

AREA 8, DISTRICT 11

MAY, 2014 NEWSLETTER



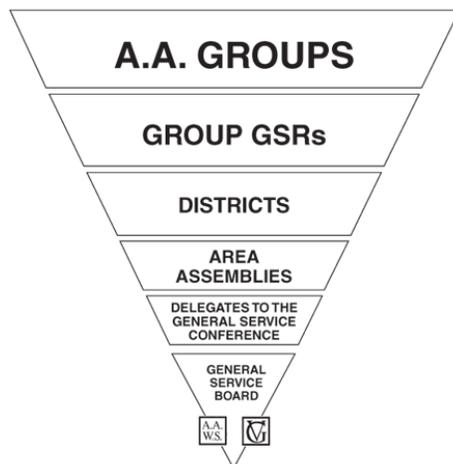
OVER THE BRIDGE GROUP STEPS AND TRADITIONS WORKSHOP, ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP!

The District 11 and Over the Bridge co-sponsored workshop in April was a “smashing success” according to those in attendance. Everyone seemed to have had a great time! We had 41 attendees!

The speakers (both very knowledgeable and entertaining!) were well received, as were the continental breakfast and the raffles! (Which included a 75th Anniversary Big Book, amongst a few other AA books/publications) The questions asked were insightful and well thought out. I have to believe that all who attended are a little bit more knowledgeable in terms of the 12 steps and 12 traditions for having been a part of this. Thank you District 11 for funding this remarkable event! –**John C. GSR Over the Bridge**

BRINGING DARK MEETINGS TO LIGHT – SHAWN T

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE
(U.S. and Canada)



A General Service Representative (G.S.R.) carries the voice of his or her A.A. group’s conscience to the A.A. General Service Conference. Through the elected District Committee Member (D.C.M.) and the Area 8 Delegate, the G.S.R. will become the two-way link between the group and the world of A.A. as a whole. As such, he or she and fellow G.S.R.s all over the world have become the key to the unity of A.A. One of the purposes of District 11 is to keep the lines of communication open between the GSO and all meetings within District 11. This last year our District has been committed to visiting “Dark” meetings to share the message of GSR service that will ensure the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. So don’t be surprised when you see a visitor to your group from our own district bringing you a message of Unity.

Shawn T
GSR, The Great Fact Group
Registrar, D11

THE ASSEMBLY IN BRAWLEY

Over the years, my sponsor and I play a game. She tells me that I need more service and I volunteer for the next available opportunity to serve, whether I like it or not. As a result, my service history has lead me to some unlikely yet ALWAYS program enhancing opportunities.

Needless to say, I would have never imagined myself as my group’s GSR and taking the long drive to Brawley to attend a Pre-conference Assembly. The drive itself was surprisingly beautiful, I’ve lived in San Diego County for a couple of decades and I never knew there was such a distinctive and gorgeous landscape just hours from my home. The drive itself was used by my Higher Power, He reminded me that there are wondrous things a few miles and a little bit of willingness away.

The Pre-conference itself was informative. The members of AA gave our area delegate the feedback and support he needed to represent District 8 well at the General Service Conference in New York. More and more I understand how these assemblies help keep the doors of AA open for every alcoholic who needs them. –**Janedra S. GSR Lake Murray Women’s**

A SHORT NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR—

I am so blessed to be sitting here at this computer screen, filling in the empty spaces of this newsletter with the help of some trusted servants around our district. I appreciate your submissions and will continue to print them as long as the mailbox is full.

If you have any article suggestions, or you would like to just be added to the distribution list please send an email to today1996@yahoo.com.

Wendi H

STEP, TRADITION, AND CONCEPT OF THE MONTH

STEP 5: *Admitted to God, to ourselves and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*

“We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past. Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe.”

¹ *The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*
Page 75

TRADITION 5: *Each group has but one primary purpose to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

“Every newcomer learns (some of us the hard way) that the business of staying sober must have top priority. If we fail at that, we can’t succeed at anything else. The Fifth tradition tells us that groups should remember *their* one primary purpose. Often, unthinking enthusiasm puts a group off the main track. One for instance, offered an “expanded AA program” that included helping newcomers to find jobs. Tradition five doesn’t frown on the individual AA who tells another about a good opening. But when the group turns itself into an employment agency, newcomers may get confused about *their* primary purpose. AA’s function is to help them get sober—then they can find work for themselves.”

² *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*

CONCEPT 5: *Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.*

This is A.A.’s “Right of Appeal” in action, and Bill says the same principle should apply to meetings of our area committees, trustee committees and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual duty of presenting its views.

This “Right of Appeal” recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

³ *The Twelve Concepts Illustrated*

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE DISTRICT!

Janedra S. 22 years – April 15th
Carol V. 5 years – May 17th

Please send birthdays to be printed in our newsletter to today1996@yahoo.com

UNITY DAY CELEBRATION –JUNE 7TH 2014 ADMIRAL BAKER PARK

Preparations are underway for the unity day celebration! Planning meetings will be held Saturday May 3rd and 24th from 9 am – 11 am at the San Diego Central Office located at 7075 Mission Gorge Rd. Suite B. San Diego California.

Volunteers are still needed!! Greeters, Coffee Makers, Someone to help organize the Kid’s games, Chili Cook off organizers, Contest Judges for the Big Book Trivia Contest and someone to help organize the potluck set up. Volunteers are also need to cut and serve the birthday cake! -- **Please contact Jane our Alternate Delegate for Information**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DISTRICT

When I was three months sober I was introduced to my first Area Assembly. I found it amazing to see so many different alcoholics in one place trying to make plans and organize things. While I found it quite humorous at the time, I was told this is what keeps the future of AA going. I knew I had to be a part of that. I served as a GSR in my home district and also had the opportunity to serve as Women’s Corrections. Service has been an established foundation of my sobriety. I have been blessed to be able to utilize the skills and talents I discovered getting sober, to help others.

Recently I have been given a new opportunity to be of service as an Alternate DCM for our district. I just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Wendi H.