taking full responsibility for the job on January 1. Between now and the elections we talk with others in service, and pray earnestly, as we make difficult decisions about our availability and readiness. "It is not the matter of giving that is in question, but when and how to give."

The area election assembly, October 7 & 8, will be great fun. In addition to regular assembly business, we'll have workshops and sharing on a variety of topics – including briefings for newly-elected GSRs, DCMs, secretaries, treasurers, and committee chairs. (Districts are encouraged to have their own local workshops as well.) There will also be social activities such as AA trivia, movies, and meetings until 1am. Our special guest will be Rick W., 2005 Conference CPC staff member and Chairman of the 2006 General Service Conference. Rick will participate in the day's work and be the main speaker at a large open AA meeting in the hotel ballroom on Saturday night.

At the area election that Sunday morning, we'll elect the eight area officers for the next rotation. Bring snacks since this sometimes goes on until 1pm or later. One of the first and most difficult tasks of the newly-elected chair will be to appoint 18 committee chairs and alternates. If you wish to be considered for one of those jobs, it will be very helpful if you hand the newly-elected chair a piece of paper listing your contact information, qualifications, and which committee(s) you'd prefer.

Between now and the elections, have a great summer, and I'll see you at the State Convention!

– Jim F., Area Chair

Missouri State Convention (Continued from p. 1)

... because it helps meet the financial obligation – enough said? – and makes the hotel *and* the committee happy. We all like happy.

To reserve a room, call 800- 338-8088. Use the reservation code “Missouri State Convention” or MSC to get the reduced rate of \$79 + tax per night. You all know how to register for the convention, right? Get a form. If you can't find one, go to <http://eamo.org/06stateconventionflyer.pdf> Download it. Fill it out. Send it in. Now would be good.

Volunteers are needed to staff the hospitality rooms. We could also use ice chests and non-perishable food items. Call Bill B. 314-770-2629, billbehrendt@juno.com if you can help. See you there!

AREA BULLETIN BOARD

Area Assembly, June 24, 2006. Holiday Inn, Wentzville, MO If you're not here already, it's too late! But you're here, right?.

ICYPAA 48 “Raise the Bottom”, the 48th International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous, June 29-July 2, in New Orleans, LA. Sheraton Hotel. It's a little late, but you can call Carlston CF at 318-465-5448 or Jason J. At 318-623-7909 for info or download the stunning flyer from: <http://www.lacypaa.org/ICYPAA%2048%20flyer.pdf>

Missouri State Convention

July 14-16, 2006, Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, MO. Pre-register now!! Great speakers, marathon meetings, sober socialization, and a truly great bunch of workshops. All conventions are good, but this one will be SPECIAL!! You can download a flyer at the Eastern Area web site or talk to just about anybody at Area Assembly. Rooms are still available! <http://eamo.org/06stateconventionflyer.pdf>

Moberly Group Annual Anniversary Picnic, Come celebrate 49 years with us August 27, 2006. Open AA meeting at 9 AM, followed by all the fellowship and food you can handle (and bring). Speaker meeting after potluck lunch. Scenic Silver Creek Lake park north of Moberly off Rt. DD. It's easy to find once you know how! Call Cheryl or Gene Y. 660-277-3619 a little closer to the date.

Fall Classic at the Airport Marriott Hotel at St. Louis Lambert International Airport, 10700 Peartree Lane, St. Louis, Missouri. Please contact the hotel directly 800-228-0213 or 314-423-9700 for reservations. Rooms - Friday & Saturday \$68.00 - Sunday \$49.00 (more for poolside). Identify "Fall Classic" for special discount. Discount price only good until 8/8/2006. Be part of a St. Louis tradition! Contact Juanita B. (636) 227-4586 (fallclassic@sbcglobal.net) or Wilda P. at (636) 256-4976 (pricewb@aol.com) for more information.

Alcoholics Anonymous National Archives Workshop, "Preserving Our Past for Our Future." September 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2006. Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge, LA. Workshops, seminars, speakers, banquet. Contact co-chairs Jimmy H. 504-382-9286, jhardingola@cox.net or Bobby B 337-662-3402, danieb@att.net for more information.

Area Assembly, October 7 & 8, Holiday Inn, Wentzville, MO. This is our election assembly, so be there! Who knows, you might like it and decide to come all the time. This promises to be a special Assembly. Don't miss it. (Holiday Inn Wentzville, 636-327-7001, offers a discount room rate if booked early; mention the Eastern MO Area Assembly.)

SWRAASA Southwest Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. October 13-15, 2006, Hilton Wichita Airport Executive Conference Center, Wichita, KS. Registration is just \$5. One of the most enriching experiences for any AA service worker. Flyer at: www.ksarea25aa.org/page4.html.

St. Louis Intergroup Meeting, 3rd Tuesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. St. Mary's Hospital, 6400 Clayton Rd., St. Louis.

Our Area 38 Trusted Servants —

This rotation, our Area officers are:

- Delegate – Chip B.
- Alternate delegate - Pat B.
- Area chair – Jim F.
- Registrar – Tom W.
- Recording secretary – Ian S.
- Treasurer – Dave B.

Which job will you be filling next rotation? Think about it!

The formalities ...

Have a (printable) opinion? Want your voice to be (anonymously) heard? Want to write an article and be the editor's new best friend? Contact the Gratitude Gazette at gazette@eamo.org or write to:

Gratitude Gazette
c/o Area Office
2683 Big Bend Blvd., Rm. 18
St. Louis, MO 63143

(Note - if you're submitting a suggestion, an article, or Bulletin Board item by mail, please allow extra time, as material must be forwarded to the editor, who lives about as far from Metropolitan St. Louis as one possibly can and still be in the Eastern Area of Missouri).

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