

PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) Report
March 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2013 -- Boise, Idaho

Friday, March 1, 2013

Panel 1: Pacific Region Delegates

1. Each Delegate introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their Area.

Panel 2: Service is the Secret

1. What is PRAASA
2. How do we select our trusted servants?
 - Learn to be "others-centered" versus self-centered
 - Goal is to perfect and enlarge our spiritual life
 - Concept 9 – Leadership essay
 - **Big Book tells us we have reached a point of neutrality (re: decision making)**
3. Bleeding deacon versus elder statesmen (Tradition 2)
 - People who rotate out show us how it is done "right"
 - Serve versus command; suggest versus tell
 - Ultimate authority comes from the group; better than any one individual
 - **DCMs do not have opinions; DCMs do not voice opinions**
4. How do we grow leadership in a new generation of AAs?
 - Attraction of good leadership
 - Show them
 - Excitement
 - Challenges grow confidence, teach you to care
 - **Trust those we lead**
5. Balance in service
 - Do not say you are available if you are not available and have the energy
 - Talk to those in position before you
 - Correct proportion of service throughout sobriety; sponsorship, coffee, General Service
 - When your turn is up, it is someone else's turn

Panel 3: Why it Works

1. Tradition 1, Our common welfare
 - Sacrifice, let God speak through me
 - Pause
 - Humility, real knowing of who we are and what we can be and a sincere attempt to be that
2. Tradition 2, Semantics, does language matter?
 - **God is the ultimate authority**
 - How to find out what God's authority is, group conscious
 - Business meetings, God's authority heard or only advisory
3. Tradition 3, Is there really only one requirement for membership?
 - You are an AA member as long as you say you so
 - 911 as a resource, halls are buildings and have their own rules
 - **AA members that are not attending our meeting are still AA members**
 - Inclusive, never exclusive
 - Who would you select to be the representatives off AA?
4. Tradition 12, Anonymity, our spiritual foundation
 - Keeps AA safe
 - Promise of privacy for the new member
 - Humility, principles not personal selves
 - Hand shake after a heated discussions shows principles over personalities
5. Rituals, rigidity, rules
 - "A members eye view of AA" pamphlet
 - Release death grip on the 3 R's
 - Reading, prayers, practices let someone know what to expect, feel at home

AA is not rigid, but we do have rigid people, we need them to teach us love, tolerance,
HOW

Panel 4: This We Owe to AA's Future

1. E-books and outside vendors
 - 6th Tradition, affiliation? No.
 - Cooperation, not endorsement
 - **We want AA to be where alcoholics are looking**
2. Commemorative 75th anniversary Big Book?
 - \$2.41 cost of 75th anniversary book to make
3. Technology Transforms CPC
 - Online forums
 - Pre-made information CDs
 - Website links, drive traffic to aa.org
4. Policy/Admissions Combines with Agenda
 - Agenda – themes for Conference, workshop ideas, Conference agenda, evaluation survey
 - Policy/Admissions – policy at Conference, all requests for admission to Conference (visitors, Alt. Delegates, boards from different countries)
5. The General Service Board "Plan"
 - Corporate structure would be the same, two editors, one director
 - "Interlocking directorate"

Roundtables: DCM/DCMC

1. District Structure and Guidelines
 - Votes, officer duties, standing committees within the District
2. Dark meeting outreach
 - "Newcomer" GSR packet
 - Visit dark groups, use Alt. DCM
 - Use registrar to find a contact person, find out if they want a GSR
 - **Food**
3. GSR participation with the Conference Agenda Items
 - Sharing sessions/workshops
 - Multiple presentations to groups
4. Bleeding deacons?
 - DCM is only a facilitator
 - Love and kindness
5. Workshop formats/ideas
 - 4 events a year
 - "Traditions play", "Emotional sobriety", "Funshop", District inventories, writers workshops (Grapevine), multimedia "open house", raffle off Grapevine subscriptions, prizes, food
 - **Alano Club Secretaries Workshop**
6. DCM/GSR rotation
 - Sharing of experience
 - Service sponsorship
7. General Service Announcements versus Intergroup
 - Unity Day events with H&I, Intergroup and General Service
 - Separate flyers
 - Participation and clarification
8. Dark group contributions
 - Report to dark groups, give information, Conference Agenda Items, etc.
 - Do GSRs know how their group donates money (pie chart)?
 - **Share about General Service at recovery meetings**
9. Redistricting
 - Area level
 - Conference calls to stay in touch without travel (Alaska)

Saturday, March 2nd, 2013

Panel 5: The Hand of AA, Always to Be There

1. Making meetings accessible for all:
 - Easy to read literature for those with limited skills
 - **Transgender bathrooms/family bathrooms**
2. Corrections: getting members excited about going to the big house
 - Bill went to San Quintin in 1948
3. Grapevine/La Vina
 - Not in color, every two months, 68 pages
 - 1995 first La Vina, 5 year trial, decided in 2001 to maintain the magazine

Panel 6: Our 3rd Legacy

1. Concept II, Representation in the General Service Conference
 - Provide background to all GSRs
 - More knowledgeable home group
2. Concept III, Right of Decision
 - **Regarding the Index Conference Item, what is important to you may not be important to someone else; stories?**
 - Not looking for a vote but instead a sense of the meeting
3. Concept IV, Right of Participation
 - **No lesser members**
4. Concept IX, Leadership
 - Up with current times
 - "Our doubts makes us traitors."

Panel 7: General Service Inventory

1. Area Inventory
 - Are we still helping the still suffering AA?
 - Are we spending money prudently?
 - **Multi-rotational inventory panel**
2. How do we communicate the purpose of the Conference to the fellowship?
 - Make information available to all
3. Concept X, How well is authority of the Conference defined?
 - Charter is a contract between AA groups and the Conference
4. Concept XII, How well does the Conference fulfill the General Warranties?
 - Act in spirit of mutual love, mutual trust, no nasty actions
 - Protect the minority

Trustee's Report

Service opportunities are a chance to work on character defects.
AASW, 1.7 million units, \$12 million, \$611,000 loss;
David N, new director
Oral translation of Big Book to Navajo (audio)
75th Anniversary 1st Edition
International Convention for 2025 options:
Denver, Montreal, Vancouver, St. Louis, Minneapolis
Spiritual Awakenings/Experience pamphlet
13 stories, broad enough?
****Emphasize 7th Tradition importance at every AA venue**
Spiritual versus material
We feel we need "value" (pages of the Big Book were thick so people felt they got more value)
If people understand the need, they will respond, so help them understand
Grapevine, 83,000 circulation
AAWS/GV plan, violates Concepts?

Interlocking Directorate: more common decision making, more shared understanding of each corporate board

PRAASA Business Meeting (2 sessions, afternoon and late night)

Roundtables: Treasurers

Banquet/Speaker Meeting

Sunday, March 3rd, 2013

What's On Your Mind?

Past Trustees Panel

****I learned that AA was bigger than I thought it was and that I could be a part of it**

****Trust our trusted servants; let them make mistakes and let the process repair them**

Rules, rigidity, ritual, rushing

Some for, some against the plan to restructure AAWS and the Grapevine (in violation of Concept IV)

Ask-it Basket/"Stump the Delegate"

Close