

November 17-19, 2017 Assembly

GSR Topic Discussion:

- **Safety in AA** -Janelle
 - Feedback:
 - Our primary purpose to help others obtain sobriety and only requirement is to stop drinking.
 - However, the law still applies in the rooms of AA.
 - Report to home group any problem and encourage newcomers to speak up.
 - Some groups have added a safety statement to meeting openings.
 - It was suggested to attach a set of guidelines to the clipboard.
 - Offer workshops on safety.
 - Access the AA website for additional information.
- **Diversity of Shares** (same people sharing being the issue) - Grace
 - Feedback:
 - Sponsors ask sponsees to be quiet for six months and task them with bringing back a topic heard.
 - Chairperson to invite newcomers to speak first or pass.
 - Use a timer.
 - Reminder that we bring the solution and take the pollution to our sponsors.
- **“Bleeding Deacons”** how to handle in a kind way - Tina
 - Feedback:
 - Definition given, “these are the members who seem convinced the group cannot do without them”.
 - Remember even though these folks have a lot of sobriety, they are human and may need support too.
 - Ensure that service positions rotate.
 - Reminder that we bring the solution and take the pollution to our sponsors.
- **Social AA Approach**-(did not catch name of member raising topic.)
 - Feedback:
 - Attraction not promotion.
 - Am I the only “Big Book” people see?
 - Practicing principles in all our affairs.
 - Share outside when relevant-practice prudence-minimize ego.
 - Is FB really the forum to post personal AA success such as birthday coins?

- **Suggestions for better outreach** in large spread out areas-Kevin
 - Feedback:
 - Create a sign-up sheet for homegroup to come together monthly and carpool to a struggling outside group.
 - Using smartphones to connect with others.
 - Pie nights and potlucks.
 - Being mindful that it's not about number of attendees.
- **How to help those who attend AA who are not alcoholic** and stance on bringing outside (other 12 step program) literature into AA meetings? -Terri
 - Feedback:
 - Closed meetings are AA literature only; Open meetings have other 12 step program literature available.
 - Ask the person if they have a desire to stop drinking and if so, take a group conscience to allow sharing.
 - Offer direction on where to go for outside issue 12 step programs.
 - Do we have a practice in place for helping those with outside addictions?
- **Funding** for GSR meetings?
 - Feedback:
 - Some meetings are bare bones funded, some are bare bones plus GSR funding and others fund bare bones, GSR and GSO.
 - We are self-supporting; no \$\$\$ from one's personal budget to be used for GSR or GSO expenses.
 - One group holds a "Take your Sponsor to Dinner" fundraiser to add funds to GSR and GSO. I was unable to get the details on this but can try to connect with "Nate" for more information.

Workshops:

- **Co-Op with Professional Community – Chuck S.**
 - What I came away with:
 - Getting the information out to our professional community on how to help the alcoholic who suffers.
 - Based on cooperation and not affiliation.
 - Providing information to Patient Care Coordinators, Human Resource Departments, Parole and Probation, Schools and Libraries.
 - Inviting professionals to attend an open meeting for better understanding of AA purpose and function.
 - I have brochures on this topic and Chuck's contact information if needed.
 - Available on the GSO website, \$20 kits can be purchased along with an available power point presentation to aid in taking information to community agencies.

- **District Archives-Area 58 Archives Committee**
 - What I came away with:
 - There are group, area, and district reps that collect and organize material to preserve the history of AA.
 - The state Archive Committee is available to set up displays at any state AA function. They will be here at the March 2018 assembly.
 - If anyone has items they wish to donate, the Archives committee can assist in helping them appropriate those items should something happen to them.
 - There has been unfortunate loss due to lack of family directive on where to appropriate historical AA items.

- **Public Information (PI)**
 - What I came away with:
 - This and the Co-Op workshop created a blurred line for me as both have intent to reach schools, health clinics, and libraries.
 - This group does use press and radio which a presenter said is allowed; stating, it is at a *personal level* that we not use press, radio, and film.
 - Other actions are providing Hotel/Motels with AA literature as well as ensuring that libraries have big books and 12x12s.
 - Some groups have formed small committees to provide these services.

Delegate Discussions:

- **Use of phones during meetings?**
 - What I came away with:
 - Allowed unless group elects to specifically state “no phone use” during meetings.
- **Other Addictions in AA?**
 - What I came away with:
 - Love and tolerance is our code. If they know they are not alcoholic, then have a practice in place to direct them to the right 12 step meeting.
- **Hot Global Level Topic-An AA Original Manuscript**
 - What I came away with:
 - Globally discussing need for AA to obtain this manuscript.
 - Arguments against are “lest money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose” and legal cost. Could monies be better spent helping the alcoholic who still suffers rather than obtaining manuscript?

Delegate Rotation:

- **Speeches from retirees**
 - Those rotating out or to other positions gave exit speeches.
- **Newly elected delegates**
 - Those elected to new positions were announced and took their appropriate seat.

New Business:

- **Increase Area Chair budget by \$975.00 annually**
 - Passed
- **Increase Regional travel budget \$3670.00 annually**
 - Passed
- **Motion made to:**
 - Create a pamphlet/booklet (much like one used for prisons) that serves to better orientate individuals in treatment centers and to offer suggestions and distinct direction toward how to maximize success in and after treatment.
 - Motion withdrawn; determined much needs reconsidered and rewritten.

Attached is the Winer 2017 Oregon Area 58 Newsletter, and the 67th General Service Conference Final Report.