

Saturday Morning

Saturday, July 12, 2014 8:59 AM

09:00-noon Saturday Morning Session

Chairperson: Joel C.

09:00-10:00 am Presentations

The Grapevine Director

Albin Z. A.A. Grapevine Inc., Grapevine Board Director

Saw his first Grapevine after his first anniversary. Joined editorial advisory board 8 years ago when Grapevine updated from B&W to color, etc.

There are 8 Grapevine board directors. They also serve on two or more trustee committees. Albin then gave an overview of the corporate structure under which they operate.

History - the original Grapevine newsletter came out in 1944 and became a magazine letter

What is the Grapevine/La Viña worth to the Fellowship. It is up to us to decide.

Albin said he can't sell any subscriptions here but he can tell you the worth of a soul and how this magazine has affected people. We can't force subscriptions on anyone but we can teach people the value of Grapevine, the history of Grapevine. What do we do to support Grapevine?

Financial position of La Viña is improving though its still in the red.

The A.A. Grapevine

Amy B. A.A. Grapevine Inc. Executive Editor/Publisher

Started in New York to connect the groups. Bill felt the newsletter would help groups connect and be venue for sharing differing views rather than just AA policy.

Then questions were given and pins handed out for correct answers

Started 1944

Gave us Serenity Prayer, Preamble and Slogans, 12 Step Traditions and more

The Board's Plan

- Be Lean - Financial discipline
- Evolve - eBooks, audio projects and more to reach the most readers
- Grow - to grow in line with our Fellowship - fulfill our mission and primary purpose with print and expanded digital editions

How can you participate in GV's 70th Anniversary

- Share your experience, strength, and hope
- Write story about what Grapevine means to you
- Send a picture of your homegroup's meeting place
- Submit cartoons or jokes

Stay connected by email

Find AA events

Share your love - become a Grapevine or La Viña Rep

What are GVRS and RLVS - Grapevine and La Viña Representatives and support GV/LV at the group level.

There are 1019 GV/LVs in the Pacific Region that are known to the office.

First issue went to 165 subscribers - today they are not limited to the subscriber. How many readers per copy: 2.5 readers per copy - this known as the pass-along reach. 75,009 subscribers - 187,522 readers

If we think is something missing from the GV/LV it is up to write it and submit it.

GV/LV Produces

- Print magazine
- Digital magazine
- Audio Magazine/CDS
- Books/ebooks
- Grapevine daily quote
- Grapevine story archive
- Audio project
- Website
- Wall calendar
- Pocket planner

Go checkout <http://aagrapevine.org>

The print publication will continue as long as they wanted and supported

The print publication has room for about 20 stories, there is a lot more room on the web.

There are 20 current GV/LV ebooks and soon 22.

No pics of people, no poems or songs, no tributes to people. We do not allow advertising. We do not take contributions. GV/LV is funded solely from subscriptions and product sales.

GV is solvent and was able to make \$200,000 contribution to the reserve fund.

La Viña

Paz P. A.A. Grapevine Inc. Grapevine Board Director - first from a Spanish language home group - non-Trustee director on the board

From Arizona so Pacific Region is home!

La Viña is produced as a service to the Fellowship. LV is an expressed need in the growing Spanish community. Hispanics are the fastest growing group in AA (5% of our Fellowship). The Pacific Region is one of the most populated with Hispanic AAs

1991 - One translated story in the GV

Now, 10,430 circulation, 26,000 pass-along

Has:

- Print
- Audio
- Books/eBooks
- CDS/MP3S
- Wall Calendar/Pocket Planner
- LV Weekly Quote
- <http://aagrapevine.org/español>

LV is having trouble reaching self-support. It increased by 18% when it expanded size, etc. However subscriptions would need to at least double to achieve self-support.

- Mexico's - Plenitud
- Columbia's AA El Mensaje
- Guatemala's Compartimiento
- Spain's Akron
- US/Canada's La . There Viña

You can reach La Viña on your smarphone!

La Viña will be 18 years old in two weeks and there will be a celebration in Las Vegas. There will be events in New York and Florida. If you can't make it, celebrate by subscribing.

10:00-10:15 am - BREAK

10:15-11:15 am - General Sharing/Ask-it-Basket

1. Q: Why don't we do concept articles in the GV? If you've written one you'll hear from us when its accepted.
2. C: encouraged people to submit articles
3. C: EURYPAA - coming up soon - we have services and meetings available here in the US, there are places in the world that don't have them to the level we do. EURYPAA will be held in Prague this year.
4. C: encouraged GV writing workshops - folks who have been published help folks who haven't. Great rejection letters.
5. Q: Why did the line about electronic meetings being mostly the same as a meeting down the block get taking out of part of the BB (jacket?). It came from the conference where it was not that that eye to eye is not the same as modem to modem.
6. Q: What is the process for language changes/translations in service pieces? Suggestion that changes be made to the language about no registration fee for Forums but in fact it comes out of our 7th tradition and the language should reflect that.
7. C/Q?: La Viña was decided to be treated as a service piece but talks of deficits are discussed yet Box 459 is a service piece and no one discusses a deficit there. Are we singling La Viña out? Carried back to board as feedback.
8. Q: Discussing the deficit for La Viña, is there anything that the predominantly English speaking groups can do to encourage sales? Yes there is. A grassroots effort was started somewhere and you can sponsor a subscription to La Viña (actually in any area). GV/LV cannot be the go-between but local committees can be involved and get them to folks who need them.
9. Ask-it-Basket: Can an AA group give a tip to a church employee who is not an AA member? Answer from current delegate: if we want to do something special we have a separate basket, non-7th tradition funding, to take care of it.
10. Q: La Viña - when will the La Viña website be completely in Spanish? There will be an Hispanic members issue (Aug) in the GV which will be from the Hispanic community, translated for written in English. We are doing as much as we can, but given the shortfall we have it's not possible to do it all quickly. It is being worked on.
11. Q: Will there be English translation for the Spanish workshop on Sponsorship? It hadnt been planned on, but the translators just volunteered!
12. Q: Local forums - strong interest in a local forum on Native Americans and finding out. Could you tell us more about local forums and how GSO helps and is this the best way to address the issue? There is a packet of material that can be sent out on how to do a local forum. There is information to be filled out. It will go to the conference and generally is

approved a year out, the 2015 conference will approve 2016 and beyond. Two members of the board will come out if it happens.

13. C: Thanks for the experience. "Back in the old days we used to have Grapevine meetings." We've started on at one of our lunchtime meetings - attendance is going up. Give it a try!
14. Ask-it-Basket: In the GV cover contest (online) the prize is a complete set of GV books. The prize will be awarded to 7 people who have chosen the winning cover.
15. Q: Grey pages in the GV, is it appropriate content? (These are the alcoholism informational pages - we've discussed this in Hawaii several times.) A: It has gone back and forth three times and gone to conference. It really is the will of the readership and Fellowship to decide. Albin's opinion is that it was important for him to understand that alcoholism is an illness and the information helped solidify this for him. The board is waiting to hear from the Fellowship/Readership and currently it is being left alone.
16. C: In favor of La Viña and any translation, Spanish project, etc. Proposal to sponsor LV subscription.
17. C: Also in favor getting La Viña subscriptions
18. Q: Do we have figures on how many subscriptions of LV (or GV) go to prison populations now that we have the "perfect" binding - no staples. We do not maintain subscription numbers by type - that is, incarcerated/non-incarcerated, etc. We could pull institutional subscriptions (hospitals,etc). So no, we don't track how many of our members are at large.
19. Q: What is the most loving way to encourage a GV rep to fully participate in their service commitment? Paz heard someone start telling a story out of the GV but didn't finish it. When she asked how the story ended he said, "you'll have to subscribe." Sharing one on one works.
20. A: In AA you are in AA if you say you are. Asked non-Alcoholic trustee if he considers himself an alcoholic. He's never been invited to share at a meeting either.
21. Q: What is the additional money for the reprint BB being used for as it in excess of \$1M, what is the purpose of these funds? Class A trustee asked us to wait until his presentation which will talk about price increase and BB excess funds question.
22. Q: What is the status of using full faces of actors in videos since there was an action saying no more full face videos but are we retiring the old ones which do show full faces? Living by spiritual principles is mostly living a life of good manners. The videos are reviewed on an annual basis (as asked by the GSC). They check with PSA professionals, check the video for being dated, check production quality (HD is becoming standard). Each subcommittee has the right of decision (trustees PI committee). This concern will be brought back to the committee and perhaps there was a misinterpretation of the action.
23. Corny joke, not repeated.
24. Q: The La Viña anniversary price for subscription seems to be cheaper than the regular so folks often drop subs and then sign up for a new one at the anniversary. Would it be possible for the offer to be renewal? A: It's up to the region and they could do it pretty much anyway they want, its not really a GV issue.
25. Q: Is there a reason we don't see more of the 12 concepts in our AA literature? These are usually done by conference actions.

11:15-12:00 pm - Delegates Presentations: Gus P. Panel 64, Area 58 Oregon Moderator

AA Groups and the GSO Spiritual Connection: Concept One - Kathi F. Panel 64, Area 03 Arizona

What does GSO do to carry the message that groups cannot:

1. Maintains the archives

2. Translations
3. PSAS and other videos
4. Answer letters, emails and others
5. Correspond with the incarcerated
6. Host conference each year
7. More

That was just a drop in the bucket. Where is the spiritual connection? Concept One says: Final responsibility and the ultimate authority for **AA** world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship

How do we maintain our authority and work with GSO. Our groups must interface and communicate with GSO. Let them know what is going on. Our 7th Tradition is part of our spiritual connection to GSO. Collectively our groups can do things that individual groups cannot.

Get your group hooked up with GSO

Service Sponsorship - Kelli M. Panel 64, Area 07 Northern Interior California

Perhaps the least studied legacy is service and communication of this legacy has a lot to do with service sponsorship. Our recovery sponsors urge us into service but many don't have experience in this area. The sponsorship pamphlet does talk about this and talks about the qualifications for a service sponsorship. Leading by example is at the heart of all this.

The service sponsor should keep in mind that not all folks have the same interest or skill and may not wish to into certain levels. The SS should assist in matching members to tasks.

Principles before personalities doesnt say Principles without Personalities.

Passing on our mistakes is just as important as anything else.

Are you sharing the concepts and service issues with your sponsees?

Service is anything that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer. The sum total is our 3rd legacy.

Today's Twelfth Step Call - Dolores E. Panel 64 Area 92 Washington

The topic isn't on the agenda. Instead it is "wet drunks attending AA meetings." Where else should they go? There have been problems in groups with wet drunks, but let's remember we can't deny AA to anyone. The challenges come with the wet drunk is disruptive?

Perhaps your group will wish to discuss this so that everyone knows how it work.

If the drunk is quiet - no action is necessary beyond getting them some coffee and a schedule.

IF not they can be asked to quiet down and if they won't they may be asked to step outside for that day,, but not forever.

Shared a story about a wet drunk she'd met and what the outcome was...2 years sober last time she was seen. Would she have come back to AA if she hadn't been treated with compassion?

Concept Two: Who's Doing the Work - Dean B. Panel 64 Area 08 San Diego/Imperial California

"When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society."

Who is doing the work? In his experience many groups are not aware of service opportunities right around the corner. Concept 2 speaks to delegated authority.

Early on delegation was Bill asking a trusted friend for help. Later on it might be Dr. Bob asking Bill for help in reaching out from NYC instead of from Ohio which was more difficult.

The way the conference works is that decisions are made at conference and things are enabled, but really the work is done at the local level. For instance, the members of the conference don't fly to wherever.

Who else will do the work if we don't? Does our service committee actually hinder by trying to do the work instead of guiding the work? Interesting point. Are we clearly defining the scope and purpose of our service committees? Are we making it hard for people to serve on committees by travel or other issues? Would cooperation with an intergroup be more effective?

Anonymity at the Public Level - Cesar Flores Panel 64 - Area 09 Mid-Southern California

Breaking anonymity, OMG? There seems to be a natural understanding these days about anonymity at the public level. Arguably we have three traditions talking about this. Still there are members who wish to broadcast their sobriety.

There are many examples of folks breaking anonymity. We are working towards a solution. The PI committee at the conference the committee suggests that delegates offer workshops, etc. to address the issue. The committee also asked that this be stressed at the International Convention.

Are you guarding your anonymity?

Have We Forgotten It's a Fatal Disease? - Astri T. Panel 63, Area 72 Western Washington

Sometimes I wonder if we've lost sight of why we are here and that this is a fatal disease. There was a phone at our hall that rang for a number of reasons, sometimes for a 12 step call. We jumped at the opportunity. Fremont was known at the ER of AA.

Fewer members are arriving at meetings after treatment and they are already cleaned up. At some point I heard treatment jargon entering AA. New members don't have time to do 12 step calls they are too busy.

There are still 75000 deaths a year related to alcohol. We wait 2-3 weeks to get into treatment but AA isn't there where they can be found while they wait. Maybe if we can go in and help we can save folks and by having them there at meetings perhaps we will all remember this is fatal illness.