

MINUTES SUMMARY OF AREA 46 ASSEMBLY

September 7-8, 2013 District 5 Ruidoso

SATURDAY September 7, 2013

8:30am CALL TO ORDER

8:40-11:40 am **COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** Archives, Cooperation w/ Professional Community (CPC), Correctional Facilities, Finance, GSR Orientation, Website, Bilingual, Finance, Literature, Public Information (PI), Treatment Facilities, Young People, Bridging the Gap (BTG), Convention 2014, El Farolito, Grapevine, District Committee Members (DCMs), General Service Representatives (GSRs), Area Trusted Servants, Past Delegates

12:30 pm *Lunch*

1:45 pm **CALL TO ORDER** (Please remember to speak slowly and clearly for translators)

2pm **INTRODUCTIONS**

2:30 pm **SUMMARY OF MINUTES** of March 2013 ASSEMBLY Dist. 12, Albuquerque; Read by Ellen R., Area secretary. Report approved; Motion Kris, D14 Second: Linda D5. 2:40 pm: **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Francisco A, Area Treasurer: Francisco reported on the activity as of July 31, 2013. He reported that fewer groups are contributing in large amounts. Cash on hand was \$16,324. He provided an updated report at the Assembly and reiterated that there is a system of checks and balance with the Finance Committee. Report approved. Motion by Terry D16: Second: Ron N D4. 3:00 pm **REGISTRAR'S REPORT:** Bill L, Area Registrar: No September Directory due to elections and upcoming changes. Bill distributed packets to each district to update the information. He will be available to help the next Registrar get started. 3:10 pm **DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Alan S, Area Delegate: Alan opened by introducing and welcoming the Southwest Regional Trustee, Clayton V. The final General Service Conference 2013 Report is available. Financially the AA World Services is experiencing a decline of literature sales in the USA and Canada due to e-books, Kindle and such media. Brainstorming and considerations are in progress by the Trustees. They welcome suggestions from AA members, groups and/or Areas for ways to move ahead. Alan has already reported on the GSC to 17 of the 19 districts. He appreciated the financial aid given and the enthusiastic welcomes. He noted how each district has a gift to give to AA in Area 46. He then announced that the Southwest Regional Forum will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on October 11-13, 2013, and encouraged members to attend. 3:25 pm **ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT:** Jen N, Alt. Del: The Delegate's Sharing Session at 7:30 pm tonight will include a discussion of Anonymity with Social Media as well as Clayton V, our SWR Trustee, sharing what his position involves and to answer any questions. She is looking forward to provide workshops to any of the districts or groups that would express a desire. 3:30 pm **NMCYPAA:** Jonathon and committee will be hosting the 2014 NMCYPAA in Albuquerque. They are inviting other districts to participate in the preparations. 3:40 pm **COMITE DE PRO-CONVENCIONES:** NO REPORT GIVEN. 3:50 PM: **GENERAL**

3:50 pm ANNOUNCEMENTS

4:00 pm **OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) **Area 46 Convention 2013 Report**, June 7-9, 2013, D-14 Taos: Jen H: The convention was held at the Sagebrush Inn Conference Center in Taos. There were about 420 attendees. The seed money was returned along with a \$4000 overage.
- 2) **Area 46 Assembly Report: December 7-8, 2013 D18 Rio Rancho:** Dan L, DCM said they are getting prepared. He indicated that more information would be in the future El Farolito issues.
- 3) **Area 46 Convention Report: June 6-8, 2014, D8 Farmington:** Gloria T, Chairperson. The location has been changed to the Farmington Marriott. Registration will open October 2013. Committees are in place and fundraising has started; there are T-shirts and bracelets for sale at this Assembly.
- 4) **Bid for March 1-2, 2014 Area 46 Assembly:** Manuel, DCM D 3 presented a bid for the Assembly to be held at the Albuquerque Carpenters' Union Training Center; Kurt K D2 submitted a bid for Santa Fe; Jim M D13 submitted a bid to hold the Assembly in Moriarty.

There was no further old business.

4:40 pm **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) **Bid for Area 46 Assembly, September 6-7, 2014:** No bids were presented.
- 2) **Presentation of 2014 Budget.** Teresa J, Finance Committee Chair: The budget was prepared based on a 5% projection of the average of the past 3 years. She reviewed the reasons why the even year budget runs higher than the odd years (SWRAASA, AIP printing). Discussion and questions were addressed. She stated that Area 46 would be able to fully fund our delegate for the 2014 General Service Conference.

There were 6 additional motions made. Due to the length and space please see the voting results of the motions listed under the Sunday morning session minutes. (All motions were seconded and discussed by the Assembly on Saturday.)

5:45 pm **Break until Sharing Session**

7:30 pm **Delegate's Sharing Session: "Social Media Anonymity; Trustee Sharing with Questions and Answers."** Jen N, Area 46 Alternate Delegate and Clayton V Southwest Regional Trustee

SUNDAY December 2, 2012

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

8:10am **Vote on previous day's bids and motions:** There were 114 registered voters, 54 registered nonvoters

1. Bids for March 1-2, 2014 Area 46 Assembly from:
 - a) District 3 Albuquerque at the Carpenters' Union Training Center
 - b) District 13 Moriarity
 - c) District 2 Santa Fe

Result: District 13 Moriarity was chosen on the second round of voting.

2. The Bilingual Committee motioned to purchase ten translation receivers with earpieces at a cost of \$920 plus a protective carrying case costing \$160 for a total cost \$1,080 (no shipping or tax). Funding to come from the Special Projects budget. Motion: Tom H Second: Marsha S D5

Result: Passed by clear majority; no minority opinion expressed

3. Motion to amend AIP pg11 Section 1.F.5.f to read: "Submit written reports, including expense reports, to the Area Assembly in March, September and December issues of the El Farolito." No funding needed. Motion: Ellen R D14 Second: Eloy M D3

Result: Passed unanimously

4. a) Motion to amend AIP pg 22 Section III.C.2, line 2 to "...special needs, such as non-smokers, hearing or visually impaired and handicapped, when arranging convention meetings...". Motion: John T D8 Second: Meredith B D6

Result: Failed Majority opposed; no minority opinion expressed

b) Motion requesting addition of \$500 to the 2014 budget for the Area 46 2015 Convention seed money to allow for cost of a certified sign language interpreter for all Area 46 Convention speaker meetings, raising the seed money to \$4,500.

Motion John T D8 Second: Erica D11

Result: Failed, majority opposed; minority opinion expressed; motion to revote failed

5. Motion to add to AIP pg 30 Section .B.7 (that section to be renumbered): "The Area self insurance fund hold in reserve an amount adequate to cover the estimated replacement cost of all Area 46 translation equipment in the event of theft, loss or damage. This fund should be reviewed annually for adequacy; any necessary increases in this fund are included in the annual budget." Funding: \$239 from insurance refund transfer to self-insurance fund. Motion: Marsha S D5

Second: Ron N D4

Result: Passed; majority favored motion; minority opinion expressed; no motion to revote.

6. Motion to amend AIP pg 31, newly created Section V.C.1. to read: "The final operating budget should not exceed the sum of 1) the average contributions for the most recent 3 years +5% and 2) estimated operating cash at January 1 of the budget year. For budgeting purposes, contributions do not

include Area 46 Convention overage or Convention seed money; operating cash does not include prudent reserve, convention seed money or other earmarked funds.” No funding needed.

Motion: Francisco A Second: Marsha S D5

Result: Passed; majority in favor; no minority opinion expressed.

7. Motion to remove (from AIP pg 30 Section V.B.6.) the following sentence: “See Section III.E.3. for information on distribution of excess money.” Motion: Teresa J

Second: Rosie D11

Result: Passed; majority in favor; no minority opinion expressed.

8:45 **RESULTS OF AREA 46 PANEL 64 ELECTIONS (Effective Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2015)**

Panel 64 Delegate: Jennifer N, D4 **Alternate Delegate:** Jim H, D10 **Area Chair:** Teresa F D2

Alternate Area Chair: Francisco A (Albuquerque) **Area Secretary:** Patty (Albuquerque) (drawn from the hat by the SWR Trustee) **Area Registrar:** Rosie F D11 (also drawn from the hat by SWR Trustee) **Area Treasurer:** Teresa J (Albuquerque)

Contributions: Pass the Hat Saturday: \$346.73; Sunday: \$338.15; AIPs: \$84 for total of \$768.88.

12:45 **Adjourn until December 7-8, 2013, Assembly, hosted by D18 Rio Rancho**

ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

How do I encourage my home group to have monthly business meetings? They schedule them but no one participates.

The best way to encourage participation in the Group's business meeting is to announce a discussion about spending money and that there will be pie! Seriously, the best way is through good communication and determination. First, take a second to individually tell your Group members how much the Group needs their input. Their voice is the Group conscience. Important decisions shouldn't be made without input from everyone in the Group. Second, don't give up! Schedule the meeting, show up every time, bring at least one different person with you each time to expose them to the Group conscience, and don't be discouraged. You're doing your part. Third, be a good example by doing 1 and 2 above! Once folks learn that A.A. service is for the greater good, they'll want to be involved. Also see page S23 of the A.A. Service manual for more info. - Jim H. Area 46 Chair

Why is Alan so nice?

A passage directly from the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, page 152, clearly tells us:

"The things we put in place of drinking are more than substitutes for it. One is the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. In this company, you will find release from care, boredom and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus we find the fellowship, and so will you."

Thank you, Alcoholics Anonymous, for making Alan and ALL of us a little nicer human beings. - John T. DCM D-8

We are given the opportunity to take away motions to pray on, however, we do not have this same process for Trusted Servants. Why?

Merriam Webster defines “pray” as “to speak to God especially in order to give thanks or to ask for something.” Prayers can be short. If only a second or two is available, I ask God to “grant me the serenity” ... God knows what I mean. A quick prayer before a vote on a motion or to elect an Area Officer can happen at your chair between votes. A prayer such as “grant me wisdom and courage with the business to be conducted today” can be offered up Sunday before the Assembly starts as part of your morning talk with God.

While prayers before votes can be done anytime, anywhere, you may want to be informed on issues surrounding a motion. You may want to check the Service Manual, the AIP, other literature, or visit with other people. This takes more time than a short talk with God; hence, the overnight is helpful for motions.

There are logistical issues with nominating on Saturday. Every minute at an Assembly is a precious opportunity to learn, to do the footwork, and to practice acceptance of God's will. If nominations and candidate remarks were moved to Saturday, we would likely have to do without our Southwest Regional Trustee's update on broader A.A. issues.

Finally, the decision to stand for an Area position is a big one. Often a candidate may have considered a position for weeks or months; however, they may decide to stand just a few minutes before their name is called to accept or decline the nomination. The overnight is very important for potential trusted servants to pray, meditate, and come to a decision on whether to stand or not. – Ralph T., Past Delegate

Q1. Are there “bosses” in A.A.?

Tradition 2 and Concept 9 are very helpful in answering these questions. At the level of the group, district, area and GSC we do not have bosses but we do have leaders we call trusted servants. We trust them to lead us but not to boss us. The essay on pages 36-40 of Concept IX in our *Service Manual* is very helpful.

Q2. If an A.A. member is a “special worker” are they a boss or to be termed a boss either from others or themselves?

Special workers are employees of A.A. They can be members, but in the capacity of “Special Worker,” they work for A.A. at the direction of A.A. Our General Service Board (GSB), a combination of 21 alcoholic and non-alcoholic trustees, hires and fires employees of the General Service Office (GSO) and the A.A. Grapevine. Both offices are managed by full time employees who have the authority to direct and manage the employees. Although a special worker may be placed in a position over other employees or even volunteers it is at the direction of the fellowship. – Alan S., Delegate

Do groups have a specific time of year to hold elections for positions such as GSR or is it at the group's discretion? Especially in the case of a mid-term vacated position – what happens then?

According to AIP on page 20 it is suggested a GSR and Alt GSR elections are usually held in September of each odd numbered year with terms to begin on January 1st of the following year to run concurrently with those of the elected Area trusted Servants. In the spirit of rotation, the suggested term of service is 2 years.

As each group is autonomous, the AIP is suggestive only and the GSR election timing and the length of service is up to the groups' conscience. In the case of a mid-term vacated position, the Alternate GSR would step into the position. If there was no Alternate GSR, it would be up to the conscience of the group if they elect someone to finish that term or elect a new GSR for a 2 year term and override the suggested timing. – Teresa F, Alt Area Chair

When the delegate travels to the conference (in New York) what is the cost to send each delegate, area picks up just a small portion?

The cost to send the delegate to the 2012 conference that was held in Rye Brook, NY was \$5,400. The cost to send the delegate to the 2013 conference that was held in Manhattan, NY was \$7,000. Area 46 made a contribution to the General Service Conference (GSC) for the full cost per delegate in 2012 and 2013. The area also provided the delegate with \$300 for incidentals in both years.

In short the GSC is paid for by the general fund of the General Service Board (GSB), commonly referred to as the General Service Office (GSO). The general fund is made up of contributions sent to the GSB by the A.A. groups in the US and Canada. Referring to page 33 of the pamphlet “The AA Group ... Where It All Begins” you will see that 12.5 cents of each dollar contributed to the GSB goes towards paying for the conference. The conference then asks all areas to make a minimum contribution of \$1,600 to defray the cost of the conference (i.e. this contribution reduces the amount of funds used from the general fund). The conference also asks each area to contribute more than the minimum contribution of \$1,600 if they are able to do so.

The following can be found on page S49 of the 2012 - 2013 AA Service Manual.

“A delegate's expenses to the conference are covered in this way: The area contributes at least \$1,600

towards conference expenses (and many areas are able to send additional funds). The General Fund of the General Service Board pays the balance, but this does not take care of the many incidental expenses the delegates will have during conference week. Upon arrival in New York, each delegate receives cash to cover basic expenses during conference week. In addition, the areas generally provide some money to cover extra expenses. The amount differs, depending on the area's financial circumstance.” -

Francisco Archuleta, Area 46 Treasurer

I notice that there is a growing phenomenon of shorthaired delegates. Was Alan required to shave his head as delegate? Will the next delegate be required to shave his/her head? Really?! Even Jen Noonan?!

I haven't heard anything yet about whether this is a requirement for the position. I just hope when they say, "more will be revealed," that doesn't include my scalp. – Jen Noonan, Alternate Delegate

The Assembly gives the district seed money for the state convention. How does that district get the money back to the Assembly? Where do they get it?

A district hosting an Area 46/State Convention receives convention seed money at the March Assembly of the year before the convention (about 15 months before the convention). According to the AIP, the convention committee (which is formed by the hosting district) returns the seed money (plus any additional money realized by the convention) to the area treasurer "at the first Assembly meeting following the conclusion of the convention" (in "earthling" this means the September Assembly). It should be noted that for the past several years the convention treasurer has sent the seed money plus overage to the area treasurer as soon as they've concluded remaining convention business and closed the convention books (around 6 to 8 weeks after the convention). One last thing, the AIP suggests that a final financial report of the convention be given to the area treasurer in writing and that the convention financial report be given in a verbal report to the Assembly by either the convention treasurer or the convention chairperson. References: AIP Sections III.E.2 through III.E.4 (pg. 23).-

Teresa J, Area Finance Chair

Why does the budget fluctuate so much (go up so much on even years)?

There are really just two reasons the Area budget is larger in even-numbered vs. odd-numbered years: SWRAASA and service rotations.

SWRAASA (Southwest Regional AA Service Assembly) is held in even-numbered years. All Areas in the region are typically asked to send 3 people to speak on specific topics regarding AA service. Area 46 is usually asked to help out with bilingual translation as well. The 2014 draft budget includes travel expenses for 5 people to go to SWRAASA (3 speakers + 2 translators) in anticipation of these requests. Note: we also send our Delegate and Alt. Delegate to participate in SWRAASA. However, since their SWRAASA travel expenses are offset in odd-numbered years by travel to the Regional Forum, the Delegate and Alt. Delegate SWRAASA expenses don't contribute to the annual budget swings.

Even-numbered years mark the beginning of new service rotations in Area 46. Certain "organizational" tasks are completed in order to close the business of the previous service rotation and to get the new rotation of trusted servants up and running. These rotation-related expenses include: 1) printing an updated Area Information Pamphlet, 2) printing a new Area Directory and 3) holding a DCM/Area Trusted Servants orientation meeting. Taken separately the cost of each of these items is not that large (\$400 average), but together they add up to a significant increase in the budget of even-numbered years. –Teresa J, Area Finance Chair

Respectfully submitted: Ellen R, Area Secretary