

## Oregon Area Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 22, 2009

Portland OR ~ Crowne Plaza

### Note from Area Secretary:

The following information is a written record of the business meeting. I have done my best to capture what actually happened and get it down on paper for you! The discussion notes for the motions do not contain all of the discussion that actually happened, but should convey a good sense of opinions both for and against the various motions. Paraphrasing is sometimes necessary. Any amendments of previous minutes shall appear below.

Thank you ☺

### Call to Order:

Chase B. called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Mike V, District 18, read the Preamble. John D, District 22 read the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts was read by Shane, District 18.

**RECOGNITIONS WERE: Oregon Area Past Delegates:** Darlene G (Panel 52), Eric K (Panel 56). New GSR's, (*Chase asked for the GSR's that were at their 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly to please stand and then told the new GSR's to go to these GSR's for their answers because they are the experts now in AA procedure*) new DCM's, new Alternate DCM's and new Alternate GSR's. *Chase also asked for any interested Home Group members.*

### Roll Call was done by Penny H.

**Absent:** Finance Committee Assistant Chair, Eric V., DCM District 32.

**Proxies:** Billy, Oregon State Correctional Institute (OSCI), Fred, Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), Bill, Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF), Larry, Santiam Correctional Institute (SCI)

**Motion to approve minutes** made – Minutes accepted unanimously

### Area Officer Reports

The following gave reports (copies attached)

Delegate	Dave A ( <i>not timed</i> )
Alternate Delegate	Anne M.
Area Chair	Chase B.
Alternate Chair	Gus P.
Secretary	Penny H.
Registrar	Dave B <i>Report read by Penny H.</i>
Treasurer	Ron W.

Questions for Treasurer: **Buck, GSR District 8** says he has never seen dates like this and wanted Ron to explain why they are in the middle of a quarter: Ron says next to the budget balance the date is September 21, 2009 to November 30, 2009 the September 21<sup>st</sup> date is when this quarter actually started after the last assembly and the November 30<sup>th</sup> is when the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ends. **Steve, DCM District 9** is this a normal amount of money for us to have at this time? Ron says he is happy w/this amount. Our ending balance will be considerably less. But will have that for you at the end of the assembly. Having this excess amount we may be able to send a final check to New York to fully our Delegate who went to New York this last year. Ted wants to know where we can get copies of the Treasurer report? Ron will put extra copies of them at the Registrar table.

Motion to approve Treasurers report by Josh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol. - Treasurer report approved. *Ron thanked everyone for being so nice to him.*

## Area Chair Announcements

### Announcements Related to NEXT Assembly

📖 February 26-28, 2010, Bandon, Oregon ~ Book your rooms

We will be having Delegate Conference Committee Sessions on Saturday afternoon. Our Delegate will make assignment by District to each of those conference committees. You will be notified by email and it will also be on the agenda. From this you will be able to take the background information back to your Districts, and schedule a meeting to discuss and review and prepare a report and email it to our Alternate Delegate Chase B who will then prepare a report for our Delegate, Anne M. so that our Delegate will be fully informed.

### Announcements Related To Assembly Bidding

*Please see Gus and Skip if you need some help or have questions.*

📖 District 16 was awarded the November 2010 Assembly Bid. The dates will be November 19-21, 2010 in Medford at the Red Lion.

📖 Accepting bids for February 2011 & beyond

### P.N.C. 2011 ~ Pacific Northwest Conference

📖 Chase announced that we will be having the 2011 PNC in Bend, to be hosted by District 5. The dates will be June 24-26, 2011 ~ Bend, OR. More details to be announced.

*Pacific Northwest Conference is a Regional Service event that has been happening since 1948. It is the oldest continually serving conference in Alcoholics Anonymous and it pre-dates the 12x12 and it pre-dates the General Service structure itself. Oregon Area is blessed to be one of many areas that continues in this wonderful journey of fellowship and we share that commitment with Area 92 Washington State East and we have informal participation from Western Washington Area 72 and Idaho Area 18 as well as some involvement from Area Alaska and Yukon B.C. even from California.*

### Miscellaneous Announcements

📖 Please see your Area website for suggestions for the 2011 General Service Conference Theme.

(Chase explains that we will be hosting PNC in 2011 and we use the General Service Conference theme as a means in which to provide you with presentation topics for the PNC. The Agenda Committee for the conference has asked the fellowship to submit ideas for the General Service Conference theme for 2011. There is a PDF form on the website so let's get some ideas in about what we want the conference to be focused on in 2011.

📖 New Ask-it Basket on the Oregon Area Website ([www.aa-oregon.org](http://www.aa-oregon.org))

This is for use at the Area Assembly Ask-it Basket session. This gives you an opportunity to submit your questions. They will be forwarded to the Area Chair, he will look over them and they may or may not make it to panel depending on how many questions are submitted. Currently there is no text limit so please be gracious and kind and don't flood them with an essay question. We may put a 200-400 limit on that box to help you stay focused.

📖 Oregon Area Orientation, Eugene, OR – January 30, 2010 9:00 Am – 6:00 PM @ St. Mary's

New DCM's, Alt. DCM's as well as new Area Committee Members and any other interested parties are welcome to attend. This is a GREAT place to learn about your new job. The flyer is available on the Area website and included in these minutes.

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# OLD BUSINESS

## OLD BUSINESS MOTION #1

To: Oregon Area Servicer Assembly  
Date: August 2009  
From: Free To Be Me Group, District 15  
Subject: Publication of a “study” book for worldwide use for Alcoholics Anonymous members

### MOTION

Submit a request to Trustees Literature Committee to publish a study book of Alcoholics Anonymous’ Three Legacies; Recovery, Unity and Service which are the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts all in one comprehensive volume.

### INTENT/PURPOSE:

Request that the Trustees Literature Committee publish a Steps, Traditions, and Concepts study book for Alcoholic Anonymous members. The intent is for this study book to be read and used in the fellowship *worldwide*. There is a need for a study book that includes the Steps, Traditions and Concepts in one comprehensive volume. The book would provide guidelines and suggestions for “practicing” *all* thirty-six principles and/or Legacies, the spiritual principles that unite us in our common bond. This would be Recovery through acceptance of the Steps, Unity through acceptance of the Traditions and Service through the acceptance of the Concepts.

### Each chapter would present a description of the individual Step, Tradition or Concept.

Following this information would be personal stories from our members (suggesting three to four stories, preferably four stories, half page to three-fourths page each in length.) Following the stories would be a series of questions of inventory type for personal and group use in practicing the Step, Tradition or Concept. Traditions and Concepts checklists plus Bill W.’s archival Grapevine articles on the Steps, Traditions and Concepts are suggested as part of the valuable resources for the questions following each Step, Tradition, or Concept. A glossary would also be helpful.

As we study the material presented in this study volume, our hope is that we will benefit from the wisdom of our predecessors in the fellowship, who humbly invite us to continue the study and understanding of *all* thirty-six A.A. principles. Conclusion: a study volume of this type could help us to better serve Alcoholics Anonymous and to enlarge our spiritual growth in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### CURRENT PRACTICE

No such publication or study volume is available to Alcoholics Anonymous members at this time. An example of such a publication can be found in Al-Anon; see *Paths to Recovery*; 8 ¼ x 5 ½ “, approx 360 pages of which 8 pages are for notes in the back of the book.

### BUDGETARY IMPACT

Unknown  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Teresa

### Discussion

*Chase reminds everyone that the timer is set for 2 minutes. Then at 1 minute 30 seconds the yellow light comes on to tell you that have 30 seconds before we lovingly clap to support the end of your time to share.*

Rosa says this is not a book to replace the Big Book, the 12x12 or the Service Manual. It’s a study volume type of a book. It’s not meant to tell them how to write it but it’s kind of like the information that we might be able to get from this book that would better serve us.

Kathy, DCM District 5 – we are spiritual beings having a human experience. Which our human experience leads us to a spiritual malady we come in the rooms of AA and start get spiritual tools and grow along spiritual lines.

The Big Book says this is a design for living that we cannot outgrow I think the real solution to this is through sponsorship and through some 3 Legacy meetings. Not in favor of this motion because I would hate to have a new comer or any member of AA get a hold of a book like this, and finish the book and think they have graduated.

Josh, District 23 – opposed to this motion. I believe it's based on a false premise that "there is a need". I do not see a need in this fellowship for this publication. I believe we have a fantastic study guide for our 12 steps in our basic text that's what we do with the text book, we study it. We have the 12x12 as a fantastic piece on the Traditions and AA Comes of Age is a nice supplement to that and our 12 Concepts World Service is a great guide through the 12 Concepts of World Service. I believe it's dangerous to attempt to better something that has worked so well for millions and I see this as an attempt to a shortcut and that concerns me greatly. I would like to see us keep with what we've got. We have enough literature.

Terri, District 15 –This was brought to our business meeting; and it's a fine idea. One of the issues is that the Concepts are updated every couple of years, would those then be included in the 3-piece volume? How do we handle the changes in the Concept book?

Martha, Newsletter Chair – supports the motion. Good idea for the conference and the Trustees on literature to consider this. It is something that comes up repeatedly. I would not be in favor of it for the reason just given that if you have a workbook that is too comprehensive it might encourage new comers to make recovery into a solitary exercise. There is an article in the newsletter by the way.

Riley – Am I missing something? Is there a requirement that we approve a motion to present a literature idea to the publications committee because there is a procedure in place for suggesting ideas to AA's publication?  
*Chase clarification: Some ideas that come through the fellowship, the originators of the idea sometimes feel that it's good form, good practice to send it through the District, and the Area Level so that if and when it makes it to the Conference or AAWS or the Board they would be able to see that it was discussed by a wider range of Alcoholics than just the groups that originated the idea.*

Jade, District 19 – Expanding our literature is always a good idea. To the point of good sponsorship is what should take people through the steps. Yes, if the Big Book is effective only based on a sponsor's knowledge of taking someone through the steps. I have had real variety of sponsors. It really varied in terms of what people saw as an appropriate assignment for working the steps.

Mick, District 15 – We can only be defeated by an attitude of ignorance and belligerent denial.

Guy, District 7 – in early sobriety whenever I had difficulty with whatever came up in my life I was always told that the answers were in the book. One day I went to a buddy of mine and said "what do I do, I know the answers are in here, what page do I go to?" and he said read the first 3 words on page 112. So when I opened the book it said "Read the book".

Bill calls the question.

Motion to end debate - 2<sup>nd</sup> by member of body

Debate has ended

Motion is defeated

### **Minority Opinion**

Gigi, District 19 – I grew up learning alcoholism from my parents who were both alcoholics. As a consequence to that I am also a member of our sister fellowship Al-Anon. I use this book which is path to recovery in Al-anon. It's the exact sort of book that is being asked of in this motion. I have found this book to be tremendously helpful. Not only in my Al-Anon but in my AA program. Sometimes the overlap can be really powerful and I think that if I had a study book that I would have been able to work with other woman and perhaps other men earlier in my sobriety. When I got sober it was extremely difficult to get someone to sit down and read the Big Book with me and explain it. I think that newcomers would really benefit. About having thoughtful questions about each of the steps and be able to work with those types of questions with a sponsor, or a group of woman, or a group of men or

both. I personally would have loved to have had something like this available to me as a newcomer. Even now. There are some unofficial books that are available but none of them have a study arrangement.

Rosa – this is exactly what this study workbook is all about. In the back of that book they have the one word principle. We all know that the Right of Participation is the key to Harmony and it talks about how to have harmony at home and in your workplace. Every concept has something to give us so that we can practice at home. This book has a little personal stories, or personal experience with that particular concept with having worked in the home or the workplace. It is like study book.

Scott – in support of this motion for the reason that we are not creating the literature we are sending the idea off to the committee. We should leave it in their hands. It's not making a decision either way whether the book is going to get printed. It's just saying "here you go, what do you think?"

*Chase point of order/clarification: We do want everyone here but people who come to the microphone are only those that are carrying a vote.*

Member wants to remind us that Concept 2 is the Right of Delegation and this is what this proposal does. It asks us to delegate it to our Trusted Servants for them to consider it. When we do vote I want to ask for a standing vote or however it's counted because I didn't think it was 2/3.

*Chase thanks member for request and states that he did consult with other Area officers that were observing it, and we did see a 2/3 majority.*

Joseph, District 14 – my sponsor was a Big Book Thumper and he said there are many helpful books in addition to the Big Book. He suggested that I check out any big words in the book of Noah, which was a Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary it was a companion volume to the Big book. The King James Bible. He suggested that I read AA comes of Age and the 12x12 and in those history books I came to understand that through transmission of the message of Alcoholics Anonymous it can become twisted & garbled beyond recognition and that is why they wrote it in books. I stand in support of this motion because it will be all in one volume.

Jim – GSR, District 5 – My group was in favor of this motion primarily because it would give us something comprehensive for all 3 legs of our AA life and that it never hurts us to continue to further reflect on and express what our ongoing experience strength & hope is in this program.

Mary, GSR – Voted for this. It just seems like one more tool. I guess my question is if we only needed the Big Book, then why do have all of these other things. What are we afraid of that we could maybe help someone?

*Since no one comes to the microphone....Chase says now that we have heard from the minority opinion we are going to see if we will revote.*

Motion to revote: Billy Moved to re-vote  
2<sup>nd</sup> Josh

*Chase explains how polling the Districts are done: each DCM gathers a Yes count and a No count for each District.*

Districts Polled: 124 YES 102 NO  
Discussion is resumed

Ray R – against motion it will eliminate the need of a sponsee to talk to a sponsor. We have adequate literature that explains all of these in nice detail that is AA approved literature. If a new person comes in they will have an opportunity to talk and ask their sponsors what each step, each concept, each tradition means.

Chris, DCM District 31 – we want to know if there is any budgetary impact.

*Chase says the motion says budgetary impact is unknown and this is a recommendation to the Trustees Literature Committee. It has no budgetary impact to Oregon Area. (Gus did say \$.039 cents for a postage stamp but he will take the highest bidder.)*

Wendy, District 20 – What I am reminded of is that this is a Right of Participation and I want to remind everybody that we have the right to be right. We have the right to be wrong and we have the right to change our mind at any given moment. I'm neither for or against this motion but looking at additional literature may not be a bad idea.

Tracy, District 36 – I am against this motion. I would call to this attention the fact that if you don't know about how self-supporting or non self-supporting we are right now you will be finding that out real quick. If you didn't go to the meeting last night you will hopefully hear about it. This does affect us AA as a whole. The cost for producing any other piece of literature at this point particularly when it's as comprehensive as what is being proposed. This seems to be way over the top considering we are now supported through the sales of our own literature. No for me.

Fran P – speaks against this motion. While having additional literature is good; the reference to the back pack full of books...when I first got sober my sponsor had me read the Big Book then she had me read the 12x12, then I read AA comes of Age, Dr. Bob and the Good Ole timers...she had me read all of these books and because it gave me a sense of where we come from and if we don't know where we come from how do we know where we are going and I'm afraid that if a newcomer doesn't get into those books they are going to miss some of those pieces.

Josh – took this to my home group and they wanted to open minded enough to let our Delegate take it to World and have them make a decision on what they know and what we don't. Take a look at the budgetary impact. The 12x12 wasn't widely accepted when it first came around and now it's a main piece of literature. There is always anti-change no matter where you are at and what you are doing. It is worth taking a look at.

Terri – group approved this motion. It would be nice to get an AA Approved guide to all 3 Legacies.

Darlene – reads from page 164. It reads from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last paragraph. “Our book is meant to be suggestive only; we realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.” I have done some research on how the books were written and when they were written and I have to say I only know a little. More will be revealed. Prior to the 12x12 being written, Bill went to his wits end to trying to put together the 12x12; many of the groups like Akron, New York, all over where groups were saying “no we don't need another book, we have the Big Book that's good enough for us. I was GSR when it was on the agenda to have the Daily Reflections book written or not and there was a lot of fear. A lot of us at the time were using as Bill Sees It. Today I'm really glad to say we have the 12x12. I'm really glad we have the Daily Reflections and hopefully more will be revealed.

Juve', rotating out as DCM District 34 calls the question.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Francisco

Vote to end debate – debate is ended

Voting on Motion Failed

Motion stands as defeated

*Chase says to the new GSR's...what you just saw was us investing extra time to make sure that we examine everything from all angles. That is what I was talking about with being spiritual.*

# **OLD BUSINESS MOTION #2**

Oregon Area 58 Motion

Submitted by: Scott K. and Krystal J

## **MOTION**

The seventh tradition be practiced at the Oregon Area assemblies in accordance with the Assembly Planning Guide. The Assembly Planning Guide states, under the heading “Fundraising”:

*“the following is a list of funding ideas that have been used at past Assemblies.*

- a. Seventh Tradition.
- b. Passing the Basket: the Seventh Tradition (passing the basket) is appropriate at least once, preferably at the Saturday evening meeting. Good accounting procedures will determine if the basket is to be passed more than once.
- c. The Marathon meetings have sometimes exercised the Seventh Tradition, at the discretion of the Host Committee.”

## **INTENT/PURPOSE**

The intent of this motion is to ensure that the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition be practiced at Oregon Area as outlined by the Assembly Planning Guide. Its purpose is to give an opportunity to those that want to participate.

## **CURRENT PRACTICE**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is practiced at the Saturday evening speaker meeting only when a host committee is short of funds.

## **BUDGETARY IMPACT**

See ‘Finances and Trustee Travel’ in the Assembly Planning Guide:

1. The objective is for the Assembly to be self-supporting...any excess income over expenses shall be passed on to the Oregon Area.

Unknown positive impact.

2<sup>nd</sup> by: John D, District 26

## **Discussion**

No one came to microphone.....

Joseph, GSR called the question

2<sup>nd</sup> Dave District 5

Motion to end debate – Debate ended

Motion is defeated

## **Minority Opinion:**

Eric K – our groups send us here with 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition money to thoroughly discuss and hear every voice. We do not necessarily want you to come up and say something that has already been said but we, in search of the informed group conscience want to hear every consideration so that we can go home knowing that we have fulfilled the trust that we have with our groups and with those that are contributing to our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. I would encourage you to vote to re-consider so that we can re-open and have a discussion on being self supporting. My understanding of the motion is not that any host committee is compelled to pass the basket at our Saturday night banquet, merely that it is put on the list of optional ways for a host committee to fulfill its responsibility to provide for the finances so that we can have these assemblies in a time when there is tremendous financial pressure on all institutions including Alcoholics Anonymous. I encourage you to re-consider.

Scott – the idea of this motion was to stick into accordance of what the guidelines say. We are not asking that anything be changed, just that we follow what is being suggested and in the list of funding ideas (I was not here

when the guidelines were wrote but I believe they were put in the order that they were for a reason) the first 3 things for fund raising for Assemblies is the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and then it goes onto the other things we do to raise money for Assemblies. We are just asking to stick to the guidelines, follow the things that were set by whoever wrote these guidelines and to give those that need it or want it the opportunity to practice it. You don't have to put in the basket but those that want to give them the opportunity.

David DCM District 24 – it says in the intent/purpose that its purpose is to give an opportunity to those that want to participate. I don't want somebody to tell me not to give a dollar or two to AA. I want that option to be there. When I got sober I amazingly got super stingy and so did all of you that are laughing. I see at Area Assemblies that we want to spend spend spend but not give and I think at an Assembly and a basket is being passed that you should put a dollar in. For me, two dollars at an assembly 4 times a year is worth my sobriety. I think we should re-look at this and stop calling the question so quickly.

*Point of Clarification: Chase says this is the time for those people that did vote to speak at the microphone if they choose to and on that the body did decide to end debate by a clear 2/3 majority. That was the decision of this body.*

Jerry – the information is here in the assembly planning guide. During your assembly have the treasurer determine the need to pass the basket. That information is already available as I see it.

Don, District 10 – Group voted yes. I have been at an assembly in the past and they were running low on funds and the deaf people did not have an interpreter if they would have run out of money and they did not gather some money they might not have had an interpreter. There are things that an assembly might need – so just consider it.

*Chase asks if after hearing from the minority is there is anyone here that would like to change their vote?*

Motion to re-vote made by Tosha - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vaughn

Motion to re-vote failed

Motion stands as defeated

*Note: Chase was handed four (4) Grapevine calendars and he says that they are going to give these calendars to four (4) districts that do not have Grapevine Representatives (GVR) under the spiritual manipulation that if you take the calendar you have pledged that you will have a GVR very soon that can take this calendar. Anne M, our Alternate Delegate will pick the Districts: District 9, 3, 22, & 29, come see, Dave B., Registrar to pick these calendars up.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No motions submitted – No new business with the exception of our rotations and our assembly reports.

*Chase asks for everyone that cares to please pray the Serenity Prayer.*

## **ROTATION BEGINS**

	<b>OUTGOING</b>	<b>INCOMING</b>
Delegate:	Dave A	Anne M.
Alternate Delegate	Anne M.	Chase B.
Chair:	Chase B.	Gus P
Alternate Chair:	Gus P.	Skip A.
Finance Chair	Ray R.	Michael G.
Finance Co-Chair	Michael G.	Jeff M.
Finance Assistant	Eric V.	John A.
Access Chair	James J.	John D.
C.P.C. North (Cooperation with Professional Community)	Skip A.	Kathleen A.
C.T.F. North (Cooperation with Treatment Facility)	Fran P.	Juve' H.
Newsletter	Martha S.	Rhonda Z.

P.I. South (Public Information)	Patrick B.	Barbara D.
Translation Co-Chair	Open	Rosa P.
Hospitals Co-chair	Open	Suzanne B.
Grapevine	Eric K	Dave A.

**FINAL TREASURER ANNOUNCEMENTS, Ron W.**

Statement from Ron before giving final figures: We discovered (thank you to District 12) a glitch in our formatting on our Alternate Treasurer computer and most of that financial, the contribution part of it will not be correct. That will be corrected and posted in the minutes and then on the website. We do apologize for that. We just found the glitch this morning. I also have a check for District 16 if you need it today for the Red Lion Inn.

Came in to Assembly:                 \$25,729.84  
Checks Written:                         \$8,039.33  
Ending Balance:                         \$17,690.51

Ron asked for questions: None asked and thanked everyone for letting him serve

*Motion to adjourn by Anna, 2<sup>nd</sup> by David*

*Respectfully submitted by  
Penny H.  
Oregon Area 58 Secretary*