

## From the Editor

Recently, I read something in the book *Drop the Rock* that stood out to me and made me think about this service position as the newsletter editor. On page 10, that book says "There is no magic in recovery. **We get what we work for.**" That statement made me think about this committee and how much work everyone puts into their positions. Not because we get paid, or because there is any permanence in these positions, but because this work keeps us sober and because we love Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm so grateful that our Higher Power(s) have lead us to these service positions and that we each show up to get what we work for: another day sober. However, I do disagree with one point from that statement in *Drop the Rock*. I absolutely think there is magic in this program. Not in the recovery or service part of the program, but in the unity part. There is magic in this fellowship. There is something ultimately magical about all of us coming together in unity to serve this program so that we might help the next suffering alcoholic. I see your hard work, I appreciate you being here for me and for the next alcoholic woman. And, I am grateful for the magic of this fellowship.

- Angela D.

## Upcoming Events

**Teton Canyon Campout**  
August 23-25, 2019  
Alta, WY

**Annual Campout**  
August 30 – September 2, 2019  
Green Canyon Hot Springs  
Newdale, ID

**Three Rivers Bigbook  
Weekend**  
September 27-29, 2019  
Best Western SureStay Riverside  
Inn, 50 Comstock Street,  
Richland WA

**2019 Fall Assembly**  
October 4-6, 2019  
Best Western Inn, Burley, ID

**2020 Spring Assembly / Convention**  
May 15 – 17, 2020  
Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center,  
Fort Hall, ID

**2020 International Convention of  
Alcoholics Anonymous**  
July 2-5, 2020,  
Detroit, Michigan



# The Wagon Wheel



August 2019

## Idaho Area 18 Newsletter

Editor, Angela D.

## Bill's Story

*It was only a matter of being willing to believe in a Power greater than myself. Nothing more was required of me to make my begin-*

*ning. I saw that growth could start from that point. Upon a foundation of complete willingness I might*

*build what I saw in my friend. Would I have it? Of course I would!*

Big Book pg 12



# 69th GSC Quick Reference

## AGENDA

- 70th GSC Theme will be “2020: A Clear Vision for You”

- Presentation Topics:

Recovery – Who is Missing in Our Rooms?

Unity – Practicing Our Principles

Service – Keeping A.A. Relevant

- Workshop Topic: Attraction through Action

## COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

- Recommend changes to “Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community”: PASSED

- Additional Consideration: Review of trustees’ report regarding progress on LinkedIn resulted in suggestions for page content.

## CORRECTIONS

- Recommendation to modify Composition, Scope and Procedure. FAILED

- Consider review of Corrections-related literature to be more modern and inclusive.

## TOOK NO ACTION

- Consider Request to establish and maintain a database of Correctional Facilities. TOOK NO ACTION

- Additional Consideration: That Publishing prioritize Corrections pamphlets for publication without staples.

## FINANCE

- Reviewed the current area contributions for delegate expenses. TOOK NO ACTION

- Recommended increase of maximum annual contribution from AA member bequests from \$5,000 to \$10,000. PASSED

- Consider increase in maximum annual contribution from individual member. TOOK NO ACTION

- Additional Consideration: Changes to the Green Card

## GRAPEVINE

- Consider request to remove Alcoholism at Large section from the AA Grapevine. TOOK NO ACTION

- Additional Consideration: Alcoholism at Large disclaimer be displayed more prominently and visibly.

- Considered and forwarded for approval 1 books for future publication: The Early Days of AA; Getting Involved in General Service; Surrender and Hope (La Vina book)

## LITERATURE

- Recommend a draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous be developed. FAILED

- Recommend “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship” (P. 13) and (P. 15) be revised to include references to anonymity. PASSED

- Recommend updates to “The Twelve Steps Illustrated”. PASSED

- Additional Consideration: Begin work on a Literature Committee Workbook

- Recommend text be added to the Forward to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. FAILED

- Recommend “Non-alcoholics” may attend open meetings as observers” be added to the “Open Meeting” side of the Primary Purposed (blue)

card. FAILED

- Consider request to add information regarding safety to the pamphlet “The A.A. Group”. TOOK NO ACTION

- Discussed “Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” and supported the proposed policy. (Later Floor Action re-committed this back to the Committee for review next year).

- Additional Consideration: the Trustees’ Literature Committee consider an update to the pamphlet “Is A.A. for Me?”

## POLICY / ADMISSIONS

- Recommend “Process for Polling the General Service Conference Between Annual Meetings” be modified to include time for discussion of the motion. PASSED

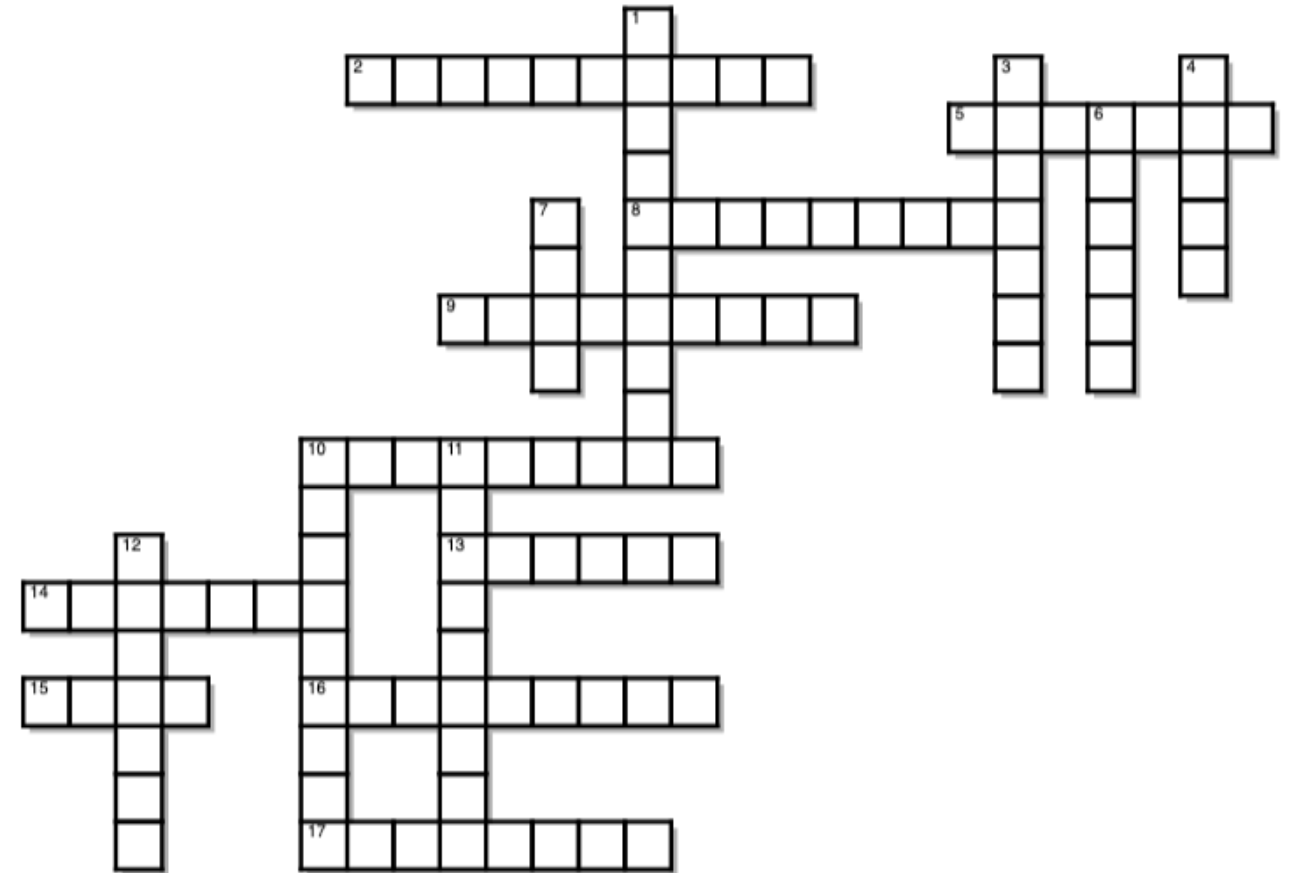
- The 71st GSC be held April 18-24, 2021.

- The 72 nd GSC will be held April 24-30, 2022.

- The 71 st and 72 nd GSC will be held in Brooklyn, NY

- Considered a process for Conference committee to review proposed agenda items not forwarded

## AREA CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 2 News Letter
- 5 Blue
- 8 Thad N.
- 9 Tom P.
- 10 Keith J.
- 13 Steps & Traditions
- 14 Area Delegate
- 15 District 10
- 16 Alcoholics \_\_\_\_\_
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer

### DOWN

- 1 Web Servant
- 3 Tina L.
- 4 District 9
- 6 Fall Assembly Location
- 7 District 4
- 10 ACM Location
- 11 Neil W.
- 12 Madam Chairperson

a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

But there are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis. One is the simplicity of our program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind but have very little to do with our actual A.A. work. Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service. We understand what love is, and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind. Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

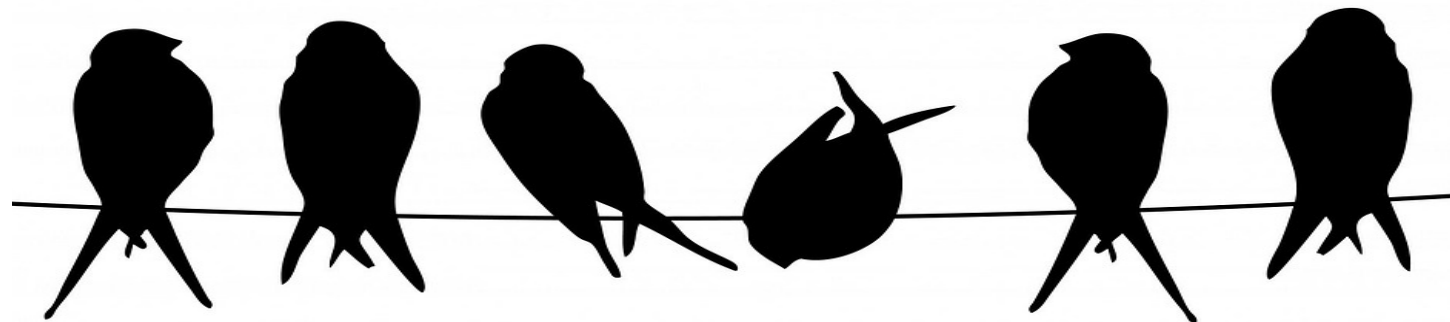
And one more thing: None of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to have done numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get the degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to, that help which has been so beneficial to us, to our less fortunate brothers. Thank you very much."

The following paragraph from an article which can be found on page 273 of Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers which was submitted into the 1944 Grapevine by Dr. Bob on the subject of tolerance appears timeless:

"Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of ways: in kindness and consideration towards the man and woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path: in the understanding of those who perhaps have been less fortunate in educational advantages: and in sympathy towards those whose religious ideas may seem to be at great variance with our own."

In closing, this submission is brief and not unlike the quote earlier by Dr. Bob and his wife Anne, "if you speak more than 15 minutes, you're going to repeat yourself."

- Anonymous



- to a Conference Committee and requested additional information regarding background material process be provided to the next Conference.
- Requested trustees' Committee on the GSC develop a process for approval of other guests to be presented 1 week prior to GSC for approval.
- Considered the 1986 Advisory Action and asked that it be re-implemented.
- Noting that a presentation on Equitable Workload Distribution was scheduled, the Committee requested a plan or progress report be brought to the 70th GSC.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- Recommend the trustees' Committee on PI develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. Pamphlets. PASSED
- Recommend the video PSA "My World" be discontinued. PASSED
- Recommend, in keeping with the 2011 Advisory Action, that full-face actors (not A.A. members) be shown as long as the character is not portrayed as a "potential A.A. member" or "A.A. member". PASSED
- Recommend two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an "actor portrayal" disclaimer on screen. PASSED
- Recommend adding text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity". PASSED
- Recommend update to language in the flyer "A.A. at a Glance." PASSED
- Recommend a progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 GSC. PASSED
- Recommend current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes. PASSED
- Recommend A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine Inc. apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants. PASSED
- Recommend that A.A. World Services, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc. apply for Google AdWords Grants. PASSED
- Recommend that A.A. World Services, Inc. implement AdWords for providing information to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 GSC. PASSED
- Additional Consideration: Update A.A. pamphlet covers to prominently display the G.S.O and Grapevine website addresses.

**REPORT AND CHARTER**

- Reviewed the report from Publishing regarding suggestions to update The A.A. Service Manual, 2020-2022 Edition and forwarded comments to the Publishing Department
- Considered the AA. Directories in light of the new ERP system implementation and requested the General Service Office explore alternative methods of accessing and distributing the information.
- Agreed to new privacy policy that personal addresses not be included in the final Conference Report for Area Delegates, Trustees and Non-trustee Directors.

**TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS/ACCESSIBILITIES**

- Recommend inclusion of deaf member's story in the pamphlet "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers." PASSED
- Recommend the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic - Never Too Late" be updated. PASSED
- Recommend the development of anonymity protected audio interviews of military professionals as an online resource. PASSED
- Additional Consideration: Considered revising the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap Between Treatment and A.A. and requested a review of all treatment and correction literature with consideration of what might be combined.
- Additional Consideration: Review of draft Remote Communities Kit and suggested a guideline or workbook be developed for inclusion.

**TRUSTEES**

- Recommend the approval of the slate of trustees and officers for GSB, Grapevine Board, A.A.W.S., Inc. Board and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Board. PASSED
- Reviewed draft procedures for a partial or complete reorganization of the GSB, the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board. Suggestions were provided and a request was made to bring a revised plan to the 2020 GSB.

**ARCHIVES**

- Recommend adding of 1940's home movie of co-founders and their wives to the video "Markings on the Journey" at an estimated cost of \$5,000. PASSED
- Additional Consideration: Approved service material "Archives Checklist: A quick guide for local A.A. Archivist" and suggested the use of

gender specific language be avoided in future printings of the Archives Workbook.

#### INT'L CONVENTIONS / REGIONAL FORUMS

- Recommend taking an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony at the 2020 International Convention. PASSED
- Recommend an anonymity-protected internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony. PASSED
- Recommend that anonymity protected video footage of highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for archival use.
- Additional Consideration: Discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums and provided a list of ideas

#### AAWS / GSO Reports

- 2018 Contributions of \$8.4 Million almost equal to 2018 Cost of Services-\$11.4 Million, up 11.8%, shortfall: \$3.0 Million. Literature sales up \$1.8%, covering shortfall. Reserve Fund is at 9.7 months.
- Cost of services/member: \$8.06 (\$2.15 shortfall compared to expenses), Cost of service/group: \$166.87/ (44.42 shortfall compared to expenses).
- Grapevine subscriptions in all formats continue to decline by 4%, but GV ended the year negative, primarily due to severance and legal fees, at (\$149,000) with cost of La Viña \$148,467, vs \$126,000 in 2017.
- In 2018 at GSO: 1,641 new groups US / Canada, 91
- employees daily respond to emails and answer phone calls. Archives receives over 1,600 requests and added 365 items to collection. In addition to books, pamphlets & audio materials shipped daily, over 82,229 contributions processed, 902,000 Big Books sold, 55,330 eBooks sold. Website: received over 15million visits, up 14% from 2017.

#### FLOOR ACTIONS

- 7 Floor Actions resulted in the following:
  - #1 – A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book be developed. RECOMMIT
  - #2 - The Language of the Heart in Spanish as an audio book be prioritized by AA Grapevine, Inc. FAILED
  - #3 - The pamphlet “The ‘God’ Word” be added as one of the pamphlets used in Corrections service. DECLINED TO CONSIDER

#4 - The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Black and African- American Alcoholic’ be updated. RECOMMIT

#5 – In order to illustrate the importance of the committee recommendations that achieve simple majority but not substantial unanimity, that such “simple majority suggestions” be prominently included in the Conference Final Report. FAILED

#6 - The “Alcoholism at Large” section be removed from the AA Grapevine. DECLINED TO CONSIDER

#7 – “A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials” be recommitted to the trustees’ Literature Committee. PASSED



# In Honor of Dr. Bob

-Anonymous

After being invited to contribute an article for the Wagon Wheel, I decided to submit this writing centered on our co-founder of AA, Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith.

Dr. Bob struggled with the problems associated with alcohol for many decades. His story in the A.A. Big Book on page 175 shares of his development of “two distinct phobias. One was the fear of not sleeping, and the other was the fear of running out of liquor.”

His life began to change on the day before Mother’s Day in 1935 when he met with Bill Wilson. Before their meeting he “extracted a promise from his wife that we would not stay over fifteen minutes” (Big Book page 175). Regardless of this vow, they entered the home at 5:00 pm and left at 11:15 pm.

During that evening Dr. Bob gained an understanding of the disease of alcoholism. He writes on page 180 in the Big Book “of far more importance was the fact that he (Bill) was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regards to alcoholism from actual experience. In other words, he talked my language.”

Dr. Bob ceased drinking alcohol in June 1935. Later in the day of his last drink, Dr. Bob was “making restitution to friends and acquaintances in Akron” (page 75 Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers).

The experience of sobriety from alcohol was not without suffering for Dr. Bob. It took two and one-half years for his cravings to drink alcohol to be lifted. Over the course of his sobriety and until his death on November 16, 1950, as included on page 171 of the A.A. Big Book, “he carried the message to over 5,000 alcoholic men and women, and to all these he gave his medical services without thought of charge.”

It is written that Dr. Bob was noted for “speaking very briefly.” He and his wife “Anne were often quoted to have said, If you speak more than 15 minutes, you’re going to repeat yourself,” or “No souls are saved after 15 minutes.” (Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers page 224).

Dr. Bob’s farewell speech at the first AA Convention in Cleveland, Ohio on July 30, 1950 includes the subject of simplicity of the program and “two of three things that flashed in my mind which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis.”

“My good friends in A.A. and of A.A.... I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing I did a number of years ago played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite

cont’d