

Alcoholics Anonymous – Area 75
9:00a.m., 10/21/2012
Fall Service Assembly
Madison Senior Center

MINUTES

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Nancy H.-Delegate; Todd U.-Alt Delegate/Literature; Randy R. -Area Chairperson;
Matt K.-Secretary; Dave D.-Alt Secretary; Drew A.-Treasurer; John B.-Alt. Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON PRESENT:

Ken N.-Corrections Chair; Brent W.-CPC Chair; Barb W.-PI Chair; Thomas D.-Special
Needs Chair; Lori S.-Treatment Chair; Nancy S.-Archivist; Conference Advisory Chair-
Bob S.

DCM'S PRESENT:

D1-Jeanette S.; D3-Jarrold S.; D4/22-Herbert P.; D6-Chris D.; D7-Jill G.; D8-Russ K.;
D9-Tori K.; D10-Ernesto N.; D11-Wendy A.; D12-Karen K.; D13-Mel F.; D15-Adam S.
(alt); D16-Mark V.; D17-John H.; D19-John M.; D20-Jessica S.; D23-Thomas B.; D24-
Ray M; D25-Dani C.; D27-Lee W. (alt).; D28-Gregory L.; D29-Lynn G.; D30-Sue M.;
D31-Charley M.; D32-John W.; D34-Tony S.; D35-Diane B.; D36-Pete W.

GSR'S, ALT GSR's, District Committee Chairs, and Others Present:

D1-Randy O, Carly K., Tom M., Bart V., Shane K., Lisa W.; D3-Marv S., Mary M.,
Michael K.; D6-Jim M.; D7-John M.; D9-Brett K., D10-Arturo T.; D11-Dona C. D12-
Craig J., Lynsee T., Diana K., Tanya H., Phil K.; D13-Vanessa L., Mark G., Wendy B.,
Terry H., Niki D.; D14-Frank S.; D15-Erik M.; D16-Gregg R., Gerald W., David L., John
B.; D17-Steve N., Darrel S., Wagner L.; D19-John M.; D20-Doreen H., Sean M., Brian
E., Jimmy M., Jeff F., Janet G., Michelle K.; D20-Tracy L. Julie L.; D22-Julie L.; D24-Dan
H., Larry M., Cindy S., June B., John H., Craig R., Jeff N., Vicky L., Nita B.; D25-Zach
L., Marty P., Jeff Z., Dennis E., Jaclyn Y., Sawyer B., Kathy B., Tim L.; D27-Leigh Ann
W.; D28-Terry R., Chris S., Jeff B., Kaye K., Chris H.; D29-Israel C., Charlie K.; D30-Kra
R., Lynda W.; D31-Kris C., Shelly I.; D32-John W., Rick M., Chris E., Bret T., Carl H.,
Terry W., Jim M.; D34-Patte S., Cheryl M.; D35-Diane B. Others: Les M., Kathy L.

Past Delegates: Past Delegates: George P., Joan J., Ken G., Nancy G., Bob M.

Randy R., Area Chairperson, opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by
the serenity prayer,

- Todd U., read the **Twelve Concepts**.
- Matt K., Area Secretary, took **Roll Call**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Matt K.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Drew A.

Treasurer's Report

Corrected Fall Service Assembly

Total Assets	<i>Dec 31 2011</i>	<i>Oct 14 2012</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Banking			
General Funds	\$ 21,890.90	\$ 6,073.31	
Corrections Literature Fund	\$ 1,582.18	\$ 2,375.61	
Prudent Reserve	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,750.00	
Conference Reserve Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,798.19	
Banking Total	\$ 28,473.08		
Conference Seed Money ¹	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Hotel Deposits ²	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Total Assets	\$ 29,973.08		

Net Gain / Loss	<i>Oct 14 2012 YTD Total Income</i>	<i>Oct 14 2012 YTD Total Expense</i>	<i>Gain (Loss)</i>
General Funds	\$ 18,658.79	\$ 24,226.38	
Corrections Literature Fund	\$ 3,103.72	\$ 2,310.29	

Budget vs Expenses as of Oct 14 2012			
Officer / Chair	Budget	Actual	Difference
Alternate Chair	\$980.00	\$265.61	\$714.39
Alternate Delegate	\$2,667.00	\$538.20	\$2,128.80
Alternate Secretary	\$640.00	\$375.45	\$264.55
Alternate Treasurer	\$490.00	\$-	\$490.00
Archives Chair	\$769.00	\$457.92	\$311.08
Archivist	\$3,600.00	\$2,510.43	\$1,089.57
Area Chair	\$2,387.00	\$1,221.24	\$1,165.76
CPC Chair	\$1,999.00	\$450.00	\$1,549.00
Conf Advisory Chair	\$499.40	\$203.76	\$295.64
Corrections Chair	\$3,866.00	\$1,442.09	\$2,423.91
Delegate	\$3,728.00	\$3,199.69	\$528.31
General Service Conf	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$-
Grapevine Chair	\$1,990.00	\$874.46	\$1,115.54
Overhead	\$4,950.00	\$3,556.25	\$1,393.75
PI Chair	\$1,104.00	\$595.08	\$508.92
Secretary	\$2,974.00	\$1,347.66	\$1,626.34
Special Needs Chair	\$1,294.00	\$-	\$1,294.00
Treasurer	\$2,070.00	\$1,504.52	\$565.48

¹ Conference seed moneys: 2013 Conference = \$1000; 2014 Conference = \$1000.

² 2014 Conference = \$500 hotel deposit.

Treatment	\$1,304.00	\$484.02	\$819.98
Total Expenses	\$42,511.40	\$24,226.38	\$18,285.02

General Funds Income and Expenses: Year-over-Year Comparison	Jan 1 – Sept 30 2011	Jan 1 – Sept 30 2012	Difference
Income	\$16,522.28	\$17,514.44	
Expenses	\$21,243.85	\$23,266.88	

Corrections Fund Income and Expenses: Year-over-Year Comparison	Jan 1 – Sept 30 2011	Jan 1 – Sept 30 2012	Difference
Income	\$3,160.14	\$3,057.72	
Expenses	\$4,300.43	\$2,138.29	

Expenses by department: Year-over-year comparison				
Officer / Chair	CY 2011 Budget	CY 2012 Budget	Sept 30, 2011 Actual	Sept 30, 2012 Actual
Alternate Chair	\$984.00	\$980.00	\$249.20	\$265.61
Alternate Delegate	\$2,490.00	\$2,667.00	\$1,151.53	\$538.20
Alternate Secretary	\$275.00	\$640.00	\$-	\$375.45
Alternate Treasurer	\$341.25	\$490.00	\$126.60	\$-
Archives Chair	\$700.00	\$769.00	\$-	\$457.92
Archivist	\$3,300.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,890.20	\$2,510.43
Area Chair	\$2,337.00	\$2,387.00	\$1,128.51	\$1,221.24
CPC Chair	\$1,970.00	\$1,999.00	\$475.00	\$450.00
Conf Advisory Chair	\$-	\$499.40	\$-	\$203.76
Corrections Chair	\$5,201.81	\$3,866.00	\$1,262.59	\$948.09
Delegate	\$4,665.00	\$3,728.00	\$2,791.52	\$3,199.69
General ServiceConf	\$-	\$5,200.00	\$-	\$5,200.00
Grapevine Chair	\$2,087.00	\$1,990.00	\$991.50	\$874.46
Overhead	\$9,185.00	\$4,950.00	\$7,061.04	\$3,090.75
PI Chair	\$1,198.00	\$1,104.00	\$353.47	\$595.08
Secretary	\$2,148.00	\$2,974.00	\$826.99	\$1,347.66
Special Needs Chair	\$1,181.00	\$1,294.00	\$214.68	\$-
Treasurer	\$1,890.00	\$2,070.00	\$1,013.15	\$1,504.52
Treatment	\$1,278.00	\$1,304.00	\$707.87	\$484.02
Total Expenses	\$41,231.06	\$42,511.40	\$21,243.85	\$23,266.88

DELEGATE'S REPORT – Nancy H.

It is hard to believe that this is the last report that I will be giving to an area assembly as your delegate. This has been an awesome experience and it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. It is with sadness that I look at December 31st and the end of my term, it is with joy and anticipation that I look forward to January 1st and the start of a new service position, and I am also filled with excitement that someone will be elected today to serve as your Panel 63 Delegate.

I've listed some of my activities since our summer service assembly in June. I still have some district visits that I will be doing before the end of the year.

- ◆ Received information from GSO that a contract has been signed with the Crown Plaza Hotel in Milwaukee for November 13-15, 2015 for the East Central Regional Forum. Please remember that date and try to avoid planning other activities as Area 75 will be very much involved.

- ◆ June 29-31 – participated in the East Central Regional Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. Served as the moderator for a Young Peoples Panel.
- ◆ July 14 – participated in District 23 service workshop in Horicon and attended District 12 Open Meeting in Jackson.
- ◆ July 21 – spoke on service at District 29 Workshop in Milwaukee
- ◆ August 10-12 – participated in East Central Regional Forum in Mt. Vernon, IL giving a presentation on what Self-Support Means to Me and serving as a recorder for a workshop.
- ◆ September 8th attended agenda committee meeting in Brookfield and District 12 Open Meeting and Picnic in West Bend.
- ◆ October 2nd attended District 34 Meeting in Menomonee Falls and gave a report on the conference and updates from GSO.
- ◆ October 6 – attended District 25 Intergroup and spoke on a panel.
- ◆ October 9 – attended District 6 Meeting in Delavan and spoke on service.
- ◆ October 13 – attended District 20 Mini-Conference in Monona and spoke on service.
- ◆ Responded to numerous emails, phone calls and other correspondence.

I've had several service related questions recently that I think merit discussion. One is related to our tradition of self-support. I've seen several references to "Fundraisers" and have been asked about it. My question is "Is this what you want A.A. to be about". Some people say "A.A. does not do fundraisers". Others say "What's wrong with that?" Study the traditions. Are we being diverted from our primary purpose? Is money, property or prestige getting in our way? Our 7th Tradition long form reads in part "...nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority." Something to think and talk about.

Another question I received related to area funds. A past assembly action, adopted 3/3/2002, reads in part : Propose that Area 75 establish permanent P.O. Box mail addresses for the Area 75 Treasurerall funds of any type should be sent to the Area 75 Treasurer for distribution. Any future special funds that may be established by Area 75 Standing Committees shall also be handled in the manner. This is just a reminder to all current and future area 75 committees that this assembly action exists and should be followed when handling area 75 funds.

I've received correspondence from our Regional Trustee, Pam, regarding deadlines for agenda items to be considered by the 63rd General Service Conference. This year the General Service Board meeting will be February 4th to finalize items and the materials are scheduled to be sent to all conference members on February 15th. Any late arriving items may be subject to being tabled until the July meeting and therefore would not be on the agenda for the 2013 conference.

Pam also mentioned that Our "Self-Support" ad hoc comm. is disappointed in the lack of feedback from the fellowship on how to get the message into the groups and the importance of contributions. While we don't have time to discuss this today it is important that we talk about self-support in our groups.

Pam is also on the "Social Networking/Media" ad hoc comm. A report will be available to the GSB for the Oct. meeting. There are some dicey issues here that we're attempting to address. We are looking at things like Facebook, Twitter, 3rd party-vendors etc. as they relate to our Traditions and Concepts. No easy answers and strong opinions from the fellowship on both sides of this issue.

Pam was assigned to the ad hoc comm. on LaVina. We will be looking at what to do with it, how to make it more affordable, all options that are available to us. Bear in mind LaVina is considered a "service" and is funded by the GSB at an average cost of \$100,000 a year and has a circulation of about 8600 or .05% of the fellowship. I would appreciate your thinking on this. This is another item you may wish to discuss at your assembly.

The 22nd World Service Meeting starts today in Rye, NY. This meeting is held every other year and alternates between other countries and NY. You can read a press release about the meeting on aa.org. The General Service Board Meeting will be next weekend. When I receive Pam's report from the meeting I will forward it to my usual distribution list.

Another item that I had asked for feedback on relates to our 11th Tradition, Short Form. It is not too late to send me your individual, group or district input. I will be mailing the comments I have received to GSO by the end of October. Comments I have received are divided between leave it as is and add something to refer to current media. I'm sure this will be an interesting discussion for the Conference.

I want to thank those districts who have been sending me your minutes. I've enjoyed reading about what is happening in your district. It makes me realize how much alike we all are ... yet different. Sharing information is how we can all help each other.

Nancy H., Area 75 Delegate, Panel 61

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Randy R.

No written report.

ALT CHAIR / DARK DISTRICT—Lee Ann F.

Sorry I am not able to join you today.

Since my last report, I was invited to speak on a Service Panel for District's 4 & 22's First Annual Chili Cook Off. It was awesome to see the huge turnout for Districts 4 & 22. Both were considered "Dark Districts" last year. Congratulations DCM Herb, all of the GSR's and Chairs from the shared districts for doing such a great job getting A.A. Service up and running!

I have been invited to attend my home District 34's November meeting.

Please know that the Dark District Committee and I remain available to be of service to Area 75 until 12/31/12. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we may be of service to you!

Finally, I'd like to thank all of the districts who share your minutes with me!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann F.

ARCHIVE CHAIR – David K.

No written report.

CPC CHAIR – Brent W.

No written report.

CORRECTIONS CHAIR – Ken N.

The Corrections committee put A.A. literature in District's 9, 10 at large, 30 and 17.

Randy R. and myself went to Prairie du Chien Correctional facility On October 8, 2012 and handed about \$450.00 worth of literature out. Also on October 30 we'll be at Taycheedah Correctional facility for women to hand out literature. Ought to be interesting.

A.A. was also to be invited out there in the future to give a presentation on what A.A. does and doesn't do. Date to be decided later by the facility. Hope the new Corrections chair follows up on this commitment. And if for some reason he can't do this PLEASE ask me and I'll go. As this is very important.

The Corrections committee chair would like to thank everyone that has been involved in taking the A.A. message into the Correction's facility. It's been a pleasure to take on this part time commitment, which ended up for two years. But well worth the time and enjoyment. Your trusted servant.

Ken N.

Area 75

Corrections Chair

PI CHAIR – Barb W.

Since we met last time, the results of the 2011 membership survey have been compiled and distributed to PI Chairs. I have the Membership Survey display and one pamphlet with me today. Along with this information, the trustees' Public Information Committee asked for sharing on how the display and pamphlet are currently being used. Their questions were as follows:

How is the AA Membership survey currently being used?

How would you ideally like to use the Membership Survey?

Do you ever think, "if only it said _____"?

Who do you use the Membership Survey with Professionals, general public, newcomers, others?

I submitted my response as follows:

I have taken the display with me to health fairs, and school resource fairs, which are for the general public, but do not use the materials in other ways. When sharing information on AA, I use AA At a Glance mostly to advise what AA is and is not. I also use my personal story. I don't use statistics. It is not something anyone has ever asked for.

The Trustees' Public Information Committee is also requesting sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the short form of tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the follow ship today. Please submit your comments to Nancy Horan, our Delegate, as she is compiling a list of comments to send to the committee.

For sale at GSO: MV-46 = cardboard easel design container for displaying literature.
\$2.30

All 5 AA videos for Young People are on GSO's website. Some committees have used them for talks in schools, as there is frequently an internet connection available.

I was contacted, by the Milwaukee Central Office, in August concerning a health fair to be held at GE Waukesha Gas Engines. The health fair was Thursday October 11 and Friday October 12, 2012 in Waukesha. I contacted the Waukesha districts who coordinated the AA representation for the event. Mel F. sent a follow up report on the event saying it went well and would be glad to do it again next year. I love the enthusiasm. Thanks Mel!

Remember to check www.area75.org for meetings and events. Also check to be sure your meeting is up to date.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Barb W.
Area 75 PI Chairperson

AREA WEBMASTER Allen B.

No report.

SPECIAL NEEDS CHAIR –Thomas D.

No report.

TREATMENT CHAIR – Lori S.

I have had contact with treatment facilities re: bridging the gap, there has been difficulty finding temporary sponsors. I have also been recruiting for area service

As my term comes to an end, I wish to thank the assembly for allowing me to serve as your treatment chair.

Thanks for the ride,

Lori S.

GRAPEVINE CHAIR – Stu E.

No report.

ALT DELEGATE/LITERATURE CHAIR – Todd U.

I would like to thank you for attending the Area 75 meeting, elections and proposals.

In addition to serving as the Area 75 Alternate Delegate, I also serve as your Area 75 Literature Chair. I will keep you informed of new developments and changes to the conference approved literature available from A.A. World Services Inc.

Our committee displays A.A. literature and audiovisual material at every possible area and district function and selling literature at those functions helps to carry the A.A. message and fulfill our primary purpose.

I was unable to attend the:

♦ East Central Regional Conference – June 29-July 1 in Grand Rapids, MI (scheduling problems)

♦ East Central Regional Forum – August 10-12 in Mt Vernon, IL (death in the family)
I attended District 11's district meeting as and gave a lead as the Literature Chair in Kenosha on August 26th. I spoke at District 4/22 October 13th on their service panel after the Milwaukee East side Alano clubs chili cook off.

I will be speaking at District 15's open speaker meeting on Nov 7th at the Milwaukee group.

I will be speaking at District 34's annual holiday open speaker meeting on Dec 8th.

I will be attend the hand off meeting in December. There's still two months left if anybody needs me to help out or speak please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me.

I'd like to share a very intriguing article from GSO about safety in the meeting place.

Which I have attached.....

I plan on standing for upcoming Area 75 positions in the elections held today.

God will determine what type of service work I will do next.

Remember, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the "Hand of AA" always to be there - for that....I AM RESPONSIBLE.

If you're interested in working with Area 75, I'll bet there are still open positions here's the link for standing Chairs:

<http://www.area75.org/forms/resume.pdf>

I enjoyed working with the Literature Chairs at the Literature committee meetings for the past 22 months.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the district secretaries that forward copies of their meeting minutes to me. It's an invaluable tool to me, all of our Area officers and Standing Committee Chairs, in determining the needs of our A.A. community

I would thank you for giving me the opportunity to give back.

I'd like to Thank you all for keeping me sober.

In Service,

Todd U. - Panel 61 Alternate Delegate & Literature Chair

62nd General Service Workshop
Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a greater whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterwards.” Tradition One (*Long Form*)

Wednesday morning Conference members divided into groups for workshop discussions based on the topic selected by the 2011 Conference “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.” The following are questions and a summary of the sharing during the workshop. This includes comments that reflect individual experience and viewpoints.

1. How can we make our home group a welcoming and accessible place?

Home groups are made welcoming by having greeters at the door when members enter and leave the meetings. Greeters welcome members by shaking their hands and introducing themselves. Greeters might help direct the handicapped to elevators or lift chairs when available. They may also help newcomers and others find the coffeepot, give newcomers a cup of coffee, help them find a seat, find literature or meeting schedules. Be careful about offering hugs. Greeters are very important. When welcoming the newcomer certain catch phrases may create openness such as “How are you doing?” This can create an opportunity to match that person with someone who can share experience, strength and hope with the newcomer. Welcome newcomers but don’t mother them. Explain the meeting format upfront. Discuss with newcomers the expected manners and decorum that is appropriate at meetings. Ease the newcomer into understanding about singleness of purpose, crosstalk, etc. Provide explanations (i.e., when basket is passed discuss spiritual principles of self-support). Treat the Home Group as if it were one’s living room.

It is really important to recognize first-time A.A. attendees. Be on the lookout for new people and introduce them to other members. We can remain approachable by not congregating in small groups and by avoiding cliques. Need to watch out for subtle formations of “in” or “out” crowds. Members respecting each other creates a good impression. Older members can approach new members to welcome them. They treat newcomers always with a kind act. Create a sense that the newcomer is important by introducing them to the chairperson. Invite newcomers and guests to your Home Group. It can be the responsibility of the “oldtimers” to interact and communicate about Traditions, etc. Ask at the opening of the meeting whether it is the first meeting for anyone – if so, make it a Step One meeting. When announcements are made, ask if there are visitors from out-of-town and welcome them. A Big Book signed by group members is sometimes used to welcome a newcomer. Conduct newcomers/beginners meetings and encourage newcomer participation in business meetings. Conduct periodic group inventories. “Fellowship” breaks during meeting help newcomers socialize. The chairperson can ask at the end of the meeting for temporary sponsors so

newcomers know who they are. Ask who in the home group might be willing to be a temporary sponsor and foster good sponsorship. Sometimes a visible group structure helps the newcomer adapt. Make A.A. meetings spirited and enthusiastic so they can feel the love of A.A. Members may not remember the speaker, they may not remember the sharing, but kindness will always be remembered. Stay for the meeting-after-the-meeting and encourage the newcomer to do the same. Make sure the doors of A.A. are always open. On leaving the meeting, invite the newcomer back and shake hands. The goal is to get them back to another meeting. Have "leave" greeters at end of the meeting to remind members to keep coming back.

As part of the meeting format, announce some guidelines for conduct during the meeting (i.e., texting, cell phones, crosstalk, etc.). Avoid chatting during introductions and readings. Listen to people as they share. Suggest that the men stick with the men and women with the women – especially for new women. Be sensitive to closing with a prayer that might appear to be religious to newcomers and visitors. Explain to newcomers why meetings often close with a prayer, responsibility pledge, a moment of silence or other. Try to make the meetings welcoming and safe for everyone. Consider ways to make A.A. more welcoming and accessible to Spanish-speaking women, such as having a Spanish-language women's meeting. Discuss safety, behavior, etc. regularly at group business meetings.

Come early to set up the meeting and leave late to help clean-up. This is a good time to meet and talk with members. Nametags are helpful. Keep books and literature visible. As an alternative, play audio tapes at book studies so that anyone who is illiterate is not forced to read. Provide contact lists with first name/last initial and phone numbers; suggest separate lists for men and women. Make sure meeting lists are available. Also have newcomer packets available. Ask if there are newcomers and give them newcomer's packets that may contain meeting schedules, pamphlets on home group, group contact list, etc. Have signs on the door and meeting lists that say where wheelchair accessible meetings are, and open or closed meetings and locations. Ensure that groups are properly listed in meeting directories.

Make home groups accessible by improving the physical access and accommodate those members who are handicapped (i.e., be sure to have wheelchair access, large print). Keep smoking areas away from the main entrance. Keep the rooms tidy and inviting. Food/refreshment is always good, but so is adequate lighting and safe surroundings. Ensure that there is adequate lightening in the meeting place, walkways are well-lit and that handicap accessibility (where applicable) is monitored and maintained. Escort members in and out of the building, and to the parking lot, if necessary.

2. How can sponsorship aid in keeping our A.A. meetings safe?

Sponsorship leads to healthy people and healthy people leads to healthy meetings and groups. There are different approaches to sponsorship (by example, guiding, directing, etc.), but no matter what the approach, having a sponsor makes a difference. Leading by example will increase the trust of newcomers. The sponsor's responsibility is to provide information and guidance. A sponsor can discuss customs and norms with sponsees. Sponsors can also help recognize or be aware of potential problems before

they get out of hand. Sponsors alert sponsees as to risks and safety hazards. They can also advise a sponsee when their behavior is unacceptable. When dealing with a misbehaving member, consult with their sponsor or other established long-time members who may not be aware of the sponsee's conduct. Look for warning signs when sponsees are in trouble. Let the men handle the misbehaving men (same for the women).

Be honest with sponsees and warn them about "thirteenth-steppers." Encourage sponsees to read A.A. literature such as "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship." Sponsors need to be aware of potential issues with male/female relationships. Sponsors can suggest that men work with men, and women work with women. "Sisterhood" among women helps protect newcomers. Help the new women live defensively – especially the vulnerable ones. Suggest no new relationships before finishing the Steps. Some members suggest no new relationships before getting through the Ninth Step. There are widely differing opinions on the "one year rule." One group has a poster of a coiled snake with the text, "13th Steppers are predators and not welcome here."

Be aware that stalking may exist (men stalking women and vice versa). Make the newcomer aware of which members may pose a safety threat, to help the newcomer set good boundaries (what is public vs. what is private/interpersonal communication). Describe what A.A. is and what it is not. When we keep our Primary Purpose in the forefront many of our imperfections are kept in check (e.g., attend meetings to address alcoholism, not to find sexual partners). Refrain from profanity and sexual innuendos. Who you date is your business – as long as it is done with integrity and you don't use A.A. manipulatively.

Some people come into A.A. not having any idea what behaviors are appropriate, and which are not. We can try to inoculate our meetings with a sense of safety and confidentiality. One can get sober in A.A., but imperfections of character are a part of the human condition, so take caution and protect yourself. Seek advice about legal protections, if necessary. We all recognize good/bad and/or appropriate/inappropriate but the challenge is teaching it – can't legislate good or appropriate sponsorship. Sponsorship is not the matching of those who wish to dominate with those who want to be dominated. Don't tell sponsees what to do—share your experience, strength and hope. Sponsorship offers a guide to Step work and friendship.

When good sponsorship is happening it sets a good example and guides etiquette of the newcomer. Sponsorship can go beyond the one-on-one with the group serving as a sponsor. Meetings run by a group that has a regular group conscience and which practices the Twelve Traditions are generally safe. Someone in the group can focus on the newcomer to address in a personal way how the newcomer can present him/herself so as not to attract unwanted attention (dress, deportment, etc). Educate members by pulling pamphlets to read about in the group. Explain our Primary Purpose. Groups and meetings need to teach about sponsorship as well as individual. Keep your group healthy. Make this a topic at business meetings.

3. In keeping with Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as:

a.) Conduct that disrupts the meeting.

Safety is the responsibility of the group, but a sponsor can teach their sponsees how to be respectful by being an example of proper conduct. It is helpful if groups have a plan for disruptive persons. Disruptive behavior is often pre-empted by having the chairperson read the meeting guidelines for behavior in the meeting. Have instructions prepared for meeting chairs with suggestions on dealing with disruptive behavior.

The group conscience should fully empower meeting chairs and make them aware of their responsibilities to maintain order and safety in meetings so that the group as a whole will benefit. Group conscience discussions should include emphasis on Tradition One and the importance of the unity of the group having precedent over the individual. Some groups include in their opening announcements that illegal and disruptive behavior is not tolerated; include statements at the start of meetings that announce that abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Group can set boundaries. Do what is necessary to keep meetings safe. Ban persons who repeatedly engage in disruptive conduct that prevents the meeting from fulfilling its primary purpose. Do what is best for the whole group. Address disruptions when they occur.

Rely on the meeting chair as first line of defense, with intervention for repeated offenders. The chair of a meeting can ask that there be no crosstalk during discussion, that cell phones be turned off and no texting during the meeting, and that if members must talk during the meeting to take it outside. Crosstalk can be handled by the person having the floor by stopping their activity and remaining quiet until cross-talkers stop talking. Sponsors can discourage sponsees from texting during meetings. Starting meetings late can also be disruptive, especially for newcomers or visitors. When the group goes off the meeting's topic, members can raise their hands and get the discussion back on track (same with outside issues).

Disruption from wet drunks is usually handled by escorting the person out of the room by two members followed by an explanation; avoid confronting the person in the meeting room; approach them outside so you can address the concern of the disruptive behavior. The person can then be allowed to return if they agree to stop being disruptive. What about a wet drunk – isn't that why we are here? If the disruptive drunk upsets people in the group, then the behavior needs to be addressed. Be careful about allowing the personality of the "offender" to interfere with your judgment about inappropriate behavior. Remind members who are asked to leave a meeting that they are not being "kicked out" of A.A., nor is their membership being taken away. They are only being "kicked out" of a meeting because they are disrupting the meeting and in support of Traditions One and Five (unity and the primary purpose of a group) they are not welcome when they exhibit threatening or disruptive actions. Long-term members may offer to meet one-on-one with the disruptive member. If one-on-one contact with a disruptor is not effective and the disruptions continue, the group may have to ban them from the meeting until their behavior changes.

One group is dealing with two individuals who are disruptive and violent. Initially things were not handled well – particularly because it was not discussed at the group's

business meeting and it fractured the group. It is a Tradition One issue, not a Tradition Three issue. It is up to the chairperson to handle these situations and with the support of the group conscience developed at regular business meetings. Some problems have no good solutions. Conduct can be hard to manage when there is a tendency to want to retain the member. The process should include discussing the behavior in the business meeting and talking to the person one-on-one. If the disruptive person has a sponsor, another member can go to that sponsor and talk about the sponsee's disruptive behavior so the sponsor can address the situation; and also can suggest getting outside professional help.

Acceptability of behaviors can vary with geography and urban/suburban/rural settings. Each of us is annoyed to different degrees by different forms of disruption. Some may feel that no one has the authority to stop specific behavior. Groups can either deal with disruptions, make it impossible to disrupt or allow it to continue.

We always have the option to call the police if disruptive behavior continues. Utilize available security personnel in institutions. The meeting rooms need to be safe and sometimes the police will need to be involved. Call the police if someone's behavior becomes unacceptable or threatening. It is okay to call the police for help. In an emergency, call 911. Have a plan to safeguard our meetings. Be aware that people in A.A. are in different stages of growth. Safety in meeting rooms should be taken seriously

b.) Illegal activity

Illegal and threatening behavior should involve the police. Many groups establish guidelines regarding when it is appropriate to call authorities. Handle the situation within the legal system. The nature of illegal acts can range from violence, embezzlement, theft of property to drug sales at a meeting. Some groups do not hesitate to report illegal activity to the proper authorities. Just because we are A.A. does not mean we have to tolerate illegal behavior. When we are in a meeting, we are still citizens and no one is above the law. Some situations may require a phone call to local authorities and/or a restraining order. Today there are constraints (liability issues) that need to be handled properly. Cooperate with the landlord regarding safeguarding their property.

We can all look out for one another and help to maintain a safe and positive meeting environment for all members and those yet to join us. What's good for the group comes first, but personal welfare follows close behind. Illegal activities that jeopardize the health and well being of others need to be reported. Everybody is welcome in A.A., but not illegal behavior. The process of sharing our experiences provides ideas on how to manage these situations that could arise. There is a good article in *Box 4-5-9 "We Are Not Above the Law."*

c.) Inappropriate behavior towards vulnerable new members (e.g., 13th Stepping)

Inappropriate behavior such as acting out or targeting vulnerable new members (e.g., "thirteenth stepping") occurs between someone new to a group and someone who has been around for a while. In general, older members keep an eye out for new and younger members. We need to be aware of two cautions: 1) predators are not always easy to spot and their targets are not always selected by appearance but by

vulnerability; and 2) newcomers are vulnerable. The implications of "thirteenth stepping" may be grave for the women. Encourage victims of predators or inappropriate behavior or harassment to let the group know, talk to their sponsor, and/or report it to the proper authorities. Groups or elder statesmen cannot address a situation if they are not aware. Assure the person involved with a negative situation that the issue is being looked at or going to be looked at. Respect them and listen to members who have been hurt. Encourage someone who has been a victim of a reported crime to seek outside help/counseling. Let these members know that we care, that we are concerned and treat them with love, understanding and respect.

Sponsorship plays a vital role. Encourage "thirteenth-steppers" to get a sponsor. Men can be sensitized to offensive behavior. Examine our motives when approaching other A.A. members. Be aware that not everyone welcomes a hug. Like any society, A.A. is not immune to human conduct. Sponsors can be helpful in pointing out warning signals or unhealthy situations to sponsees. Sponsors can teach about privacy, conviction and responsibility. We need to learn how to interact with newcomers who are young and those who are old/elderly who may have health issues/disabilities. Some Spanish-speaking members have concerns about the lack of regard for women within their groups, which drives the women out.

Ask, "Would I be willing to have this group meet in my home?" If the answer is "No," then work on addressing the issues of concern. Solutions need to originate at the group level and not at G.S.O. Include this topic in a group inventory and plan ahead as groups.

d.) Emergencies (injury/accident/fire/etc.)

Emergencies need to be handled by those trained for such situations. Make sure fire exits (e.g.) are clearly understood. Check on emergency procedures for the facility where the group meets. Have a plan in place on what to do in the event of an emergency. If it is a life-threatening emergency, call 911 or other emergency resources. Never hesitate to call emergency numbers to save a life. Once the call has been made to report an emergency, responders will be arriving – give them room to do their job. Expect that some members who are not directly involved may wish to leave and that addressing the emergency situation is more important than continuing with the meeting. Consider safety measures when evaluating meeting places. Discuss this at business meetings. Some revisions to existing literature to address emergencies/safety may be appropriate.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY REPORT CHAIR – Bob S.

I wish to start by saying it has been a pleasure and an experience working with all of the different people I have encountered over the past 21 months. I wish to thank them all for their dedication and different experiences that were brought to our conferences. I cannot possibly remember all of the names, but I'll refer to them in groups. They include the conference advisory committee, Delegates and past Delegates, Area Committee members, DCM's, conference committee members, and members of the fellowship. This pretty much includes all of you. Thank you all for helping, and for putting up with me. A special thanks goes out to Joan J. She has been very instrumental in being there for most of this process, and very helpful in keeping me on the right track.

During this past 21 months we have accomplished putting together three very workable contracts with various hotels. Being directly involved in this process was to say the least, a very interesting experience. Not only did I find out what the hotels expect of us, but also I learned lots of things about people's different viewpoints. From this I learned that our conferences, even though we have conference guidelines, are not cut and dried. We need to expect that, over the coming years, our conferences could change. New ideas and concepts are being brought to light. Some of these concepts could be changes in the form of technology. Since technology has become part of our lives, we may find the need to adjust.

I have some quick notes about the contracts and upcoming conferences. The next conference experience available to us will be the 2013 conference on Janesville. We have a very different type of contract with the hotel, being that they have no kitchen, and food has to be catered in. However, our contract with them is very workable.

The conference following that will be in 2014, and held in Racine. This contract was tougher to work out. If we had not stood our ground, that contract could have gotten out of hand.

The final one I was involved in is in 2015, and will be held in Fondulac. This contract wasn't tough to negotiate. In fact the hotel lowered the pricing without being asked. Of course we argued that vehemently. The biggest problem we had there was some of the wording in the contract. After some strong convincing conversation, they agreed to drop the wording from the contract.

All said, I feel we are in very good shape. We have very good conference committees in place, of which I had absolutely no involvement.

I wish to remind all districts that we will be looking for someone to put in a bid for our 2016 conference. I am saying this now so you all have time to discuss this in your district meetings and take it back to your groups to gather support. It would be ideal to have districts waiting to jump at the opportunity. In being realistic, I know that's not going to happen. That is why I keep reminding you. Seems redundant, but these conferences are important to the fellowship and Area 75. Please keep up the good work.

It is always a pleasure serving Area 75.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob S. Area 75 Conference Advisory Committee Chair

SPRING 2013 CONFERENCE CHAIR – Joel B.

The conference planning is going well. We are on schedule and met last yesterday afternoon. The speakers are set as are the AA panels. The AI-Anon panels are filling up quickly. We recently received our 3rd conference registration and we're hoping to double that by the winter service session. The next 97 people to register will be in the drawing to win a set of conference tapes from AMOT so get those registrations in soon! There are more registration fliers available on the back table for you to take back to your districts and groups.

The next 2013 area conference planning meeting will be held Saturday, December 8th at 5:30pm in the Wellington room at the Holiday Inn Express in Janesville, WI.

Thank you,
Joel B
2013 Area 75 Conference Chair

SPRING 2014 CONFERENCE CHAIR—

No Report

Spring 2015 Conference Chair—

The 2015 Spring Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Fond Du Lac on May 15, 16, and 17 of 2015, and will be hosted by district 25. The contract has been signed and is on file with the hotel. We currently have a co-chair, program chair, and a treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris S.
2015 Conference Chair

MAICO –Read by Nancy G.

- 1) Elections will be held for (3) Steering Committee Members on December 11th at 6pm. One year of sobriety is required; it is a 2 year commitment. Steering Committee meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm at 6400Gisholt Dr., Madison. Call the office if interested.
- 2) 16th Annual Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop is on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10am-3pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St, in Madison. 4 Youngtimers (2 or less years of sobriety) and 4 Oldtimers (20 plus years of sobriety) will share. Bring your best Chili for the Chili Cook-off! Attendees will judge the entries and a prize awarded. Salads & Desserts are appreciated. Flyers are available on the table in back and on our website.

- 3) Gratitude Month - This is our 6th year of participating in Gratitude month. Envelopes are circulated to the groups and contributions have been generous in the past. We look forward to the same type of support this time.

Should you need further information regarding MAICO and its services, please call Diane at 608-222-8989 or check out the website at aamadisonwi.org.

In service,

Nancy G.

Treasurer

Winnebago Land Central Office –Les M.

No report

MILWAUKEE CENTRAL OFFICE –

No report

RACINE AREA CENTRAL OFFICE-Darrel S.

RACO in the last month has been going through some changes due to water damage from the business above. The store has not closed, and the hotline is still manned. All meeting and special events have been moved to the gym next door until repairs are complete. I would like to thank our landlord for arranging this.

The three legacies workshop at the beginning of the month was informational and had good attendance. Panels were made up from all levels of service interest and growth in the fellowship.

RACO's annual fellowship day was a success with good attendance by at least three districts, informational panels throughout the day, and donated food items. Thanks to all who helped.

Donations to RACO are always needs and greatly appreciated in keeping the doors open.

Volunteers have been slow to come forward and service the desk during the daytime hours.

Elections will be help in November 2012 for new officers and committee chairs.

Monthly Reprieve is now back in production with hard copies and emails. We are still working to get back online.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darrel S.

Vote on Proposals:

Proposals considered by the assembly:

Actions & Handbook Proposal – passed: 95 in favor, 5 opposed

Actions & Handbook Responsibility Proposal—passed: 99 in favor, 2 opposed

Election Procedures Proposal—did not achieve substantial unanimity: 61 in favor, 41 opposed.

Elections:

Delegate—First ballot: Todd U. 23, Randy R. 43, Drew A. 38

Second ballot: Todd U. 10, Randy R 55, Drew A. 35

Third ballot: Randy R. 68, Drew A. 35

Fourth ballot: Randy R. 72, Drew A. 30—Randy R. elected

Alt Delegate/Literature Chair—First ballot: Drew A. 81, Matt K. 20—Drew A. elected

Chair—First ballot: Todd U. 40, Brent W. 26, Bob S. 34

Second ballot: Todd U. 58, Brent W. 13, Bob S. 29

Third ballot: Todd U. 75, Brent W. 25—Todd U. elected

Secretary—Kara R. elected by acclamation

Treasure—Matt K. elected by acclamation

Alt Chair—First ballot: Brent W. 45, Les M. 17, Bob S. 32

Second ballot: Brent W. 65, Les M. 10, Bob S. 19—Brent W. elected

Alt Secretary—First ballot: Ken N. 24, Lynn G. 49, Dave D. 23

Second Ballot: Ken N. 10, Lynn G. 76, Dave D. 9—Lynn G. elected

Alt Treasury—First ballot: Ken N. 17, Pete W. 41, Bob S. 31

Second ballot: Ken N. 3, Pete W. 66, Bob S. 22—Pete W. elected

Reminders:

District 23 is the coffee volunteer for the Winter Service Assembly

Upcoming dates:

1/20/13 — Winter Service Assembly

2/15/13—2/17/13—Conference of Delegates Past & Present - La Porte, IN

3/17/13—Delegates Workshop

4/7/13—Pre-Conference Assembly

4/21/12—4/27/13—General Service Conference, NY

5/17/13—5/19/13—Area 75 Conference, Janesville

6/23/13—Summer Service Assembly

7/19/13—7/21/13—ECR Conference, Appleton

10/20/13—Fall Service Assembly

11/15/13—11/17/13—ECR Forum, Fort Wayne, IN