

Kentuckiana News

AREA 26 NEWSLETTER – THE VOICE OF KENTUCKIANA – WINTER 2009

Made many resolutions but never a decision.
What decisions have you made?



The next topic will be "April showers bring May flowers--walking through pain into the sunlight of the spirit." Please submit your stories by March 1, 2009.

You may email your contribution to kentuckiananewsletter@yahoo.com

The Kentuckiana News is the Voice of Kentuckiana and needs your voice to survive.

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To submit articles, you must be an alcoholic and your subject should pertain to the theme of the upcoming issue. If your story is not within the theme, it will be archived for later issues. By submitting articles, you authorize us to edit for traditions, length, and language. Thank you for your support.

Deciding to Live

This time I came into recovery determined to survive. I made three major decisions: the first three steps of A.A. My life will never be the same, thank God! I made the decision that I did not want to die in the shape I was in while locked in the madness. I made the decision that I was utterly and totally powerless over myself and everything else. I had to believe that someone else could unravel the knots I had twisted. But, definitely first and foremost, I made the decision to turn my life and my WILL over to the care of a loving, forgiving and caring God. Had I not made that decision, nothing else would be possible.

For years I searched to find a solution to the craziness, not realizing that I was the problem. My choices and actions were the self-inflicted chaos that I was trying to get away from. I tried all the usual "solutions": men, drugs and things of the world. But the answer was, is and always will be in God. Since I have come to accept that, I have acquired peace like I never knew. I have hope for a bright and glorious future. I can breathe easy and I'm learning to depend on opinions other than my own.

Seeing the outcome of those who have walked before me in this program has shown me that there is a better way to live. There are rules that I can and must live by. Today when I look in the mirror I'm beginning to like what I see. The reflection has become one that has limitless possibilities. Time and discipline are miracle workers. Four years ago no one could have convinced me that I could operate a business that gives to the needy without asking for anything in return. I did not have the faith to even

hope to hold a job that required daily participation in society. And who would have thought that at my age (over fifty) I would be having a home built?

These are just a few of the outcomes of my decision to live by the steps of A.A. I've decided to love; to love life and everything in it; to love Bill W. and what he stood for; to love myself enough to venture out of what is familiar and take a chance at sober living; to love what got me to this point and love the fact that I never have to make the decision to use mind- or mood-altering substances ever again.

My decision today is to share my experience, strength and hope with another suffering member of this world and let them know that nothing can stop one from starting over except their own decision not to.

Ellen S. – KY

Make a Decision!

Decisions; Decisions; that is all I ever heard! My boss said to make a decision; are you staying or are you quitting? My wife said when are you going to quit drinking? I made a decision all right: I decided to get a divorce, to move back to Louisville, and to get sober.

Finally, a decision that made sense; that actually did something to improve my life! Thank God for Step Three: For the first time I was getting out of myself and into the Sunlight of the Spirit! I have to make this decision again, every day.

I guessed that a normal person would work the steps once and then live them like a creed. But I am not a normal person. I am an alcoholic and must remind myself every day that I AM an alcoholic, that my life is unmanageable. I also have to remember that I have come to believe and have turned my will and my life over to the care of God.

The Big Book says to share my experience, strength, and hope with another alcoholic. If I had not gotten sober and had not reached out to a blind alcoholic, I would not have been able to write this article.

This blind A.A. encouraged me to write about what I saw and then read it to her. I got so descriptive trying to picture everything for her that my writing moved up to the next level where I developed the confidence to send it in to the Kentuckiana Newsletter.

Today, this woman is no longer a part of my life and I miss that; but I live by God's will these days, and this is what it appears to be. Perhaps I will meet another sightless alcoholic that wants to know what I see now that I am sober.

Nothing happens in God's world by mistake, and what does happen, happens in God's time, not mine.

Eddie G.

Many resolutions but never a decision

The act or process of resolving a decision was something I never put into practice. My life was completely out of control.

Six years of destruction was the name of the game for me. Living life on life's terms was out of the question. Running in and out of people's lives not knowing the harm I was doing was the insanity of this alcoholic's life. Everyone always told me that I had the power to do anything I ever wanted, but leaving the alcohol behind seemed impossible.

Every day I told myself that today was the day that I stopped drinking. What I never thought was, maybe today was the day I become an alcoholic. I can't blame my drinking on my up bringing. My parents were very loving and supportive of me and of my decisions. Despite the resources available to me growing up, I developed into an adult terrified of the world around me. I was unable to handle and understand my emotions. It was as if everybody else knew what they were supposed to be doing and what was going on, and my life was the only one without an instruction book.

When I drank, everything seemed to change. Alcohol made me think that I fit in with the crowd and was a great conversationalist. I didn't realize that the insanity of the disease was already manifesting itself. I can recall thinking that this life was fantastic. I had finally found something that made life great, worthwhile.

I didn't realize that the day would come when I would cross the invisible line into alcoholism. Eventually I found myself beyond frustration: in and out of jail, I crashed my cars and stole money to get that next fix. My mother kicked me out of the house. My family wasn't having much to say or do with me. I wonder why! My life was a tornado, and every time I drank

someone else suffered for it.

There were many resolutions in my life but never a decision. Alcohol took me to that point of deep desperation. I wanted to quit but didn't know how until the day my mother told me, "Son if you don't quit you're going to die."

It took what it took to get me to the point in my life where I was willing to do whatever was suggested to me. I was offered drug court or prison for five years; it was totally up to me. I chose drug court. This program offered me a new way of life, where I was introduced to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is almost impossible to adequately describe how much the program has given me in just a short period of time. I have been able to secure a wonderful job with a promising future.

But material things aren't true indications of quality sobriety. I have friends now because I know how to be a friend. I now have goals, dreams, good values, and boundaries. I came to A.A. in order to stop drinking. What I received in return was my life.

Craig

Made many resolutions, but never a decision

My name is Betty S. I'm a very grateful recovering alcoholic. In my active drinking days, I made resolutions daily concerning whether I would drink that day, how much I would drink, etc.

I remember deciding to stop at the nearest liquor store after work; buy one

tall beer, and that one beer would be it for the evening. Within 15 minutes of making that resolution, I decided that maybe I would get a six-pack, too. This seemed to be my M.O.; therefore, my decisions were pretty flimsy. I also remember making resolutions to hibernate, not go to clubs, and avoid alcohol completely. Needless to say, that didn't last long either.

When I finally made it to A.A., I was given suggestions; ninety meetings in ninety days, stay out of relationships with the opposite sex for at least a year, etc. Of course my thinking was, "these people in A.A. have a lot more time than I do." I would make a resolution to make as many meetings as possible, but the part about staying out of relationships just didn't make a lot of sense to me. To make a long story short, I was able to stay dry for six months, did not work steps, got involved in a relationship and then decided that I did not need A.A. Eventually, I got drunk and stayed that way for six months.

When I finally crawled back to A.A., realizing it was truly "the last house on the block," I made a decision to listen to what my fellow A.A.'s told me; made a decision to go to at least ninety meetings in ninety days. Actually, I ended up going to many more than that. If there was only one other woman in the meeting, I made it a point to sit close to her, did not give my phone number to any men, did not date, and started working the steps. I had already worked steps one and two when I came back this time, and immediately started on step three, "made a decision to turn my life and will over to the care of God as I understand him."

Each morning, I would pray to the God of my understanding, "I really have no idea what you would have me do today, but I do know that You don't want me to drink." I also kept a journal the first year and made the decision that I would write something in it every day, no matter how little. After approximately one year in the program, my sponsor invited me to join her at an A.A./Alateen-sponsored dance. I told her I would let her know; I really did not want to commit. My sponsor pointed out that alcoholics have a hard time with commitment (making a decision and sticking to it). After she said that, I told her I would go. I met my future husband at that dance. He was supposed to meet another woman there, but his date stood him up. We danced and talked, and somehow I felt I had known him my entire life. We dated for almost two years, then got married (another decision/commitment.)

Having been married three times before, I had never made a true commitment to a marriage. When things got bad, I had always bailed out. During our twenty-year marriage, there have been times when I wanted to give up, but I realized I had made a commitment to this man and this marriage. I'm glad I decided to keep that commitment.

I am so very grateful to Alcoholics Anonymous for giving me "a design for living," which means I must make decisions and commitments, then let the chips fall where they may.

In June of 2007, I received a phone call concerning my 41-year-old son-in-law who I dearly loved. He was in the hospital, unconscious and non-responsive. As I headed to the hospital, I prayed that he would be okay, but added, "Thy will,

not mine, be done." Sadly, my son-in-law passed away shortly before I made it to the hospital. I still have a hard time making sense of it all. But I know who's in charge of the universe, and it's not me.

I make a decision each and every day to thank God for all the blessings I have received and ask for the knowledge of His will for me just for this day.

Betty S.

Resolutions? Decisions!

Before sobriety, I spent most of my life thrashing around in the chaotic mess of my own mind. Twenty years old and totally unable to live on my own, I married a wonderful young man. Thank God for him! It was one of the best decisions I have ever made, and an example of God doing for me what I could not do for myself.

Once married, I had begun drinking every night, but God made it possible for me to quit during my pregnancies. My husband and I had two beautiful babies whom we adored. But I suffered from postpartum depression after each birth and developed a bad case of self-pity that became a permanent fixture in my mental landscape. This, of course, led to more drinking, more depression, and alienation from God and everyone else.

Eventually, like a selfish child, I started behaving badly. This led to arguments and resentments against my husband and everybody else. They were all out to get me. Every week I went out and got drunk with friends. I failed to notice that my friends never drank as much or as

obsessively as me. Sometimes they had to drive me home because I couldn't even walk to the car.

This is when the resolutions began: Next time I won't drink so much; next time I won't stay out so late; next time I won't flirt; next time I won't black out on the drive home or wake up on the basement floor with my street clothes on. Somehow, these resolutions never "worked." Shame and laziness had made me decide to shut God out of my life and I was powerless to stop drinking.

It took many years of wallowing in this morass of self-centered pity before I bottomed-out. Can't tell you how horribly my words and actions wounded my family. Miraculously, my husband had not divorced me, I had never been arrested, done jail time, or been hospitalized for mental illness or alcoholism.

Then came the morning when I woke up convinced that I should go into treatment right away. This was, as my sponsor likes to say, "A God Thing." It was a gift of grace from God. You see He never gave up on me, even though my behavior had blocked me from the sunlight of the Spirit.

The steps of A.A. and the resulting spiritual awakening are making it possible for me to finally grow up. I'm slowly learning how to live life on life's terms, how to live in true partnership with my husband and in true relationship with others. These days, the God of my understanding is teaching me how to make decisions based on His will, not mine. And that is what serenity is all about!

M.B.

Decisions! Decisions!

Incomprehensible demoralization. What a devastating concept! Wouldn't you think anyone faced with the apparition of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse would have to admit complete defeat? Not me. It was 1987, and I was sitting in the front seat of a car outside a Monday night A.A. meeting, doing drugs.

Only three days before, I had found those four mounted gentlemen galloping inside my head, when in a moment of clarity I viewed the wreckage of 28 years of drinking. I had collapsed in tears, crying out to God for help. But the moment had passed.

That night I was to go to my first A.A. meeting accompanied by a life-long friend who had been court-ordered to go to A.A. meetings. He had agreed to take me, too. "Are you ready to go in?" he asked. But **I** chose to sit in the car for a while and indulge in a little drug use while he did his civic duty.

Next day I had an appointment at a psychiatric clinic, and was told that the fee for treatment would be \$40 an hour. I had not worked in 9 months and was broke. Asking me to pay for treatment infuriated me. They obviously did not realize whom they were dealing with! They *owed it to me*, a steady worker for the last 25 years.

Indignant, I righted my psychiatric ship and got a job. I continued to drink for another 13 years until I found myself back in the clutches of these evil equestrians once again. Finally I relented and went into the Monday Night meeting at St.

Mark's and said, "Hi, my name is Eddie and I am an alcoholic." I worked a program of sorts for a year and then made another monumental decision. A decision based on self. I had a false "moment of clarity" on the night I received my 1-year Token. It seemed to me the right thing to do would be to call my dealer and get some drugs. As long as I didn't drink I would be OK, right? Wrong!

I stayed alcohol-free for the next two years, continued to go to meetings and sponsor people. Picked up my two and three year chips, too. But all the while I was getting stoned after the meetings.

When my sponsor discovered what I had been doing, he "suggested" I change my sobriety date. After much praying and listening, God convinced me to change my sobriety date. That was the best decision for me because *I* did not make it; God made it for me. I finally have a firm foundation in A.A. I've found that when I need to make an important decision, it pays to call my sponsor and pray about it first.

E. G.

Stories from the Area Chairs Kentuckiana Newsletter

My first drink of alcohol was when I was 7 years old. I remember enjoying it very much. I made it to the big time. My last drink was when I was 29 years old and those big times ended.

There was no stability in my life having moved from North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida (3 times),

Arkansas (7 times), Korea, Germany, Iraq, California (4 times), Chicago (2 times), Texas (3 times), and Kentucky (2 times). During my last move to Kentucky, I took my last drink sometime in October 1998. I picked the 12th because I knew I wasn't drinking when we moved into our house. As with some alcoholics, I decided to go to college since I didn't know what else to do. I was having trouble studying and sleeping (the committee meeting was in full gear). After two weeks, I talked to the disability counselor. He suggested that I see a psychiatrist after babbling at him for about two hours. The next day, I saw the psychiatrist and he thought I was a bit unstable (suicidal and psychotic). That evening I made it to the 6th floor-- the Psycho ward. I fit right in. I made it to AA with my wife and my two children one week later in January 1999.

I went through two sponsors until I met Jerry M., my current sponsor. I had to seek outside help along with attending meetings every day. My sponsor and I worked through the steps in a short period of time. Even though I may not have understood what I was doing, I would understand later. We worked through the steps over and over. Service work was a must which included: hospital visits, eating lunch at the Salvation Army for two years, bringing a big book study to a treatment center for a year, going to jail meetings for a year, taking two different friends to dialysis for three years, cutting grass around the club house for three years. Jerry would have me pick a service and have me perform that service for a year--sometimes it went on for a little longer. I didn't always want to do what I was doing, but it beat drinking any day. We started a new meeting several years ago and I am currently the alternate GSR. I was going

to the district meetings with Leo, our GSR. The DCM said they needed some one to fill the position of District Newsletter Chair. I volunteered. With the help of our group, we put out several issues. When going to the area assembly, Mike said that he needed more support from the districts. I decided to drop the newsletter and focus on helping more within the area newsletter. Several months later I was asked to be the new Area Newsletter Chair.

I have enjoyed working on the newsletter with all the committee members. Without them, the newsletter wouldn't be possible. Our goal is to deliver hope and inspiration through news and information, personal stories, and service events from the area. It has been a work in progress.

The letters that we receive are gathered through the regular mail and by email. I collect the stories and forward them to Melissa for editing (who does a great job of editing.) She then forwards the articles to several other committee members for further review. After the editing is completed, we format the newsletter which is later sent to the printer. We make approximately 450 copies of the newsletter with events, and 200 newsletter without events. We try to have 10 copies for each of the 35 districts and there are several inter-groups and about 50 to have on hand at the area assembly. 200 copies without events are provided to Corrections Chairperson.

At each committee meeting, we cover several topics each quarter such as: who will be editing, we review appropriate content for the newsletter, discuss how our group is following the traditions, new ideas for the newsletter to better serve the alcoholic, and pick a topic for the next

issue. We have about 1½ hours to discuss this. We have refined the editing process from one person to 4 or 5 persons.

We occasionally receive letters that are controversial. That has generated some heated debates. It brings life to the committee. The questions become "Should the letters be put in or archived?" This is when the group conscience comes together and hopefully we let our egos go for awhile and God prevails. I have seen that happen several times while working with this committee. It was brought to our attention by one of our members of the committee that we are a group, and should follow the traditions.

We have designated an events-person LeAnne M. Her responsibility is to try and contact the other districts so we can include local events in the newsletter.

Thought for the Day

Once we realize that faith is the light to the future, acceptance truly is the answer to our problems and service work gives freedom from selfishness, then we can move on in our journey.

Gratitude is the master key. It opens doors that we didn't even know were there. Our biggest challenge is love. Learning to love ourselves, love others and loving the life we were created to live sets all parts of life in motion.

Laugh, it makes the sun shine!!!

Ellen S

Other Events

Spring Fling Convention
May 22-24-09 at The Hilton Frontenac,
St. Louis, Mo. 63131.
Mike M, Committee Co Chair
Tel: cell (314) 835-8731, call any time
Website: www.Springflingstl.com

“A Vision For You”
58th Kentucky State Convention
February 20-22, 2009 Louisville, KY
Crown Plaza Hotel, 830 Phillips Lane
(Formerly Executive West)
(502) 367-2251, 1-800-633-8723, 1-800-626-2708

Sharing at the Well, at Sulpher Well, KY
February 14, 2009
Sulpher Well Park Community Bldg
Contact New Recovery Group
(270) 629-5261 or ml@gmail.com

Central/Intergroup Offices in Area 26

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**Area 26 Quarterly Meeting DCM
Reports, October 2008 in
Elizabethtown, KY**

District 1 -- DCM: James G.

James was not present and no report was given.

District 2 -- DCM: Janice D.

Janice was not present and no report was given.

District 3 -- DCM: Kelvin H.

This summer has been a busy summer for everyone. Attendance at GSR meetings has been low and monthly eating meeting has been low also. Our district has been trying to get Intergroup to gather so they can start working with Central Office better. At one of the eating meetings we invited the central office manager and GSR's asked questions on how they could help in carrying the message and how they could help with keeping the Central Office open for people that need any material. The groups have given me their votes on the Web master being on its own committee – we voted yes – so that it can carry the message to the suffering alcoholic and to all alcoholics everywhere. Our treatment center chairperson has had a committee meeting and they have met and discussed a budget and are looking at purchasing Big Books to make available to treatment facilities. I'm glad to report that our up and coming workshop in December is coming together well. We will be having a workshop December 6, 2008 in Bowling Green from noon till 6 pm at

the 13th Street Clubhouse. We have invited area 26 standing committee chairpersons to share with us what their committees do to help carry the message to alcoholics. What we would like to share with new people is how we work with the still suffering alcoholic. Also service work is very rewarding. We would like to invite everyone to attend. Information has been given to the webmaster and will be available online. We are looking forward to this event and having everyone there. We would like to thank district 4 for a wonderful skit and for hosting this area. We really have enjoyed it and enjoyed the nice facilities. Hope everyone has nice holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Would like to see some of ya'll at the workshop in Bowling Green in December. Yours in Service.

**District 4 -- DCM: Bill R.--
Report given by Jill**

District 4 wants to welcome all of you to Elizabethtown and hope you enjoy the area and Area 26 Assembly. WOW I am so proud of District 4. Thanks to district 4 for the great job you are doing in hosting this assembly in Elizabethtown. We now have 27 groups in district 4 with 21 GSR's/POC. Now if we can just get them to make the district meetings each month we will be on a roll. We did have 15 at our last district meeting; our area of interest now is to get people to volunteer to hold meetings in the jails. We are thinking that a workshop in that area might help. If any district has any

suggestions please let us know. On the motion that the website committee becoming a permanent standing committee as part of Area 26, District 4 vote's yes.

District 5 -- DCM: Joe O.

District 5 is doing well. Richard G reported that the new jail in Campbellsville, he is trying to get a sit down meeting with the jail contact – Rick B. We are looking for persons willing to take meetings into the jail. Joe and Charlie tapes are being used at the Marion County jail do to more interest and better knowledge of AA. Asking for funding through the district for CD player in jail meetings. The controversy on drug court people of how to sign papers were discussed. Normal procedure was to hold a group conscience and let each individual group decide. The picnic went good, entertainment was good, and Kenny B gave a workshop on the responsibility of an AA member. Al-anon speaker did real well and a speaker from Newport, KY was really interesting. The Thursday night Bardstown Group has moved to St. Monica's. Groups report that attendance fluctuates. District 4 voted to host the Area Meeting in April. District 4 took a vote and agreed to send the DCM to the Southeast Forum. District 4 voted against making the website a standing committee and would like to see the motion restructured.

District 6 -- DCM: Bob R.

There are 14 groups in District 6. GSR attendance to district 6

meetings is 50% to 57%. Average home group attendance is 20 to 30 people. District 6 is doing very well overall without any scheduled activities at this time. District 6 votes in favor of the website becoming a permanent standing committee. I thank district 4.

District 7 -- DCM: Mitch M.

District 7 would like to thank District 4 for hosting this meeting this weekend. In September the Burnside Group had its 49th annual picnic and it was well attended. District 7 still suffers from lack of participation at the district level. Most groups do not have home groups meetings and do not have a GSR to represent them. Also the majority of the groups are not supporting the district or the Area financially as a result our treasury at the district level is at an all time low. I hope to go around to each of our meetings in the next quarter and encourage the groups to elect a GSR and to begin having home group meetings and to participate at the district level. District 7 votes yes for the website to become a standing committee.

District 8 -- DCM: Donna D.

Not present – no report given.

District 9 -- DCM: Buzz T.

Thanks to district 4 for hosting – best directions ever. Annual picnic was held in September. We had the privilege of our Alt. Delegate – Ms. Joy F. as our 2008 guest speaker. She did a wonderful job and shared a lot of recovery. District 9 is planning to bid to host the 2009 fall

Assembly/Quarterly in Paintsville. District 9 has held its 1st Annual Men's Workshop – Retreat in conjunction with the Federal maximum security prison. District 9 voted yes on the motion to make the website a standing committee.

District 10 -- DCM: Nick S.

I would like to thank district 4 for hosting this assembly. We discussed the new standing committee for the webmaster at our district meeting – Yes is our vote. District 10 still meets at the Care Center in Louisville on the 1st Sunday of the month at 1:30 pm. On November 29 district 10 will be hosting a "bring a book to jail" dance at the Care Center at 3705 Bells Lane in Louisville. The proceeds from the dance will go to purchase Big Books for prisons and jails in several districts. Its \$5 at the door or you can get in for free if you bring AA approved books (soft cover). Bring extra money to have your friends arrested by our sheriff or to use as bail money for yourself. We continue to have 8-10 GSR's at our monthly meeting. Yours in service.

District 11 -- DCM: Phyllis C.

I would like to thank district 4 for hosting this area meeting. District 11 held its last district meeting September 14th at the Jeffersonville Token Club. There were 7 GSR's present. We discussed hosting a district workshop in February since our last workshop was such a success. We have not decided on a topic – several were discussed. Two new meetings have started at the Clark County Jail with the work relief

program. In reference to the structure change District 11 has voted yes.

District 12 -- DCM: Kate D.

I would like to thank district 4 for hosting us here this weekend. District 12 has been very busy the past few months. In July we had our annual ice cream social hosted by the Eleventh Step Group. The theme was the service side of the 3 legacies and our speaker was past delegate Charlie W. He shared a lot about his service and had a great message. In August, we worked with other districts in Louisville to host the 3rd Annual Unity Picnic and Barbara F. gave her conference report. The district as a whole has been working on getting a basic functioning structure together so that there can be some consistency in information and events when there are new people voted in. We are very excited to report a general rise in attendance at meetings in district 12. We are working to get at least one contact for each meeting in the district and on how to better get information out to all meetings. We welcomed new GSR's at our September meeting and they brought some needed new energy and enthusiasm. There was a lot of discussion about filling all committee chair positions and how to work with Intergroup in this way. Finally, all groups represented agreed that there should be a structure change to include a webmaster committee within Area 26.

District 13 -- DCM: Chris W.

Thanks to district 4 for hosting this weekend. District 13 has held 3 district meetings since the last area meeting, and our average attendance has been 12 people. In August our then current DCM, Cecilia M., notified us that she had to step down as our DCM due to work relocation, she has since moved to Louisiana and is doing well there. She asked me to tell you how grateful she is to all of you for everything she learned and was able to be apart of in area service work. She said she looks forward to seeing everyone at the KY State Convention in February. Cecilia's knowledge, humility and dedication to service will be greatly missed by us in district 13. In August district 13 worked with the other districts in the Louisville area – 1, 10, 11, 12, 22, 24, and 29) to host the 3rd Annual Delegates report and unity picnic, about 80 people were privileged to hear Barbara F. share her experience at the General Service Conference in New York. As a testament to the commitment to service, we have in the Louisville area, 30 of the 80 people were there before the start time of the event asking if they could help in any way. Needless to say we put all 30 of them to work. As the new DCM of district 13 I look forward to being an active part of this service body, and to serving the groups in our district in any way I can. District 13 voted 8-0 in favor of the proposed area 26 structure changes that the website committee become a standing committee of area 26. Yours in Service.

District 14 -- DCM: Judy K.

I would like thank District 4 for hosting this assembly. Big welcome to our 3 new GSR's – Chad C from the Frankfort late-o-clock group, Michael G from the Serenity Cedar Post Group in Georgetown and Robin G from the Midway Group. Also Robin L our CPC/PI chairperson. All GSR's and committee chairs and District 14 members. Hopefully we will have anew alternate DCM, Jim M from the Frankfort group. Vote will be held at our next district meeting in January. On August 3 the Blue Chip Group in Georgetown celebrated their 3th year. It was an all day affair. On Sept. 6th the Frankfort group hosted a Service Workshop with a panel of over 100 years of sobriety. It was awesome!! On Nov. 15th the Midway Group will be hosting a Sponsorship Workshop and will also have a great panel. District 14 does vote YES to our Website becoming a Standing Committee. Special thanks to all of our Standing Committee Chairs for all of your hard work and dedication. It is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

District 15 -- DCM: Gordon R.

First I would like to thank District 4 for hosting this event and providing lunch and other refreshments. I am still learning other things I need to know to be an effective servant as DCM. We held our October meeting a week early with only 4 in attendance. Due to other service commitments our secretary has resigned but is still active as her home group's GSR. As our seventh

tradition status with our meeting place was not clear, we have moved our meeting to the Alano Club, 370 E 2nd St. Lexington, KY still at 6:00 pm on second Sunday of each month except when the Area Assembly or Meeting falls on that weekend. Groups reporting concerning the permanent chair for the webmaster are unanimously in favor so please record our YES vote. In love and service.

District 16 -- DCM: Amy B.

District 16 continues to meet monthly and the number of GSR's in attendance is slowly increasing. We are hopeful this trend will continue and district officers have the district meeting announced at any meetings they attend. All group information sheets from the registrar have been reviewed and changes are being finished at this time. District 16 has completed, voted on and passed our district structure changes after several months of work. At the next meeting the new structure will be given to GSR's to take back to their groups. A new 100 bed female has opened in our district. Many members of our AA community have reached out to the center to offer help and support. Many of us offer our experience, strength and hope in a variety of ways as often as we can. There are currently 4 women's speaker meetings a week held at the treatment center. Our next district event will be on Dec. 6, 2008 when we will hold our Thanksmas potluck at noon at the old Kentucky camp ground in Berea KY. Thanks for continuing to allow me to serve. All

groups in District 16 voted in favor of making the Website a standing committee of Area 26.

District 17 -- DCM: Bill W.

Due to the work, Bill – District 17's DCM, will not be able to attend any monthly district meetings, as well as any quarterly Area meetings, so I the alternate DCM, will be taking over his duties until early next year when he returns. With that being said...District 17 would like to thank district 4 for having us this weekend. We would also like to thank everyone involved in the area – we appreciate all the hard work everyone puts in to keep this thing going. We would like to thank Barbara for her time and hard work. She was supposed to give a delegate's report in September but we had to cancel because of the changes made in our district. I'm sure she wasn't too disappointed due to how busy she has been. It's good to have a weekend off every now and then. Our district has been doing good. A little over 60% of our groups in district 17 participate every month. Other than our DCM change everything else has been going the same. The 22nd St Group will be having "The Friends of Bill W' picnic on the 18th of this month at Yellow Creek Park O'Boro. We will eat at noon – speaker at 1:00 – Nancy C will be speaking. Christmas Dinner will be held by the Promise Group Dec. 20th in O'Boro – not sure where yet. From here on out group is now having traditions meeting every Sunday at 3pm. For more information, talk to me after this

meeting. I will be happy to try to answer any questions that anyone may have. District 17 voted yes on having webmaster as chairperson. Thanks.

District 18 -- DCM: Ed C.

Ed was not present and no report was given

District 19 -- DCM: Jay S.

Jay was not present and no report was given

District 20 -- DCM: Jeffery H. Report given by: J.D. R.

District 20 would like to thank district 4 for hosting this weekends events. District 20 has been busy updating its meeting's locations, dates and times, as well as the GSR's of various groups and new DCM. We continue to work with the Morehead Inspiration Center by carrying the message to that treatment facility. The West Liberty prison has had consistent meetings taken to them. We are working with the Frenchberg meetings to get them registered with the General Service Office. Again, we thank district 4 for hosting this weekends events. District 20 abstains from the vote regarding the website committee becoming a standing committee.

District 21 -- DCM: Bernie O.- Report by Alternate Greg R.

District 21 would like to thank district 4 for hosting this Area meeting. We had our district picnic the Sunday of the great storm. We had about 25 on hand working – there were limbs falling around and as soon as we ate

our meal we closed and in about 5 minutes were ready to leave. We all survived productive district meetings. All of our appointed committee slates are filled. We have 2 new groups one in Pleasureville and one in New Castle. All groups are running well and properly. District 21 votes yes for permanent position webmaster to become a standing committee

District 22 -- DCM: Eric B.

We would like to thank district 4 for hosting this assembly. We participated in a Unity Picnic with several other districts and received positive feedback about working with the other districts to carry the message of unity and service. We will conduct our second district workshop of the year sometime in November. Several groups have expressed a continued need for workshops specifically related to the traditions, service, and sponsorship. Attendance at our monthly district meetings averages 8 to 12 people, so we continue to develop a solid core group of AA members who are willing and able to be of service in our district. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. District 22 votes yes for the website becoming a standing committee.

District 23 -- DCM: Dave C.- (representative)

Not present

District 24 -- DCM: Charlie S.

District 24 would like to thank district 4 for hosting this are meeting. District 24 meets in conjunction with district 29 on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Marks located on Frankfort Avenue in Louisville. Districts 24 and 29 have recently completed a district level inventory. This inventory reveals the need to educate our GSR's about the Traditions, Concepts and responsibilities. The inventory reveals the need to combine efforts with the Louisville inner group. Information delivery back to the groups was also discussed by providing our GSR's quick information sheets to take back to the groups. The inventory reveals much more and I am submitting a copy of the summation with my report. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Jennifer S – our district secretary for her dedication and hard work in assembling this summation. Our committee chairs have been very active. Recent voted and approved for our literature chair, Ashley to purchase a display rack to use as a traveling display at local functions to promote literature at the group level. Our correction chair, Tom, has been working diligently on a fact finding mission to gather and assemble contact information for correction contacts. Our CPC chair Kenes will order for distribution the packet that is available from GSO for contact with professional. Districts 24 and 29 have been meeting with the other local districts in planning a service workshop that is scheduled for

January 31st in Louisville. It is our belief that this workshop could be an annual event to help educate the membership on the importance of service at the area level. We will post the final announcement on the area web site. In cooperation with the local inner group we have appointed a liaison to attend the inner group meetings to help coordinate efforts of both the district and inner group. District 24 vote no to the structure change to include the web master chair position.

District 25 – DCM: Pat R.

I am having a hard time getting the groups to elect GSR's. All meetings are having good attendance almost all groups have trouble with addicts attending – that problem is working itself out. There are NA meetings in Danville and Somerset. Jim E, a long time member is terminally ill and is not able to attend meetings anymore – please pray for him. Love and service. District 25 votes yes for the website committee.

District 26 -- DCM: Sarah C.

East End group held its annual picnic at Pennyrile State park in August. The meeting schedule has remained the same. They are currently in the process of electing a new GSR. The current GSR-Jesse P. is moving out of state for a new job. The Cadiz Sober group continues to have a Tuesday night and Thursday night meeting with good attendance at both. Hungry Spirits group continues to have 2 meetings a day – 7 days a week with good attendance, they held their annual picnic in September

at Ruff Park, they are hosting an old-timers/newcomers eating meeting on Sunday Oct. 26th starting at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. The District continues to hold monthly meetings the 1st Wednesday of each month and is trying to encourage participation. Our district voted yes to the webmaster being a permanent position. In Service.

District 27 -- DCM: Tim P.

I'd like to thank district 4 for hosting the Oct. Area 26 meeting. District 27 seems to be doing fairly well just the normal fussing and fighting. At our last district meeting we had 10 of 16 groups represented. We voted Kenny S in as our new Secretary – he had been temp. for awhile and agreed to take this position full time. We discussed meeting a calendar of events and birthdays in the district to be mailed and emailed to GSR's to help keep the district more involved about what's happening in the district. We also talked to Jon the webmaster about putting this on Area 26 website he said just send it to him and he would do that for the district. District 27 will be putting on a Halloween party and dance on Oct. 25 at – it will start about 5:00 with BBQ – we will be cooking on the grounds - for more information see me or call Mark D – district 27 activities chair. Thanks for letting me serve.

District 28 – DCM: John M.

The last quarter has been a busy one for district 28. Our Area Host Committee has met several times and things are on track for the

January meeting. Please take flier with you for your groups. Also, when making reservations, so by phone and tell them it's for the Area 26 meeting. We have to meet certain requirements in order to get the meeting space. Our group awareness chair Jaime has been busy updating information. She is having GSR's fill out the group information change form and having groups without representation update their information. Our treatment chair – Jesse – has been busy with Bridging the Gap. If you need information pertaining to Bridging the Gap in Lexington please call Bluegrass intergroup. Bryan M has agreed to be the alternate DCM. We are very thankful to have that position filled. Our literature committee chair – George J. has been active in talking to various home groups about what literature is available. He's done 2 presentations this quarter. The district vote for adding the webmaster as a standing committee resulted in a tie. In loving service.

District 29 -- DCM: Dalton D.

Attended the 3rd annual unity Picnic at the Care Center and heard the delegate's report. We had Barbara, our delegate, moderate our district inventory. We created a District 29 service board to hang in Token Club to post information; attended the pre-planning meeting for the 3 legacies/service workshop. We acquired a 3 legacies workshop disk from ATL. Spoke with the Central Office in New York about a 3 legacies workshop; received a copy of the final report from the 55th

annual GSO meeting from O'Dell. We took inventory of existing literature in Token Club and replenished it. District 29 voted no to district 16's motion to make Webmaster a permanent standing committee in the area structure – as it should follow GSO structure and be a position on the PI standing committee. We voted to create an intergroup liaison for the purpose of working with intergroup; responsibilities include attending intergroup meetings to see how we can help support the intergroup. We had an alcathon all day on Dec.29. We will continue host these alcathon on Christmas eve and New Year's eve. We support the 2010 regional hospitality.

District 30 -- DCM: Richard W.

At the last quarterly meeting, district 30 reported that every group in our district attended our previous district meeting. In the interest of full disclosure and so that no one thinks, mistakenly, that district 30 is a haven for alcoholics without character defects, the situation is as follows: at least one group, the Mt. Olier Group, to our knowledge, has neither withdrawn from our, nor joined another district. Another group, the Ewing Group has not attended for months. The West Union Group has no GSR and the Wednesday Noontime Group may or may not; no one is sure. This sorry state of affairs led us to passing a structural rule change which, fortunately and on a good day, we had a quorum to vote and pass: if a group has no GSR or alternate GSR

present for 2 district meetings in a row, that group will not be counted for purposes of a quorum. A GSR from such a group, in attendance on a 3rd consecutive month, will, of course, be counted and have a vote. This was to avoid having business grind to a halt by requiring a majority of our 11 district groups to be present, e.g. six, at every meeting, when we know at least 2 will probably not attend and at least 2 have no GSR or alternate. Now we need only a majority of 7 groups e.g. 4 present to have a quorum. This way, we cleverly deal with dwindling attendance. Now that we've established

That district 30 is as screwed up as districts everywhere (no offense), on to the issue of economics: after numerous calls asking about "where my group's basket monies is going. We passed our group inventory worksheets and asked GSR's to report on their financial condition. To wit: donations to area, GSO Intergroup, district, literature, and prudent reserves, just to get the groups talking about the 7th tradition, while respecting each group's autonomy. Answers ranged from "we're broke and have no prudent reserve", to "none of your damn business". This certainly confirms that fewer than 50% of groups actually contribute to GSO and that "love and tolerance" is our code. As to the hope "herding of cant" There is no consensus. Rather district 30 reports that we are strong in our diversity of opinion. Our district picnic is Sunday October 26 at Lake Cornice is beautiful Carlisle,

Kentucky. Half way twixt Lexington and Maysville, off of US 68. Food at 5 speakers at 6:30. Upon consideration of the motion to make the website a standing committee. Committee pursuant to the Area 26 Service Structure, by a vote of a majority of a quorum in attendance at the district 30 September meeting. District 30 votes "Aye" in favor of the motion.

District 31 -- DCM: Chip A.

I would like to thank all those in district 4 for hosting this area meeting. The facility is quite accommodating and food is wonderful. Our district has been relatively busy this past quarter. At our 9/7 district meeting, we voted to institute a prudent reserve of \$1,300. We will begin to distribute the excess to Western KY Intergroup, Area 26 and GSO on a 40%/30%/30% distribution per quarter. We have no record of any prudent reserve. We have some movement in our treatment facility area. WARM in Henderson counties to graduate women from their women's facility. A new women's treatment (Women's Triangle Recovery House) organization has incorporated and received their non profit 501 C/3 certification this will be a women's only facility but it does not have a home yet. They are fundraising but have an active board of directors. The Red Door group Founders Day Dinner was 9/26 we celebrated 58 years of existence and 54 years at the Episcopalian Church. We had a great dinner and a great speaker – Beth G. Young Peoples

Group – They have stated a pancake breakfast the first Saturday of each month. We had a good turn out the 3rd – there were about 25 people. District 31 groups discussed the proposed change to Area structure to include a website committee. Our district was in favor of the proposed change. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

District 32 -- DCM: Harry M.

Harry was not present no report was given

**District 33 -- DCM: Ray L.-
Report given by Alternate Mike L.**

I would like to thank district 4 for they're hospitality and for taking the action to host this assembly for Area 26. District 33 is a very active area in Southwest KY and is carrying the message of AA to the newcomer. We have witnessed a growth in our meetings of young people. It is truly by the grace of God and the fellowship of this program that we have been able to reach this group of young people. Our attendance at meetings in increasing and we have a flux of members now that have 1 or 2 years of sobriety. We have not held our district meeting for this quarter yet because of a conflict of schedules. It is scheduled for October 18th. Just recently about 14 members of our district attended the Rough it Round Up in Somerville TN. They reported that it was a very spiritual experience and that a wonderful time was had been all. West KY Intergroup held a picnic Sept. 13 in our district and we were

graced to have Colleen Y. from Louisville share her experience, strength and hope with us. The reason I am making this report today instead of yesterday is because I was given the privilege to chair the 2nd Annual Big Book Weekend hosted by West KY Intergroup this October 11th in district 33 at Draffenville, KY. Billy H. and Brad G. from Louisville were so gracious to come and carry us on a journey through the steps. It enhanced our entire sobriety and a good time was had by all. There are so many things I would like to report about the service and fellowship happening in District 33 but I think you can tell that we are involved in AA. I would like to thank you for your attention and for any of you that have a resentment for having to listen to it today instead of yesterday - - talk to your sponsor. Sincerely yours in service. We do not have a vote on the website committee due to lack of information.

District 34 -- DCM: Jeff N.

District 34 is doing what it is suppose to do, "Carrying the message to Alcoholics". All the groups are doing great. None of them are reporting any problems. We are proud to be part of the Western KY Intergroup. They are amazing at fulfilling all our literature needs. We have no events planned in the near future. District 34 votes in favor of making the webmaster a standing committee.

District 35 -- DCM: Jerry D.

Thank you to district 4 for hosting this area assembly. District 35 is having a workshop in Covington, KY

on Oct. 25th on the traditions entitled "What is AA & What is not AA" Speakers are Tom B – Area 26 PI Chair; Terri G. – Area 26 CPC Chair, Betty S – Past Area 26 Delegate and Richard W. – DCM District 30. The workshop will focus on the traditions & how they apply to many of the practical day to day problems our home groups face. The vote on making the webmaster a standing committee of Area 26 was Yes. Thank you to all the district 35 GSR's and committee members.

