

# Saturday Evening

Saturday, July 12, 2014 6:58 PM

## Panel 1

### Keeping Our Rooms Safe - Padee McC Delegate Panel 63 Area 06 North Coastal California

This workshop ran like our PRAASA panels do, questions or topics are decided upon, then we discuss the those questions or topics.

Our topic is "Keeping Our Rooms Safe." Some of you have been to many workshops on safety over the last few years. At a convention recently the moderator attended a panel on the topic and one of the presenters actually wasn't aware of the scope of the problem.

Some may have had experiences ourselves [Note: I actually do.] We are here to raise our awareness of what we are doing or not doing in our rooms.

AA is my life raft. I can't just sit there, I have to be vigilant and keep the oars in the boat, watch out for sharks, etc. There are issues in the rooms right now.

In 2009 the trustees committee talked about this. At the conference there was a direct effort to continue the conversation. It starts in our home group and I hope you have a home group.

There are many ways we can feel safe in a meeting including earthquake safety, fire alarms, tsunamis, and other sorts of things. Then there are some of the folks arriving at meetings. We need to do a better job in our PI, CPC, and Corrections committees in getting the word out about what we are. There are articles in the Grapevine on this issue. Instead of safety we can talk about sponsorship. Every wave on a beach brings something different. Whether it's rudeness reading aloud with the reader, bringing weapons or drugs, financial dealings, there are many different issues beyond sexual assaults.

When these things happen it affects us and we may not be aware of the decisions we make and can often worsen the problems unless we have friends looking out for us.

One person's action in making it safer in our rooms ripples out and is felt in so many ways.

Let's think about our solutions and not just the problems. What have other groups done? What are the rules of the meeting room? What are the state laws that affect us and can be used for our benefit? Can a longtimer take someone outside and talk one on one?

We have to ask ourselves, am I keeping the rooms safe? Have our group take an inventory about this? Is it too dark? Is the parking lot safe?

Suggestions (highlighted ones we will discuss)

1. Posting phone numbers on fliers or sponsor number lists? Protecting anonymity by eliminating these lists
2. Abuse of phone lists
3. Adding wording to current literature on safety issues
4. Knowing when behavior goes beyond what is acceptable? What happens when one or two members. Implied versus actual danger
5. Being prepared in your home group in advance
6. Personal attacks in meetings
7. Here any other people's experiences on doing safety workshops? Who has done them, what you did, what your agenda
8. Solutions for sexual predation - all sexes
9. How do you keep members from acting on their own in keeping folks with a criminal record away?

How do you do workshops - Coastal Interior have done workshop - ask Padee because she has a lot of experience.

Topics we chose:

### How to host workshops?

[See woman wearing black as she can email information on hosting a workshop.]

Madelaine P. did a workshop in the Olympia area it was eye opening for a lot of folks.

Woody put together a workshop last month - see Grapevine from September 2013

Three presenters gave their stories on what happened to them

What a homegroup can do

Working with professionals - how are we perceived (saying folks can't take meds)

Stress good sponsorship

You build it they will come

My challenge is not with newcomers but with people with 20 years plus targeting newcomers

Preparedness is combined with the workshop

What about pejorative language in meetings

People are dying not because they don't know about AA but because what they've seen of us keeps them away

### Personal attacks including sexual predation

It's everyone's responsibility

There was a lot of discussion about this and seemed to be a little split - some thought it was really an outside issue not to be discussed by the group (though it must be dealt with as we would anywhere else), others said it was very much a group issue.

There wasn't much I could take notes on here other than to note it was lively.

Everyone has the right to defend themselves from physical or verbal abuse. We must be responsible for everyone else. CYA.

We have an individual responsibility to protect people, especially newcomers

### Communication to our conference the need for adding to our literature things on safety

We didn't make it to this topic.

Note: See Keeping AA Safe Grapevine issue for more information.

Safety and Respect start in the Home group

### Panel 2

#### Grapevine: The Grapevine Rep and More - Bringing our Message of Hope to Alcoholics - Ami B. AA Grapevine Inc. Executive Editor/Publisher

Topics given by group

1. How do we get the message out so that folks know how important the GV is?
2. How do we know anything about who to contact GV reps
3. How can we at the area level support GV reps at the area level
4. What does a GV rep do, how can we get one?
5. How do we present the GV to folks who have been around a while?
6. How to support GV in tiny areas without a GV rep
7. How to get a story published? A GV rep can tell you!
8. How to generate involvement with GV

Categories:

1. Encouraging interest and readership & subscriptions (5/6/7)
  - a. Distribute to GV reps the GV news and tell them where to get it for themselves - here are

- some interesting things about GV
- b. Doing things at quarterly that are fun like Grapevine Jeopardy

Area chairs get a monthly newsletter??? I don't think I do.

Using GV collections at meetings - in every issue there is a suggested meeting topic

How to get story printed in the GV?

The first thing to do is send it in - jokes are easy to into the GV, just send them  
Get everyone with an article in the GV to sign up to put a face with story

Do writer's workshops for this.

To write about your service experience is a great idea...

Put up a poster of a cartoon and have a caption contest.

You can subscribe right in the magazine but if you have old magazine please rip out the subscription card especially if it goes to Florida as we don't use that company anymore

GVR Duties

How do you become one? What do you do?

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/gvr>

Area Level Support for Chair/Rep

If the Area doesn't know who the GVRS are the chair can contact GV and they can get that information once they know you really are the chair.

Once again, there was just too much stuff to copy down - it was a great session though and we will be included in the forum notes which will be sent to us once they are compiled.

Delegates should become a GVR once they've cycled out - this was a conference advisory action. We had at least one who did.