

"I am Responsible. *When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."*

The Responsibility Statement was written for the 1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto by Al S., a former AA trustee and *Grapevine* editor. Bill W. expanded on the theme in an essay called "Responsibility Is Our Theme" for the July 1965 *Grapevine*. It became a regular feature of the *Grapevine* shortly thereafter.

In 2005, A.A. members congregated in Toronto for the International Convention to celebrate the 70 years that brought A.A. from a bond between two sober alcoholics to a worldwide Fellowship of more than two million members. The theme was "I am Responsible," reprising the theme of A.A.'s 30th birthday celebration.

Group responsibility is the theme of **Tradition 5** which, in the long form, states -
"Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*"

Concept X: "Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined." <> How do we understand and practice "authority" and "responsibility" as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?

For more information about Service and Responsibility - check out the A.A. General Service Conference approved pamphlet, P – 8, "The Twelve Concepts for World Service, illustrated." Find P-8 online at www.aa.org/assets/en_US/aa-literature/p-8-the-twelve-concepts-illustrated

In **January**, Class A trustee Ivan L. Class B trustee Chet P. and GSO Corrections staff Clement C. gave a panel discussion entitled "**Myths and Misconceptions about Alcoholics Anonymous**" at the American Probation and Parole Association Convention in Tampa, FL. The message that AA is a transformational design for living that is was especially useful. Due to the ongoing need for more male volunteers to fill requests from inmates for **CCS**, the trustees' committee forwarded this topic to the Conference Corrections committee:

Discuss Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS).

A new service piece, "**Engaging AA Members in Corrections Work**," inspired them to send this item to the same group: **Discuss ways to engage members in Corrections service.**

- Joel C., Pacific regional trustee

<><><><><> **Deadline for submitting items for the April Newsletter is April 12**

⇒⇒⇒⇒ **ALL A.A.s ARE WELCOME** and ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!!!

District 55 Business Meeting is **Every third Sunday at 5PM, basement of St Luke's on 5th**

District 55 Activities Committee meets **Every third Sunday at 4PM, basement St Luke's**

Combined District 55/22 Corrections Committee meets **Every Second Sunday at 4PM** at 711 East Second Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362 - Male volunteers are especially needed.

<> **District 55 AA Hotline** - Pick your time to answer 12-Step calls!!! - Contact Dana C. New AA Hotline numbers for Sequim are 360-797-0259 and 877-682-4143

District 55 Newsletter

Read online at www.district55aa.com Click "Newsletter"
dist.55.news@gmail.com **March 2015**

AA[®] Across the Peninsula & Around the World

All A.A.s are welcome to attend the Pre-Conference Meeting on March 21!

March 21--- **Pre-Conference Meeting** 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. Find more information on a flier at local A.A. meetings and on the Area 72 Website -- www.area72aa.org Information about topics to be discussed at the General service Conference in April is provided. In turn, GSRs and DCMs discuss the topics with the members they serve. Opinions, concerns and questions from members are reduced to reflect the consensus of the group. Those products are passed along to the delegates and inform the group conscience of the conference.

All A.A.s and Families & Friends are Welcome at the BB Bonfire!!!

March 21--- **Big Book[®] Bonfire - Share Your Favorite Sentence** in the Big Book[®] at the Big Book Bonfire! Potluck with coffee, soda and water supplied. Parking is next to the East side of the Dungeness River Bridge. BYOC....Bring your own chair! **Saturday! 4:00pm to 8:00pm at 7400 Old Olympic Hwy, Sequim**

All AAs are welcome to attend the Area 72 Quarterly!!!

April 3-4 - Western Washington Area 72 Business Quarterly – Hosted by District 46 - Dinner 4:30-6:30PM, Sharing 7 - 9PM, Friday evening, Business 8:30 AM-4PM Saturday at Oak Harbor Elks Lodge, 155NE Ernst St, Oak Harbor, WA. For more information see the Area 72 Website -- www.area72aa.org **District 55 Committee members, General Service Representatives, GSRs, and Alternate GSRs are especially encouraged to come Saturday.**

All A.A.s and Families & Friends are Welcome at the Picnic!!!

April 25 - District 55 Spring Picnic Hosted by the District 55 Activities committee at Macleay Hall located at 290 Macleay Road, Sequim WA 9838. Setup begins at 8:30 am. **Service Volunteers needed!!! Meeting is at 10 AM.** Food, fun and fellowship all afternoon!! **Join in!!!**

April 19-25 - The 65th General Service Conference. By invitation only! Our 134 delegates from service Areas across the US and Canada share information from the membership.

July 2-5 – Celebrate 80 years of AA – "Happy, Joyous, and Free" in Atlanta!

For more details about the 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](#))

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.

D.C.M. Report

Hello All! First of all, Thanks! I am grateful to all who helped with the February, General Service Representative, **G.S.R. Workshop!** Through a great team effort, you served brunch and lunch, AND cleaned-up the hall! Next, thanks to Western Washington Area 72, W.W.A. 72, servants for helping facilitate the G.S.R. orientation at the Gardiner Community Center. We enjoyed fellowship with District Committee Members, D.C.M.s, and G.S.R.s from Districts 10, 43, 56, 22 and 55 who showed up. Those D.C.M.s presented information on what a G.S.R. is, and how G.S.R.s fit into A.A. service structure. From Home Groups to Districts to Areas to General Service Office, we all work together for the best for A.A. Did I mention that we had some GOOD food and beverages, and lots of FUN? We also had lots of sunshine!

The **Pre-Conference** on March 21st will be hosted by District 56, our neighboring district in Port Townsend. W.W.A. 72 reps will facilitate sharing information about General Service Conference, G.S.C., agenda topics. D.C.M.s and G.S.R.s can bring this background information back to our Home Groups. We can have informed discussions with our Home Groups, and take back their decisions to our area Delegate who will take that conscience to the G.S.C.

If anyone in District 55 is interested in service work, come to our **District Business Meeting** held on the Third Sunday of the month at St. Luke's on 5th. Ave. in the basement at 5:00 pm. Our next business meeting is April 19, 2015.

Hope to see you there! Thanks to you all. In Service, Jerry G., District 55 Committee Member

Service Opportunities on the District 55 Committee

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

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

Box 4-5-9 is the primary way that GSO communicates with the groups about the services provided on their behalf. Please do whatever you can at the area and district level to let G.S.R.s know that they should be sharing this newsletter with their groups.

- Mary Clare L, AAWS literature staff

“Newcomers are approaching A.A. at the rate of tens of thousands yearly. They represent almost every belief and attitude imaginable. We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In A.A. we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of A.A., so long as he or she so declares.”
—**Bill W. (A.A. Grapevine, July 1965)**

A misconception about Alcoholics Anonymous is that it is a religious organization. That an A.A. group is not connected with the church, school or government office where it happens to meet is important to keep in mind. A.A.'s pioneering members realized, from the beginning, that their sole purpose was to help people gain sobriety. They went to great lengths to ensure the broadest membership among all who suffer from alcoholism. A.A. is a Fellowship, a community of like-minded sufferers, who have found a way out of a hopeless condition.

We needed help. We reached out. We found sobriety, and some obstacles. Many of us began to discover that we could utilize the A.A. program without conforming to religious or spiritual concepts. With time, we came to recognize that we could stay sober and enjoy full membership in the Fellowship, regardless of our beliefs. Spiritual experience in A.A. is broad and varied.

Reprinted from “Many Paths to Spirituality,” p-84 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-84_manypathstospirituality.pdf

Pacific Regional Trustee Report following the Jan./Feb., 2015 General Service Board Weekend

Financially, AA is lean and prudent. Profit margins for 2015, where they do exist, are slim. That's okay. We don't really want them to be large. Where expenses exceed revenues, it's worth it, because the dollars are being used to carry the AA message.
- Joel C., Pacific regional trustee

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:**

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