

Sunday Morning

Saturday, July 12, 2014 11:12 PM

09:00-Noon Sunday Morning Session

Chairperson: Joel C..

09:00-10:00 am General Sharing/Ask-it-Basket

1. C: AA Technology Workshop August 8-10 NAATW.ORG in St. Louis - tech and AA and carrying the message
2. C: Thanks
3. C: Thanks
4. Q: Madelaine P. - Asked who the staff member in blue is...It's Ivy, the hardest working person in the room! She's been working very hard keeping everything working up on the stage.
5. Q: What's the difference between listed and registered groups? Nothing. We list groups, we don't register them. Registration implies some authorization so we don't do that.
6. C: Correspondence workshop last night was great - please ask men to write to men in institutions
7. Ask-it-Basket: Tell us about Russian GSO. A: What has happened in Russia has happened elsewhere but they have two GSOS after a split and this leads to issues with licensing issues for publishing our literature. It is a challenge (not a difficulty). We are looking at our literature policy. Currently we are licensing both GSOS temporarily while encouraging unity.
8. Q: Is PRAASA considered part of General Service? PRAASA is the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly - it's not formally part of GSO but it is put on by people within the service structure to encourage Unity. It is not a group conscience body in anyway - that is, it does not form an opinion. The next PRAASA will be in Layton, Utah - 30 miles North of Salt Lake. Website will be up by September 10th. You can book rooms now.
9. C: Hi to everyone! Thanks to all!
10. C: Thanks Q: survey request received but group is moribund, what should we do? See FAQ sent delegate...cannot substitute group
11. Ask-it-Basket: Why does our literature reference the 13th step as a predatory practice? Not aware that it was there but put it on conference agenda
12. C: Thanks, At the international I am uncomfortable with Amazing Grace
13. Q: Budget for GSC, can I access a breakdown of conference costs? Yes.
14. C: Thanks My heart in La Viña
15. Ask-it-Basket: Is the 20000 subscription number for break even on La Viña real? Yes.
16. Q: Would Intergroup be an appropriate forum topic? We'll talk
17. C: Thanks for all the support for group that lost money
18. **I spoke about WACYPA and the AHC**
19. Q: Recordings of international convention are offered, they are not for regional forums, why not? This was covered in the orientation. No minutes are taken, this is not a business meeting. The only part that is taped is the past trustees share, and that's only taken to archives. This is meant to be an open and free conversation so it is not recorded
20. C: Thanks. Request: Area 92 sent a floor motion to the conference and failed - it was to add a line to the budget (general fund) for La Viña for profit/loss. We had an explanation about when the transfer of funds happens and why having a line item in the budget. A: La Viña is run as a business and currently that is creating a shortfall of \$142,000. That \$142,000 shortfall is now funded out of the General Fund to cover the shortfall. It is shown as an expense under the line and not part of the expense base of the AAWS. It is inappropriate to put it in the budget as the GSO manager has no managerial control over it. The current reporting method is the way to go, but the committee may come to their own conclusion and present something to the board in August and things may change over time. GV/LV are separate entities legally and moving things may be more difficult than it seems and we may not want to raise questions with the IRS. - then from GV/LV: La Viña is not yet as the GV or board wants it yet, it is designed as the conference action has decided - that is, with spiritual parity of the conference. The conversation is continuing
21. C: (Spanish) Invited us to the 19th Anniversary of La Viña in Las Vegas. In order to eliminate the shortfall we must be united, we don't have race, colors, or creeds, we blood brothers of this disease.
22. C: There is something at PRAASA that does allow for intergroup information to be shared, it would be good at the Forum

23. Ask-it-Basket: Will the powerpoint presentations be available upon request? Yes, ask your delegate ask Ivy.
24. Q: (Spanish) - When will the new book from La Viña be published? La Viña has a list of topics that have been approved for books, but the budget does not allow for it. They will be submitting a line for a book in the 2015 budget.
25. C: Thanks. I am thinking about my first Forum and how it opened my eyes and I've never seen AA in the same way since. Our GSR is here and I've seen the same thing happen to him. My experience, you can't put a price on. Being delegate has been a whole bunch of hard work but what an experience.
26. Ask-it-Basket: How do you deal with bad behavior at a meeting. A: Destructive behavior at meetings see Box 459 - Fall 2010. It's a group conscience issue. Usually what we see based on shared experience is that groups have longtime members talk to the member, it's the behavior they don't want at the meeting not the individual. Most of us know that goofy behavior comes with the territory. It is rare when folks have to be asked not to attend this meeting - we do not kick people out of AA.
27. Q: Asking for support from anyone who has experience in writing a motion regarding safety in AA. Something happened to someone in my area and I want to have some literature that says something and I'd like some help working on that.
28. C: I'm encouraging everyone to visit their local linguistic groups and start to learn the culture - we need to reach out and build unity. -- Also, I know there is a committee looking at La Viña and we need people who understand the cultural differences on that committee.
29. C: Thanks to all especially Class A. Q: When will Many Paths to Spirituality as well as DVD "Markings"? A: Video is available, pamphlet may in September? Thanks to the GSRS and DCMS for coming to the forum.
30. C: (Spanish) Thanks to all

10:00-10:30 am Sharing from First-Time Forum Attendees

1. C: (Spanish) Thanks to district that sent me. Thanks to all. I feel like my first day at a meeting. I'm going remember you all, especially the little bell (ding)
2. C: Thanks
3. C: This was an eye-opening experience. Thanks. Keep singing Amazon Grace.
4. C: Share about what you are doing in your district and area. We now have a four area committee chair sharing session. Thanks and keep sharing.
5. C: Today is my birthday, 14 years in no small part due to the work of the GSO.
6. C: We can't do the same things we did when we were younger, don't let us go out with the four i's , intolerance, indifference, intoxication and ???
7. C: Another birthday - Thanks to all
8. C: Thanks to all.
9. C: Thanks to all - those dollars you put in the basket are actually saving lives
10. Q: Changes in our literature, what changes have been made with respect to problems other than alcohol? At the 64th conference there was a look at changing the removal the bit "the drug alcohol" there are many other references in chapter 22 (living sober) about drugs other than alcohol and there may be more to look at. Proposals get more traction coming through Area rather than from individuals.
11. C: Thanks
12. C: Thanks
13. C: (Spanish) Gracias
14. C: Thanks
15. C: Thanks
16. C: Thanks and Hi
17. C: Thanks - Organizing a little trip to La Viña anniversary in Las Vegas
18. Thanks - I wondered if I'd fit in and the answer yes, I fit in
19. C: My comment is on the Grapevine, my homegroup gives you a copy and if you stay sober for a year we buy you a subscription
20. C: Thanks to my husband who stood up and done service even though he is not an alcoholic. (wife of Class A - wow). I've learned that I have a life that has so many possibilities. My vision was so stilted when I got sober. I thought that the things that would make me whole were all external. What doe make me whole are all inside. Being sober has let me bring those treasures I was born with to fruition. I'm now the person I was when I was born. I want to thank everyone here at this regional meeting. It's been meeting. Everyone on the Pacific Rim, you have some much energy and so much respect for each other.

21. C: Thanks
22. C: Thanks. Class A (non alcoholic) Trustees are like Santa's Elves. Q: Finish answer about disruptive members. Forward to second edition...our society had entered a fearsome.... Our unity doesn't grow despite our problems, it grows because of our problems.
23. C: Thanks
24. C: When I first got here I was sure I knew how to make this Fellowship better for everyone - I attended the Spanish speaking workshop
25. C: Thanks and I'm passing my time to...C: Thanks to everyone for the special needs treatment I'm getting. I still use a cassette version of the Big Book.

10:30-10:45 am Break

10:45-11:30 am Sharing from Past Trustees

It's hard to make notes on all of this as it's not really information so much as personal thoughts, remembrances, and so on.

1. Rod B. - Immediate Past Pacific Region Trustee - I believe the further down the triangle you go the more you need to listen. 30 years ago sitting in the drunk tank I would have imagined this. One of things about the forum is how educational it is. He talked about bringing his mom to the GSC and she asked, "Do you always have this much fun." She also remarked, "I think my son is 2nd in command." The outgoing trustees shared and to have my mom in the audience, I can't tell you how important that was for me. Talked about GV and reminded us of "Dipsomaniacs Incognito."
2. George D. - I'm sort of the oldest, oldest, everything. He was at the first Forum and such. At the first the chair (Name?) answered all the ask-it-basket questions himself. "I hope we don't become static and continue to try new things."
3. Ruth - Trustee 86-90. - Funny story about Stan, before George. When he came to our area he was going to speak about the 12 concepts. He pulled out his book and read them. It takes an hour and a half. "To chant or not to chant, that is the question. The answer is, of course, no." We talked about the impediments to meetings at this forum, mostly physical here, but there are others, like asking people too quickly why are you here. She read Tradition 5 and asked what do we do when newcomers arrive. What message does chanting "principles before personalities" or other things give to someone walking through the door. We must remember that folks coming to us people are not necessarily Christian or even religious. Safety in meetings is important. We have people coming to us that are very, very young and we must protect them. Sexual predation is problem. There is also unfortunate borrowing going on. None of this is AA. We must watch out for the newcomer. Growth in AA is flat and maybe we need to make AA as inviting as it was when I got here. They just said welcome, come in and listen.
4. Madelaine P - 2006-2010 Pac Reg Trustee - She got "shipped off to chemical camp." She was so hopeless that she made a call and asked for help and that's hopeless. We all know how hard it is for us to ask for help. That help was in the form of an employee assistance counselor. I was so bankrupt that I had no relationships. Now I have two families, my blood family who I got back and this other family I didn't know I wanted or needed. When Class A's come in they are assigned a Class B to guide them. When my new Class A didn't show up, I promptly fired his ass. I've been in motels in neighborhoods where I've put my bed on the floor so that bullets wouldn't fly through the window and hit us. When I get here, I have the experience - then she had us meet people we don't know. The whole purpose of general service is so that the feet are on the ground when someone shows up looking for help. To serve is to love, and to love is to serve.
5. Julian R. - I've not had that first drink today through the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. This has been an outstanding forum. Thanks local host committee. I want to talk about 3 subjects that have been on my mind and others this weekend.
 - a. Change - people say that AA is changing. Is it? Our culture is changing. But is AA changing? I went to my first meeting in 1961. It was a speaker meeting. I don't remember what the speaker said other than that he scared me. It was in the basement of a church. There were green coffee cups. There was a lot of smoke in the air. But with the exception of the smoke that meeting could have been held today. The content was the same. Our society is changing. The treatment industry has invaded the recovery field and the way we receive newcomers is different, but it still comes down to one drunk talking to another drunk. Because of that we aren't the only game in town, but we haven't change our successful method. Social media is a big change. Bill reminded us about restraint of tongue and pen. I

- can show my ignorance in just a few seconds. We are making adjustments to that.
- b. Membership - Now we've heard over the weekend that since 2000 our membership hasn't change dramatically, just over 2 million then and 2.1 million now. What does this mean? First of all it's hard to count our membership. No one else knows better than we do, and we aren't too sure. But look at this, there now more than 35,000,000 million Big Books sold. We are also going into other countries. Since 1985 we've had 69 translations. The message is being carried world wide. The makeup and actions of groups has changed. About 42 percent of groups contribute now, and that's what it was then. I think we'd trade the pure dollar amount for simply more participation.
 - c. AA is not a religious organization. And yet some of the news media and some of the courts have contended that we were. AA is spiritual program. It's possible that on this topic we could look a little further and perhaps a conference theme of AA and Spirituality is in order. Thank you.
6. Roberta - NV - I see a group of people who are happy, joyous and free. To the newcomers at their first forum, keep coming back. This is my first voyage as a past trustee and so I do okay I'm going to read my remarks to keep on track. In my entire recovery I have been focused on helping women. Things were said that surprised me. But then I thought I needed to speak about my experience. Are we inclusive enough? We received mail from folks about how groups were breaking traditions. AAWS has no policing authority so there anything we could do. Those who wrote loved AA and wanted the best, those who were violating the traditions loved AA and wanted the best. Now that I've retired I'm participating more locally. I heard people complaining other groups. So I had to go and see what was what and I found AA. If people want to pump their arms, it's their meeting and I don't see how they are harming anything. I will not be quick to judge another meeting or how and individual shares. When I do see something I have an obligation to speak up but I will not do it in a divisive way. I want AA to be here for another 80 years. I don't thing that being rigid or dogmatic is going to achieve that. I believe that the obstacles I have mentioned will be overcome. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible.

11:30-12:00 am Closing Remarks

We're glad you've been here this weekend. The final count is 523
305 were first time attendees 57.3%

Then class A came out and thanked everyone. Thanks to the past trustees, giants of AA. And thanks to Joel, our giant in training. It's true that Madelaine fired me, but I kept coming back.

Spirituality includes service.

I've sensed the serenity that comes not from the absence of problems but from the presence of a higher power.

We are Alcoholics Anonymous, not Alcoholics Invisible.

Today every successful recovery group is modeled on our twelve steps.