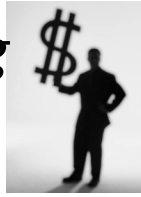


Gratitude Gazette

Winter 2010

Are we self-supporting

The following two questions will be discussed thoroughly at the Winter Assembly and will be an important portion of the agenda at the 2010 General Service Conference.



1. If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit?
2. If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?

AA has relied on literature sales to pay for AA services since the beginning. However, many believe we can not be self-supporting if we are generating revenue from literature sales. How then can we be fully self-supporting without literature sales?

- 1) We can reduce services at GSO
- 2) We can increase contributions from groups.

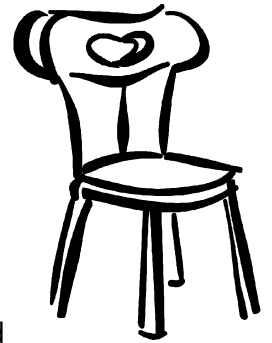
GSO states that about 40% of registered groups contribute to GSO. However this number does not count the 30% of AA groups that don't register. We need to make sure we are educating our groups about the services GSO provides and let them decide whether they should contribute or cut services. To see a summary of where your AA dollar goes see the article on Pg 3 "What do Contributions to GSO Cover?"

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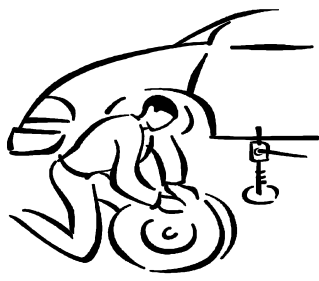


Chairperson's Comments

Let me start by wishing all of you a Happy New Year. We are not only starting a new year, but we are starting the last year of this rotation. Last year was not always easy. Personally I faced some challenges that I hope, I learned and grew from. With the last year passed, I feel better prepared to face the year ahead. I look forward to the year ahead as there is still much to do to serve our area, districts, and groups. At this assembly we will begin to prepare Jim for the General Service Conference. He will carry the voice of our area to New York this spring. Including, our input on the self-support questions GSO has asked for from the groups. I hope we will make a decision on what to do with the excess funds, and move forward on the State Convention proposal. We will also present the proposed budget. I would have liked it to be a little less, but there is a cost to perform the business of the area. We worked hard to be responsible, and feel we did a good job. Thanks to Phil for his hard work in putting it together. Looking forward to the spring assembly, we are going to try to put on a mock General Service Conference. Our hope is to cover topics that will be covered at this years conference. In doing this, we will not only help Jim prepare for New York, but will show those of you who will be future delegates what to expect when it's your turn. This spring we will also be electing two new members to the State Convention Committee. We need dedicated, and talented people to serve. Please think about serving on this committee. If you have talent or experience you believe would benefit this committee please stand. If you just want a title or a free room, please let people who are prepared, and ready to work fill these positions. I look forward to seeing you all at this assembly, and serving with you this coming year.



Larry N.
Chairman
EAMO



History in the Making Rotation

Many of our Traditions were inspired by events in Akron in 1939. At that time, Dr. Bob and the other Akron alcoholics were still attending Oxford Group meetings, where they often clashed with the non-alcoholics over things like authority, religion, publicity, and primary purpose. In May, some of the drunks finally had their fill. "I made the announcement... that we were starting a group in Cleveland that would only be open to alcoholics and their families. Also, that we were taking the name from the book 'Alcoholics Anonymous.' The roof came off the house. 'Clarence, you can't do this!' someone said... I made the mistake of telling these people the address. They invaded the house and tried to break up our meeting. One fellow was going to whip me... But we stood our ground."

The Big Book came out that year, and two national magazines (*Liberty* and *Faith*) ran articles about AA. That fall, a Cleveland member talked a newspaper reporter into doing a series of articles on AA, and a popular Cleveland minister did a sermon on AA. Publicity is good for business. By October, the Cleveland members had set up a service committee to handle requests for help, which were numbering in the hundreds per month. This was during the Great Depression, and many people were unemployed. One member recalls, "I did nothing but sit by the telephone and take inquiries... [One telegram said] 'This means life or death. Call me right now.'" Another member was receiving names from the Cleveland newspaper and from New York. "I would hand them out on Monday morning like a sales manager – tell them to follow up and report to me on Wednesday. Nobody had a job at the time, so it was all right."

That first central committee included five men and two women, and soon incorporated an important principle we still follow today: rotation. "Up to that time, all of our affairs had been in the charge of the ultra-old-timers, and we naturally supposed it would always be that way," said Bill Wilson. But the new system required that every month, two people rotate off the committee, in order of seniority. People soon saw the advantages of rotation, for both the individual and the group, and the strange new way of doing things became part of our ideal of leadership, as expressed in Traditions 2 & 9 and Concept 9.

A Vision For you

This summer from July 1 until July 4th AA members from around the world will meet to celebrate the 75th anniversary of AA in San Antonio Texas at the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. The International Convention occurs once every 5 years and if you have not been it is truly an amazing experience. This year's convention has a theme, "A Vision for You." As I think about this theme it reminds me that the vision I had for myself when I walked into AA several years ago was a poor excuse for the life I have found here. I doubt Bill and Bob could have envisioned the diversity and size of the 75th Anniversary of AA we will celebrate this summer. We have a chance to be a part of this summer. The flag ceremony is one of the most powerful representations of the reach of AA. You will see flags from dozens of countries and hear the various attendees, which will most likely come close to filling the 65,000 seat Alamo Dome, cheer for their country when the flag is announced. To sit it in that arena and see all of these sober people with your own eyes and then to meditate on the impact AA has had, the lives that have been saved, the families healed, and the benefit to the World that has occurred because all of us are sober, and then to realized these thousands of people represent millions more, it is truly breathtaking. I hope to see you there, I know I wouldn't miss it.

Mock Conference at the Spring Assembly

Every year in late spring, delegates from all over the US and Canada spend a week in conference with our trusted servants in New York, deciding matters of overall AA policy and finance. This year's Conference will be April 18-24. **At our next Area Assembly, on April 3rd, we will hold a Mock Conference.** All members are welcome to participate as mock delegates. Agenda items from this year's Conference will be discussed and voted on, and you will experience procedures and materials used at the real Conference. This will encourage discussion of the issues, help prepare our future delegates, and give our current delegate some added insights into the current issues. Please attend and bring a service sponsee.



Where Do I Fit In

Our General Service Office in New York answers calls, archives our experience, publishes our literature, handles our PR and legal work, and carries the message into other languages & countries. Our district and area service structures provide local services such as: informing professionals & the general public about our work, carrying the message into institutions, and answering calls for help. In larger cities, intergroup committees answer the phones and sell AA literature. The AA groups oversee all of the above work through their elected servants, and carry the message in their own ways – usually by hosting "AA meetings" where alcoholics can share about recovery. As we get sober, we gradually stop obsessing on ourselves and learn that we can make a difference to others. We attend meetings, join a group, and eventually we realize we are part of a worldwide movement that is changing lives, all over the world, 24 hours a day. Where do you fit in?

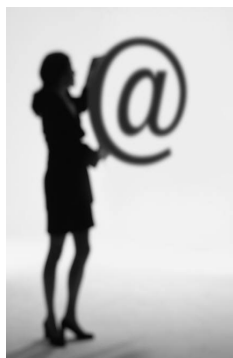
Q What do contributions to G.S.O. cover?*

A Of each dollar contributed, 33 cents goes to cover Group Services (this includes *Box 4-5-9*, A.A. directories, the French literature service, Spanish services, the Records and Contributions departments) 5 cents goes toward public information activity 5 cents toward cooperation with the professional community activity; 2 cents to treatment facilities activities; 5 cents toward correctional facilities services; 10 cents Loners/overseas services; 12 cents for the General Service Conference; 7 cents for Regional Forums; 10 cents for Archives; 7 cents to support the activities of the General Service Board; 2 cents for nominating; 1 cent for Special Needs and 1 cent other items.

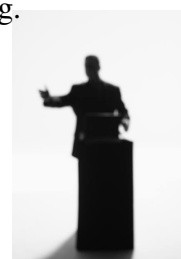


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Electronic Gazette



In effort to distribute the Gratitude Gazette as widely as possible we are encouraging members to sign-up to receive the gazette by email. We currently have a very small list of AA members who wish to receive the gazette electronically. With today's technology many of you receive email on your cell phone, the gazette would be perfect reading when your stuck waiting at the repair shop or need a minute to reconnect at work. If you would like to receive the Gazette via email please email gazette@eamo.org.



Delegates Comments

Congratulations to us all; we're halfway through the current rotation. We've had a good rotation so far and done some good work. (Sometimes better than we know!) Most of our current group of servants were elected in late summer of 2008, and have had all the time since to learn our jobs, build our networks, and form visions of what we'd like to accomplish. Some of us have already begun to solve old problems or make exciting forward progress in our groups, committees, districts, and area, while others are still laying the groundwork. For many of us (including me!), the start of the 2nd year is a good time to re-dedicate ourselves to setting and achieving real goals in service, even if that means some sacrifice. Time goes by differently in sobriety, and moves faster as we get older. In August, our groups will be holding elections again. In September, our districts. In October, our area. At each election, some of us will be wondering whether enough qualified, enthusiastic, committed people will offer themselves to serve. Did we do enough to prepare and encourage the next generation of trustworthy servants? Did we plant in the spring, so that we could harvest in the fall? Concept Nine says that we must always be developing new leaders, and that's a real goal we can all commit to. Between now and August, we can encourage our groups to include the Traditions and other service-related topics in the meeting format, and support other meetings that do. We can study these topics with our sponsees, and encourage them to attend service workshops. We can make sure service literature, including pamphlets, is available in our meetings and workshops. We can use service workshops to develop trustworthy servants, and announce workshops at meetings. And of course we can do a little study ourselves, to try to be ready for the next job we might stand for.

Area Bulletin Board

“How to Help the Alcoholic”
District 4-3 Workshop

Where: St. Martins Episcopal Church
15746 Clayton Rd
St. Louis, MO
When: Jan. 23 5:30 pm

Free Pizza Dinner

**2010 ASSEMBLY
DATES:
January 16
April 3
July 10**

Great River Round-Up

March 5-7
Pere Marquette Conference Center
Grafton, IL

For Info call Bruce 618-254-5273

ARCHIVES:

2683 Big Bend Blvd., Rm. 3,
St. Louis, 63143. archives@eamo.org.
Open 1st Wed/ month 1P-6P.
Working sessions 3rd Sat./mo: 10A-12N. Drop in to
visit or to volunteer. *Traveling Archives are available
for your AA event.*

2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

The theme is “A Vision for You”
July 1-4, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas

For info visit www.aa.org

“The Function of the Home Group”
Workshop Presented By District 9
6 Speakers

When: January 23, 2010 10:00 a.m.
Where: Bourbon Community Center
Bourbon, MO

12 Steps to Freedom: An in depth look at the 12 step process

Presented By Districts 5-1, 5-2, 5-3

Thursdays March 4, 11, 18 7-9:30

Webster Groves Christina Church
1320 Lockwood Ave
Webster Groves, MO

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MONTHLY IR MEETING: 3rd Tuesdays, 8PM

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



July 31-Aug. 1, 2010
Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W.
McCarty St., Jefferson City.

www.MOstateconvention.org

Visit The Eastern Area Online

Visit us online at 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?

Anyone wishing to correspond with or submit materials for publication in the Gratitude Gazette may contact: 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.