

MINUTES SUMMARY OF AREA 46 ASSEMBLY

March 3 & 4, 2012 Las Cruces

SATURDAY

8:30 CALL TO ORDER

8:40-12:30 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Archives, Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC), Correctional Facilities, Finance, Website, GSR Orientation, (Central Offices), Bilingual, Finance, Literature, Public Information (PI), Treatment Facilities, Ad Hoc SWRAASA 2012, (Young People), Bridge the Gap (BTG), El Farolito, Grapevine, Ad Hoc SWRAASA 2012, (Convention), District Committee Members (DCMs), General Service Representatives (GSRs), Area Trusted Servants, Past Delegates

12:30 pm *Lunch*

1:45 pm **CALL TO ORDER**

2pm **INTRODUCTIONS**

2:30 pm SUMMARY OF MINUTES of December 2011 ASSEMBLY: Read by Ellen R., Area secretary. Motion to approve: Approved.

2:40 pm TREASURER'S REPORT: Francisco A, Area treasurer. At the end of February 2012, the balance was at \$19,400. In 2011 the Area budgeted \$31,000, spent about \$28,000 while taking in about \$26,000. Please see the Area Treasurer's report for more details. Due to the fact that Area 46 pays the \$5,200 cost of sending our delegate to the General Service Conference and the delay of contributions due to the new mailing address of the treasurer, the current balance seems low. This should balance out shortly. Carol, district 16, motioned to approve, Charlie B, District 15, seconded. Motion approved.

2:50 pm REGISTRAR'S REPORT: Bill L, Area Registrar; New AIPs available for \$1.50; reminded all new GSRs to register with him; asked for a volunteer to help with the computer work.

2:55 pm DELEGATE'S REPORT: Alan S, Area Delegate: Alan asked for a moment of silence to honor the passing of Orin, former delegate from District 4; shared how service work has benefited him through the home group, sponsorship (both personal and service), and how Concept 9 has proved very helpful in assuming leadership roles which in reality means to be of service; he gave an overview of his assignments at the 62nd General Service Conference on April 21-28, 2012 in Rye, NY; anonymity at the electronic level will be discussed; e-books are available at aa.org ; The Grapevine made a profit of \$23,000 for the first time this past year;; asked GSRs to remember GSO in their group contributions; he will try to attend the Conference with an open mind, not an agenda;; announced that the evening Sharing Session would be on "Anonymity Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age";

3:10 pm ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT: Jen N, Alt. Del: Encouraged all to participate in the evening session; currently is serving as co-chair of SWRAASA (Southwest Region of AA Service Assembly) which will be held October 19-21, 2012 in Albuquerque at the Marriott Uptown Hotel (see the New Mexico AA website for registration and more information) ;please plan to attend; will need many ,many volunteers; there will be a Concepts presentation at SWRAASA so if you have any expertise or suggestions for this, see Jen..

3:15 pm NMCYPAA: Andy; conference coming up in Las Cruces Oct. 26-28, 2012. YPAA is AA. No age restrictions. Theme: "Satisfied by Candy". (Can you beat Brent's candy stuffing???) Pre-registration available on website.

3:20 pm COMITE DE PRO-CONVENCIONES: Manuel for Anna G: Speakers are lined up (Alanon & AA); Will be at Ramada Hotel, June 29-July 1, 2012; translations available from Spanish to English; everyone welcome to join in the fun, fellowship, lively music, and great food!

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

3:45 pm **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Area Convention Report: June 1-3, 2012, D-2 Santa Fe: Kurt K, chair: will be at Santa Fe U. of Art and Design: see website for registrations forms and lodging information; theme is "Living in the Promises". REGISTER AS SOON AS YOU CAN TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.
- 2) Area Assembly Report: Sept. 8-9,2012,Dist.9 Grants: will be at Future Foundations facility; learning from Las Cruces and the plans are in process.
- 3) Area Assembly Report December 1&2,2012,Carlsbad: Dave, Dist. 10: Will be held on the NM State U campus; plans are under construction; will try to work in the Pecos Christmas Lights boat trip;
- 4) 2012 SWRAASA Ad-Hoc Committee, Ray R.: (SWRAASA=Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly) October 19-21, 2012; only get to host this once every 22 years so please participate. 7 states representing 11 Areas of AA; aiming to get all of NM's GSRs to attend; about 7 months away. Lots of opportunities to volunteer; introduced the committee chairs; see website for more information and connections; GSRs encouraged to get groups or districts to sponsor scholarships to SWAARSA; rooms available at \$99 for a double room; Ice cream social every night! This is a celebration of service!

4:30 pm **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Bid for Area 46 Assembly March 2&3,2013: Phil DCM: District 12 would like to host the Area Assembly (possible sites: Edgewood Community Center, Albuquerque Garden Center or CNM Montoya campus.). Seconded .No other bids
- 2) Bid for Area 46 Convention: June 7-9, 2013. Erica M, DCM: District 14 would like to host the state convention at the Sagebrush Inn at Taos. Seconded. No other bids.
- 3) Young People in Service Ad Hoc Committee: will continue for one more year. Brian will chair and Andy will serve as alternate chair; currently assembling info for young people contact group (includes AA groups that have many young people attending regularly); Brian is also chairing a sub-committee to put on a Young Peoples Service workshop, aiming for Sept 2012 before the September 2012 assembly or possibly before the Dec 2012 Assembly
- 4) Area 46 Audit for 2010-2011: Theresa, chair Finance committee: reviewed process done by Francisco and Theresa; found 1/8 % error; Francisco looking at program to provide internal self-audit; requested that GSRs assist by checking the Financial report and notify him if the contributions are correct or not (either way).
- 5) Corrections Conference 2013; Brian, Area Corrections chair: Will hold Corrections workshops the last two Saturdays of April and May at the Las Lunas Community Center including inmates and correctional officers; will be asking for seed money for an actual Corrections Conference in the fall of 2013 and wanted to alert the assembly and generate interest.
- 6) Electronic version of the El Farolito: Tom: asked for general thoughts an discussion to help committee reach decision; concerns expressed were use of full name, protection of anonymity, more questions than answers, don't get rid of printed version, how will e-version affect printed budget, proper disposal of printed Elfs, want input from young people, what's the rush, try it and correct errors as they occur, investigate procedures to make it possible, do it well.
- 7) Other: Manuel P, DCM District 3: Motion to provide \$44 per committee chair to acquire PO Box during rotation (seconded) . Discussion followed.
- 8) Other: Eileen, District 4: Motion that Area committee chairs not make copies of their reports but rather put them on the website so all people in Area have access and to save money on printing costs; no second.

7:30pm **AREA 46 SHARING SESSION: ALAN S, DELEGATE AND JEN N, ALT DELEGATE** **Anonymity in the Electronic Age**

SUNDAY

8:00am **CALL TO ORDER** and announcement of Ask It Basket.

8:10am Vote on previous day's bids and motions. 119 voting members, 84 non-voting (total of 203 registered attendees)

Bid for Area 46 Assembly March 2-3, 2013, ABQ, District 12; one against, no minority opinion: **PASSES**

Bid for Area Conference June 7-9, 2013 **District 14: unanimous: PASSES.**

Motion: To provide PO Boxes for Area Committee chairs: motion failed; no minority opinion. **FAILED**

Tradition 7: \$339

SWRAASA Basket: \$211

8:30am **COMMITTEE REPORTS** including GSR, DCM, TS, PD meetings: Inventory summary is available.

9:30 am Ask It Basket:

Q: Would the following circumstances be considered to be breaking anonymity? 1) AA members of a home group who disclose confidential/personal information about other group members (including their sponsees) to other members of the home group. 2) Is this easily dismissed as gossip? I am witnessing this happening in my home group and I believe it is harmful. Alan S answers: See the AA pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" as a guideline, especially pages 8 & 10 in regards to this question. My responsibility is to protect your anonymity, not just my own.

Q: Suggestions please on how to get old timers back into service, please. George, past delegate answers: If person not attending meetings or you don't see them, give them a call, invite them back. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink. Second question: Why is there a GSO and Intergroup? Isn't that duplicity?

Which is the better of the two? George: Intergroups/Central offices operate at a local area. GSO is like and Intergroup for the USA and Canada (much more area covered) as well as doing translations and AA jobs that a local Intergroup can't afford; their work is similar and complimentary.

Q: How can someone from a small group with a small income afford to do service work? Why is AA Leaving those without a computer behind? Ralph T, past delegate answers: Remember that service work begins and is needed in your group. The primary purpose is to carry the message of recovery to the suffering alcoholic. If you're interested in participating in district and assembly functions, ask someone to share rides and rooming costs. SWRAASA delegates will be addressing the subject of AA for the Technically Challenged, but the printed materials aren't likely to disappear. Second question: Who knows where, when, how, why the debate regarding removing the word God out of the Big Book???????? Not the spirit of the higher power.....Ralph: see this as a comment, not question; it'd take ¾ of all AA groups to change anything in the Big Book, personal experience makes him glad that the concept in the book is as stated.

Q. Do I have a voice? I am here at request of my DCM who I serve. An issue came up I wanted to speak about.

Am I to speak on issues at the Assembly if I am not a voting member? Ray R, past delegate answers: The introductions done at the Assembly are meant to familiarize people with speaking into the microphone. Everyone has a voice at the Assembly. AA matters move slowly after much discussion so we all have the opportunity and a responsibility to address a subject whether we are voting members or not.

Q. Can a past DCM be a DCM again? Dave, District 10: Simple answer is yes. Circumstances and location will influence if this occurs. Is there a need for the service that I can provide? (Necessity and desire.)

Q. Does it break Traditions to post fliers in rural neighborhoods announcing a new AA meeting in yards etc?

Michelle, Area PI chair answers: Posting flyers and in yards is ok as long as you get permission and don't break someone else's anonymity.

Q. Does anyone have information on sponsorship workshops? Theresa F, Area Alt chair answers: Check out the Area newsletter, El Farolita, or Box 459 from GSO; anyone can ask for a workshop to happen from their group, district or area (these are resources for you to use)

Q) Is it appropriate at an Area 46 Assembly to announce the 2012 Founders' Day Celebration in Akron, Ohio, on June 8-10, 2012; information and registration available on akronaa.org...\$20 registration, RV parking, housing and campgrounds available. Jim H, Area chair answers: "So done"

10 am adjourn until September 8&9, 2012; Area Assembly to be hosted by District 9 in Grants

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Regan, Area 46 Secretary

