

**** **Save these dates** ****

February 21--- **General Service Workshop**--this is your opportunity to learn more about how Alcoholics Anonymous works beyond the home group--an all day event with food and beverages at the Gardiner Community Center--look for more information at www.district55aa.com/Events or on a flier at A.A. meetings in Sequim.

March 21--- **Pre-Conference Meeting**--this is your opportunity to learn about some of the topics that will be discussed at the General Service Conference, and meet our Area 72 Delegate and Alternate Delegate--this all day meeting with food and beverages will be held at the Masonic Lodge in Port Townsend--there will be more information on a flier at local A.A. meetings and on the Area 72 Website -- www.area72aa.org

For more details about these events ask your home group General Service Representative, G.S.R. or Jerry G. (District 55 District Committee Member) or Larry G. (District 55 Alternate District Committee Member)

Autonomy is independence or freedom, and is like a two-edged sword. AA groups have the authority or right, and the responsibility to choose their paths. I am reminded of a mother speaking of her child being granted adulthood. That child had freedom to stay out all night and hang out with whomever. Also, the child had the right to be hungry and homeless. Similarly, each AA group has the right to choose to support the District and the 12- step call answering service, the Area which offers GSR school and website, and The General Service Office in New York, which provides our basic text and dozens of pamphlets, or not. Some groups choose not to send money to support any of these services, and not to participate in AA activities beyond their home group meetings. **Autonomy** requires that each group be responsible not only for its own financial expenditures, but also for its own spiritual and physical maintenance. Because our primary purpose is to help others achieve sobriety, and love and tolerance is our code, we do offer help individually, and collectively, to new groups and struggling groups. Yet, no AA group can demand financial, or other, support from the District, Area, GSO(General Service Office) or other AA groups, just as no AA group is required to contribute to other entities. Every AA group must sustain itself to remain autonomous. *– Anonymous Alcoholic*

Hello District 55 People.....We are not a glum lot!!!!!!

Activity - Increasing Variety of Human Activities for pleasure or entertainment....

It's a new year and The Activities Committee needs YOU & your ideas...

Next scheduled Activity is The Spring Auction and Picnic on April 25th

*** Please come to the next Activities Meeting on February 15th**

At St. Luke's on 5th Ave. (Downstairs)

Activity Contact - Rhonda B.

District 55 Newsletter

dist.55.news@gmail.com

February 2015

D.C.M. Report

Hello to all in District 55! I want to extend our greetings to all the groups, the General Service Representatives, and the Sub Committees in our wonderful District. I am very grateful that all of you have trust in me to be our District 55 District Committee Member (D.C.M.) and trusted servant. I'm looking forward to serving our District and all of you for the next two years. We, on this panel, hope to have a helpful and positive attitude towards the District, and to be of maximum service to all of the groups here in District 55 and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. I would like, at this time, to encourage all of the groups here in District 55 to participate in the service structure here in District 55 and Alcoholics Anonymous.

District 55 is hosting the General Service Representative Workshop here in our District this year. We encourage all G.S.R.s to attend, and invite any A.A. member who may have an interest in what it is to be a G.S.R., and what being a G.S.R. may include. The Western Washington Area 72 Alternate Delegate will facilitate this workshop. We will also discuss the importance of the G.S.R. and the Home Group in Alcoholics Anonymous. **In Service, Jerry G., District 55 Committee Member**

Our service entities are funded by contributions from A.A. groups.

Many groups make a plan about dividing their funds beyond what is needed for group expenses including sending the GSR to the Assembly and a prudent reserve. They send these excess funds to:

	<u>District 55</u>	<u>Area 72</u>	<u>The General Service Office</u>
Make Checks to:	"District 55"	"Western Washington Area Assembly"	"General Service Board"

Mail to:	District 55 P.O. Box 1985 Sequim, WA 98382	Western Washington Area Treasurer PMB 535 702 Kentucky St. STE 535 Bellingham, WA 98225-4200	The General Service Office Post Office Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163-0459
----------	--	---	---

Please participate in our newsletter by sending submissions to dist.55.news@gmail.com

Please Note: At your request, your submission will be published anonymously.

THE FIRST TRADITION SAYS, "OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS ON AA UNITY."

DID YOU NOTICE THAT IT SAYS, "OUR COMMON WELFARE "SHOULD" COME FIRST"? THESE ARE SUGGESTIONS BASED, SOLELY, ON THE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE OF OUR FOREBEARERS IN THIS FELLOWSHIP. WE ALL KNOW THAT "ALL GROUPS ARE AUTONOMOUS". HOWEVER, KNOWING WHAT THAT "SHOULD" IS BASED ON, WE REALLY "SHOULD" BE DOING WHAT IS "SUGGESTED" IF WE WISH TO ACHIEVE PERSONAL SERENITY, AND HARMONY IN OUR GROUP. IN ORDER TO ENSURE "MY" SURVIVAL IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, I, AS AN INDIVIDUAL, MUST DO MY BEST TO HELP OTHER ALCOHOLICS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TRADITION, AND WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF AA. THIS TAKES ME BACK TO A PHRASE THAT WAS AROUND LONG BEFORE ME - SOMETHING ABOUT "TOO MANY COOKS IN THE KITCHEN."

WHEN ALL THE "I'S" IN THIS ROOM WORK TOGETHER, TOWARDS THE SAME CAUSE, "WE" BECOME AN INDOMINATABLE FORCE. WE BECOME A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH ONE SINGLE PURPOSE. I SUPPOSE THE LOGICAL QUESTION TO FOLLOW IS - HOW DOES A GROUP OF ANARCHISTS, LIKE US, WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON CAUSE..??

(ANARCHIST – a person, who is rebellious, confused, absent of order, lawless, violent, etc., etc.)

- Larry G., Alternate District 55 Committee Member

What is a G.S.R.?

A G.S.R. is a General Service Representative! G.S.R. may be the most important job in A.A. By choosing its most qualified person as G.S.R., a group helps secure its own future, and the future of A.A. as a whole. G.S.R.s link the home group with the whole of A.A. Years ago, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging information between groups and the General Service Office, G.S.O. Now, the job includes an even bigger responsibility – transmitting facts, ideas and opinions, so the group conscience becomes part of the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship," as expressed in the General Service Conference. G.S.R.s attend a district meetings each month and the Area Assembly in October. The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the G.S.R., General Service Representative, the group elects.

- From P-19, "G.S.R. May Be the Most Important Job in A.A."

For more information about the benefits of becoming or electing a G.S.R. -- check out www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/p-19-gsr-may-be-the-most-important-job-in-aa online or the A.A. General Service Conference approved pamphlet, P-19.

Service Opportunities on the District 55 Committee

Corrections Chair

Purpose: To facilitate and coordinate volunteers to provide regular AA meetings to the correctional facilities in Districts 55 and 22, that work together to carry out this service.

- ✓ Provide literature to the correctional facilities
- ✓ Cooperate with Bridging the Gap Coordinator in bridging inmates into AA
- ✓ Attend monthly District 55 business meetings
- ✓ Attend Area 72 Corrections quarterly meetings

Literature/Grapevine Representative

Purpose: To order, maintain and manage Conference Approved Literature, and make it available to Groups and their members.

- ✓ Keep a supply of books and pamphlets and take literature and Grapevine orders
- ✓ Be available to visit groups, explain how to get literature or display and sell literature
- ✓ Manage literature fund checking account and give an account at the district meeting
- ✓ Attend monthly District 55 business meetings
- ✓ Attend Area 72 Literature/Grapevine quarterly meetings

<<<>>> Thanks to the Early Bird Group <<<>>>

that meets at S. Sequim Ave. and E. Prairie,

The District 55 AA Literature Bookstore is OPEN 7AM-8AM everyday at their meeting!!

District 55 business meeting - Every third Sunday at 5PM, basement of St Luke's on 5th

District 55 AA Hotline – Contact Dana C. – Pick your time to answer 12-Step calls!!!

New Pair of Glasses meets at the Parish House in front of DVL Church on N. Sequim Ave.

Currently, since the recent service rotation in District 55, several groups are without General Service Representatives, G.S.R.s. Many more groups are without Alternate General Service Representatives. An "Alternate" for A.A. service positions is more than a substitute. The G.S.R. Alternate is more closely related to an assistant or an apprentice. Alternate G.S.R.s are encouraged to attend all functions of the District and Area. – Editor, Barbara T

All A.A.s are welcome to attend the Area 72 GSR Workshop on February 21!