

AREA 12 NEWSLETTER

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Leadership in AA -- An Ever a Vital Need

(Excerpts from Bill W.'s article in the April 1959 Grapevine. See Concept IX, of the "Twelve Concepts for World Service" for the full article)

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: "Our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example." In effect, we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us."

Therefore, a leader in A.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own —well, he really isn't a leader at all.

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can obtain, sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided, of course, that such action be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility.

Another qualification for leadership is give-and-take, the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us all or nothing drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flatfooted to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take.

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always the constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.

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THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action. Source: General Warranties of the Conference, Concept XII, Twelve Concepts for World Service (reprinted by permission)

THE AREA 12 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Our service committees are created by, and responsible to, the Area Committee. These committees do not set policy or decide issues. Rather, they make recommendations by way of reports to the Area Committee and the Area Assembly at their regular meetings. Each committee may create ad-hoc committees, which are responsible to the committee. With the exception of the Convention committee, the Area Chair appoints committee chairpersons. The Convention committee Chairperson is the Immediate Past Delegate.

In most cases, the descriptions also assume that only the Area is involved in the activity. However, Delaware has three active Inter-groups that have counterpart committees that are currently involved in this work in varying degrees. And, there is always the possibility that some activities have been taken on by Districts or Groups. It is not the purpose or intent of the Assembly to overlap or replace the work being done by the Inter-groups, Districts or Groups.

Volunteers are always welcome to participate; contact the corresponding committee chair to get involved.

THE COMMITTEES

Archives

This committee receives and maintains historical information and artifacts pertaining to the Groups, Districts and the Area. Upon request, the Archivist provides a display for events within the Area and at the state convention. With permission from the Assembly, the Archivist may purchase items that are in keeping with the purposes of the Archives, and maintain other AA related information and materials of historical value. contact: archives@delawareaa.org

Annual State Convention

This committee makes all arrangements for the statewide convention. The chair of the committee appoints its membership, including the necessary ad-hoc committees as needed. This committee is

self supporting and has its own bank account. The chair of this committee appoints a Treasurer who will receive all funds, pay all bills, maintain the financial records and submit monthly financial reports to the Area Treasurer. Upon completion of the convention, the chairperson of this committee will submit a report, including the financial results, at the next Area Committee and Assembly meetings. contact: conventionchair@delawareaa.org

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

This committee makes contacts with the professional community to provide information and literature. The committee also makes specific suggestions to the Area Committee regarding sponsorship of professionals. The committee cooperates with other committees when communicating with professionals, and it staffs exhibit booths when appropriate. contact: cpc@delawareaa.org

Correctional Facilities

This committee makes contact with the correctional facilities in the Area, helps set up meetings for inmates, and contacts them on their release to assist in their transition from the prison AA fellowship to the local AA fellowship. It secures other AA volunteers to assist in carrying the message to the alcoholics in prison. The committee acts as a liaison and maintains contact with the volunteers, Inter-groups, Districts and Groups. contact: corrections@delawareaa.org

Finance

This committee assists the Area Committee and Assembly in all financial matters, with the 7th Tradition being the primary guidance. The Finance committee compiles the budgets submitted by the officers and committee chairs and makes its recommendations based on maintaining a prudent reserve. The committee recommends financial management policies as needed; periodically reviews the financial statements and makes recommendations when they are called for. The chair of the committee maintains and republishes the Financial Management Guidelines as

changes are made, and at the beginning of each year. In addition, the chair of the committee also reviews the financial records at the end for each year and submits a report of the results. The chair of the committee presents all reports to the Area Committee and then to the Assembly. contact: budget.and.finance@delawareaa.org

Grapevine

This committee develops awareness of the spiritual benefits of reading the Grapevine as an aid to recovery and in 12-step work. The committee provides displays at the state Convention, assemblies and special events as requested, and keeps the area informed of ongoing Grapevine activities as well as encourage members to get and give subscriptions. contact: grapevine@delawareaa.org

Literature

This committee makes AA Conference approved literature available to the Area and the Districts, sets up literature a display at the state Convention, and other AA activities. It is self supporting, orders directly from GSO, and maintains its own records of purchases and sales. contact: literature@delawareaa.org

Public Information (PI)

This committee assists the Districts to inform the general public, professional communities and the AA Membership in ways to carry the AA message, such as workshops, literature kits, and radio and television public service announcements. The Area 12 Web-site and the Area 12 newsletter are included in this committee's work; special emphasis is given to Traditions 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12. contact: pubinfo@delawareaa.org

Treatment

This committee communicates AA's purpose and function to treatment facilities in the area, and establishes and maintains a list of AA volunteer contacts to assist in transition from the treatment facility to the local AA groups when discharged. contact: treatment@delawareaa.org

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHEN

Area 12's Elected Area 12 Trusted Servants

Panel 60's 2 year term is January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011
"...Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Delegate - Frank Z. delegate@delawareaa.org
Alternate Delegate - Janice L. alternate.delegate@delawareaa.org
Area Chair - Geri D. area.chair@delawareaa.org
Alternate Chair - *this position is currently vacant*
Secretary - Karen S. secretary@delawareaa.org
Treasurer - Georgia A. treasurer@delawareaa.org
Registrar - Veronica E. registrar@delawareaa.org
Immediate Past Delegate - George M. (Panel 56) immediate.past.delegate@delawareaa.org

2011 Assembly Schedule

September 17, 2011 - Election of Panel 62 Trusted Servants
December 10, 2011

In 2011, with the exception of the Mini-Conference, all Area 12 Assembly meetings are held at the Delaware State Grange, 911 South Governors Avenue, Dover, DE 19904. GSR Orientation - 8:30 a.m., Assembly 9 a.m.

2011 Area Committee Schedule

June 18, 2011 *** **see important note below**

August 13, 2011

October 15, 2011

November 19, 2011

All Area 12 Committee meetings start at 9 a.m. and are held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 425 North Dupont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

***** On June 18, the Area will conduct a brief Area Committee meeting, followed by a Delegate's Day Workshop -- all are welcome to speak with our Delegate in-depth about the results of the 61st General Service Conference.**

Other 2011 Events

April 23 - District 3's Annual Heartfelt Sobriety Meeting, Georgetown
contact: DCM3@delawareaa.org

May 1 - 7 - 61st General Service Conference, New York, NY

May 20 - 22 - 51st Annual Delaware State Convention, Rehoboth Beach, DE
for further information or a registration form visit: delawareaa.org/delawarestateconvention.html

May 20 - 22 - Northeast Regional Forum, Sturbridge, MA

Note: The Delaware General Service Assembly calendar posts only those events from AA Inter-groups, AA Districts, AA Assemblies and other recognized Service Boards; group events should be directed to the Inter-group in their geographic area.

AREA 12'S DISTRICTS

Questions regarding Districts with no DCM should be directed to the Area Delegate.

SOUTHERN DELAWARE

District 1 – currently inactive

general area includes the City of Rehoboth Beach and the City of Lewes; geographic definition: route 9 forms the northeast border; route 1 the southeast; remainder of border is coastline.

District 2

Dennis Q. DCM2@delawareaa.org
direct District 2 contributions to: PO Box 448, Nassau, DE 19969

general area includes Angola, Long Neck, Oak Orchard and Millsboro; geographic definition: the northern border is an arbitrary line from route 113 south of Georgetown running to route 9, and route 1 ending at Five Points; the western border is route 113; the southern border is the Indian River; the eastern border is the coastline (at the Inlet) and route 1 to Five Points.

This district meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at Conley's Chapel - UM Church, 33106 Jolyns Way, Lewes, DE 19958

District 3

Kirby C. DCM3@delawareaa.org
direct District 3 contributions to: PO Box 121, Georgetown DE 19947

general area includes Milton, Seaford, Laurel and Georgetown; geographic definition: northern border is route 14 and the Mispillion River to coast; western and southern borders are the state line; eastern border is route 113 north to the northern border of District 2, then east to coast.

This district meets the first Thursday of each month (directly following the Southern Delaware Inter-group's meeting), beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pine & Academy Streets, Georgetown DE 19947

District 13

Tim M. dcm13@delawareaa.org
direct District 13 contributions to: PO Box 51, Ocean View, DE 19970

general area includes Fenwick, Bethany, Frankfort, Selbyville, Dagsboro and Ocean View; geographic definition: the

northern border is the Indian River; the eastern border is the Atlantic Ocean (from the DE state line) to the Inlet; the western border is route 113, from the state line to the Indian River (in Millsboro); the southern border is the DE/MD state lines.

This district meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St George's Methodist Church, Omar Rd & Atlantic Avenue, Ocean View, DE 19970

CENTRAL DELAWARE

District 4

Steve P. DCM4@delawareaa.org
direct District 4 contributions to: PO Box 403, Cheswold, DE 19936

general area includes Dover, Smyrna and Middletown; geographic definition: southern border is route 14 and the Mispillion River; state line forms western border; northern borders the C&D Canal.

This district meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Christ Episcopal Church, 501 S. State Street, Dover, DE 19901

NORTHERN DELAWARE

District 5

Susan R. dcm5@delawareaa.org
direct District 5 contributions to: PO Box 9526, Newark, DE 19714-9526

general area includes Newark; geographic definition: southern border is the C & D Canal; northern border is Polly Drummond Hill Road, to route 273; route 273 to south of New Castle; eastern borders the Delaware River.

This district meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Westminster House, 292 W. Main Street, Newark, DE 19711.

District 6 – currently inactive

general area includes Christiana and Stanton; geographic definition: Hockessin area with PA state line the northwest border and route 41 the northeast; Polly Drummond Hill Road and route 273 form the southern border; includes the Christiana area.

District 7 – currently active, no DCM

general area includes Elsmere, New Castle and Prices Corner; geographic

definition: northwest border is PA state line; southeast is the Delaware River; route 52 forms the major part of the northeast border and route 41 the southwest boarder. Includes Elsmere, New Castle, Prices Corner and "estate country".

This district meets the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2:30 p.m., at Cedars Methodist Church located at Prices Corner (off Rt. 41) at Harrison and Maple Avenues.

District 8 – currently inactive

general area includes Greenville and Centerville; geographic definition: western border is route 52; the eastern border is route 202; northern border is PA state line and southern border follows the Wilmington city limits.

District 9 – currently inactive

general area includes Trolley Square, Elsmere and West Wilmington; geographic definition: west of Market Street to Wilmington city limits, north and south.

District 10 – currently inactive

general area is a one block area in Center City; geographic definition: meetings at Triad.

District 11 – currently inactive

general area includes South Bridge and the Wilmington business district; geographic definition: City of Wilmington east of Market Street and north of Brandywine River; northern border is city limits; eastern border is the Delaware River.

District 12

Cindy Z. DCM12@delawareaa.org
direct District 12 contributions to: PO Box 8065, Wilmington, DE 19803

general area includes north Wilmington, Talleyville and Chichester (PA); geographic definition: west border runs along Rt.202 from the city limits to the Pennsylvania state line; the Delaware River forms the east border, from the Wilmington city limits to the PA state line (north of Nammans Road).

This district meets the 1st Monday of each month at First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

The following article was the NERAASA 2011 presentation by Cindy Z., DCM-12, Area 12. The opinions reflected in this article are those of the author and are not the opinions of Area 12 or other AA members.

Self-Support in all Our Affairs: Tradition Seven & Personal Recovery

The long form of Tradition Seven from A.A.'s "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" states: *"The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."*

When I first came into A.A., my focus (which wasn't much) was not on the Traditions. I read the Traditions from the "12 & 12", but I couldn't comprehend what they meant. With time, I began to learn that passing the basket during meetings helped to pay for coffee, coffee supplies, and rent for our meeting room.

As I continued in my sobriety I noticed that Tradition Seven started to become a little clearer to me with each reading. I especially liked the short form of this Tradition – *"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting,*

declining outside contributions." Again, after reading Tradition Seven it dawned on me that I was becoming more self-supportive in my daily life by taking responsibility for my choices and by working on a close relationship with my Higher Power --- which helped me to realize that A.A. has literally saved my life and given me a quality of life that I never dreamed I would be living.

My gratitude begins with Dr. Bob & Bill W. because they gave their all to make this program work by wisely making our primary aim to carry the message to another alcoholic --- whatever it takes! That includes money, time, and sharing our experience, strength and hope.

There are so many effective services available to us from the General Service Office. Because of this fellowship and those services, I keep coming back. I am grateful to put a few more dollars into the meeting basket.

I heard a member remark that when we were newly sober; we made seven or more meetings a week. That equaled \$7 or more that we contributed each week. Now that we have been sober for awhile, we might make one or two meetings each week which means that we are probably contributing only \$2 to \$4 per week.

As I continue in my recovery, I find I want to do more service. I want to learn more about all of A.A. I want to dig deeper in my pocket when the basket comes around because I want to be able to continue my recovery with the wonderful resources available from the General Service Office, our Area, my district and my home group so I can continue to carry the message --- our primary purpose.



Area 12 Contributions to GSO by District - - 2010

District	# Groups	# Contributing	% Contributing	Amount
1	18	9	50%	1,122.00
2	10	6	60%	2,055.00
3	14	7	50%	1,112.87
4	27	21	78%	3,382.86
5	24	16	67%	6,225.07
6	10	6	60%	1,134.27
7	6	3	50%	2,943.45
8	6	5	83%	3,144.48
9	4	3	75%	335.00
10	4	2	50%	474.00
11	0	0	0%	0.00
12	22	16	73%	3,510.63
13	19	12	63%	3,736.93

Total Contributions = \$29,176.56 (2009 = \$31,512.58)

Percentage of Groups Contributing in 2008 - 2010

2008 = 52.99%

2009 = 54.20%

2010 = 52.10%

