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WHY A WORKSHOP?



An AA workshop is a meeting where a group of people engage in an in-depth, intensive discussion on a particular subject in Alcoholics Anonymous. Workshops are usually Step, Tradition, and /or Service based. They are opportunities to learn and discuss subjects on a deeper level than usually takes place at a regular meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Workshops give the attendees an opportunity to listen, study, and engage in discussion about topics that may not be as familiar in the fellowship. Not all members have experience with certain subjects in AA. I did not have any experience with archives or Traditions. I had only read the Twelve Traditions off the window shade. I was not aware of the true meaning and principle behind each one. It was at my first ever workshop I attended that I first heard about the Traditions in depth. There were no members around in the district that I lived in that had any real experience with the Twelve Traditions or any in- depth service work. I lived in a dark district that had had no representation at the Area level for many years. We started asking people from the Area Committee to come and put on workshops in the district. They were happy and eager to come and join us. Not only did we all learn together, but we also had the opportunity to spend some time together and get to know the trusted servants in our Area who had an immense love for Alcoholics Anonymous. We had fun.

In late May, members of the Area Committee traveled to District 7 in Somerset and held a wonderful workshop. The workshop had a Local Welcome to Service (different than the Welcome to Service that is done on Saturday morning at the Area Meeting.) This presentation focuses on how an individual member can get involved locally. The workshop then had three different presentations on select Traditions. This was a great workshop that had over 100 members in attendance and lasted from 10AM-3PM.

In late June, Area 26 Delegate Jennifer J. and myself had an expedition to District 3 in Bowling Green. We talked about our service histories, and I did the presentation on Local Welcome to Service. There were over 50 people in attendance, and, in classic District 3 fashion, they had a dunking booth. I believe they dunked me about 15-20 times. Never forget that we are not a glum lot.

Workshops are excellent opportunities to rally a district or home group. The Area budgets money each year specifically for workshops. The Area Committee wants to come and visit your local

district. In my experience, these types of events are crucial for the unity and continued growth of a local AA community.

Corey Durham
Area 26 Panel 72 Alternate Delegate

WHEN AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN



I have a regular meeting that I attend every Tuesday. It's about a 40-minute drive but I enjoy the people and the fact that they choose a reading and then discuss alcoholism. This week, due to challenging weather, I was unable to attend but decided to take the drive on Thursday. I had already completed my 11th step readings and felt compelled to go, even though I'd never joined them on Thursdays. When I walked into the room, I was surprised to find about 30 men with one woman who was chairing. Shortly after, a young man walked in inquiring whether this was AA; we all responded "Yes, have a seat". How It Works and the Twelve Traditions were read and a fellow with 9 years started sharing and the miracle developed. As each man talked, there arose a comradery that filled the room, speaking to the newcomer. Continuing around with the male perspective, I could feel an air of excitement that I hadn't felt before; this was truly the magic of the AA message. Bantering back and forth, the friends told humorous and serious bouts with alcohol. The meeting was unfolding exactly the way the Higher Power wanted with no female interaction. It was very moving, and I could see the face of the new man; he was hearing, and probably feeling, exactly what was needed. On my drive home, I thought about "a fellowship of men and women" and knew that explanation had been shown in that meeting; I don't believe the power would have been there with women also sharing. We do have to agree that they present their stories differently. I attend, many meetings both mixed and women only but, was thrilled that the Higher Power showed up exactly when he was needed.
Joan D.

Area 92
Washington State Newsletter June 2023

A FLOOD OF TEARS

Grapevine – Annual Prison Issue

I am eternally grateful to AA and the ways it helped me restore some sanity back into my life. Growing up in an alcoholic family and community as I did was difficult. I was unable to see that the life I was living was anything but normal.

As a child, I naturally developed a deep love and admiration for my parents, especially my father. He was the definition of coolness, and despite his heavy drinking, I wanted to be exactly like him.

I had a lot of friends and we all glorified drinking. This prevented me from seeing the damaging effects alcohol was having on my life. Eventually, my drinking landed me in prison with a life sentence. It would be years before I would see and finally understand what alcohol, along with my messed-up attitude, really did to me.

After 24 years inside prison, I finally built up enough nerve to attend my first AA meeting. It was such a welcome change. Still, it would be weeks before I got up enough nerve to share my story with everyone. While I did enjoy hearing others tell their amazing stories, I felt too embarrassed to share mine.



I was very fortunate that the outside AA volunteers who brought meetings into the prison were so patient with me. In time, my moment of sharing came with a flood of tears. Up until that moment, I had never sat down and had a serious heart-to-heart talk with anyone. Did that mean no one ever cared about me? Did it mean that drinking had made me into some kind of Superman who didn't want or need love or compassion? No. Yet now I got to feel the love and family unity of my fellow AA members.

Today I no longer see myself as serving a sentence of life without parole in prison. Rather I'm now serving life without parole in AA. To me, that's time well spent. So far AA has brought so much love into my life that I may have developed a dependency on it. In fact, I wanted and

needed AA to be a part of my life so much that one day I protested when I was transferred from a prison with AA meetings to a prison without them. That didn't sit well with me. Fear immediately set in. I complained to the prison officials about not having an AA meeting and I requested to be transferred to a prison that had them.

My efforts didn't stop there. I also sent a letter to my old AA group saying that we didn't have any AA meetings at my current prison, and I asked for their support. Within weeks the prison officials began allowing an AA meeting inside. The proudest moment I've had since becoming a member of AA was when Jeff, the outside AA volunteer, told me he'd gotten my letter and that the group back at my old prison fully supported me. Now that's love! That's AA unity at its best.

By: Levester L.
Charleston, Missouri

AREA 26 News

FROM OUR DELEGATE

Information from Jennifer Our Delegate:

1. The AA Grapevine Corporate Board will have a vacancy for the position of Non-Trustee Director following the General Service Conference in April 2024. The Board of Trustees has requested that the AA Grapevine Board's recommendation be presented for this position to the trustees' Nominating Committee for review at its January 2024 meeting. Since resumes need to be screened and applicants interviewed by members of our Corporate Board in a timely fashion, the process must begin well in advance. Please use this link to a resume form that should be completed by all applicants for this vacancy www.aagrapevine.org/Vacancy-NTD-AAGV and return the completed form via email to resumes@aagrapevine.org, or print and mail to the attention of Janet Bryan, Director of Operations, AAGV, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1100, New York, NY 10115 by Friday, September 15, 2023. Please see the email sent out by Delegate regarding desirable qualities.
2. Annual deadline for agenda item submissions, for the General Service Conference, is September 15.
3. Please contact me to schedule a report back from the 73 rd General Service Conference.
4. A recent reorganization at the General Service Office (GSO) to create two new departments — Language Services and Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property — is bringing more focus to their important services, including the licensing of literature to AA structures around the world, new translations of books and pamphlets, translation of documents and background for the General Service Conference, and protecting intellectual property rights related to literature and the AA name.
5. G.S.O.'s A.A. Website: www.aa.org
6. We now have a separate post office box that has been established for Seventh Tradition contributions only. Please send contribution checks payable to "General Service Board" to: Post Office Box 2407 James A Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407. This dedicated PO box enables us to process contributions much more efficiently and at a significant savings to the Fellowship. You also can continue to make contributions online at www.contribution.aa.org using a major credit card or PayPal.
7. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first unabridged edition of the Big Book in French, which was officially released on March 2, 1963, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

8. As of April 3, 2023, prices will increase on English, Spanish, and French books, booklets, and pamphlets. The new pricelist is available at <https://www.aa.org/pricelist-april-2023> . The increase will be reflected on the online: bookstore at <https://onlineliterature.aa.org> The reduced shipping charges schedule and the mixed-title quantity discount schedule that were adopted in 2022 will remain in effect. Read more about the price increase here: [https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/ Price%20Increase%202023.pdf](https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/Price%20Increase%202023.pdf)

9. The trustees' Literature Committee has opened a call for recovery stories in response to the 2021 General Service Conference advisory action regarding the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic." The advisory action stated that the pamphlet be updated to include current stories of recovery and a new title that is respectful and inclusive. The committee is seeking stories of recovery from all Indigenous communities in the AA structure in the United States and Canada. Stories of recovery may include but are not limited to:

- Experience, strength, and hope
- Steps, Traditions, Concepts
- Ethnic, cultural, gender and LGBTQ diversity
- Diversity of social status
- Sponsorship
- AA service
- Safety & racism
- Military
- Sobriety and mental health
- Experience in AA meetings
- Atheist/Agnostics
- Newcomer experiences
- Cultural reconnection

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-1,000 words, double-spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 8 pages. Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of your manuscript. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files. The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not.

Deadline: October 31, 2023

Please submit via email to: pamphletstories@aa.org. Use the subject line: "A.A. for the Native North American Alcoholic"

10. Mark Your Calendars and Make Plans to Attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada July 3-6, 2025.

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of our Fellowship's founding.

11. The 7th Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

Hosted by Area 14 – North Florida November 17-19, 2023

Sheraton Orlando North

Orlando, FL <https://ssaasa7.org>

ARCHIVES UPDATE

July 1, 2023

Wow! Its already July...unbelievable! We will be having our Area meeting in Paducah...check area26.net for the "SUMMER" flyer with all the info you need to attend.

Our July Archives Committee Workshop will focus on:

- Reviewing the Area 26 Archives Workbook, mainly responsibilities of the Archives Chairperson and the Archives Committee.
- The 3 motions that were put together in May (thanks to those who helped out) – two motions are on July's Agenda. What happened to the 3rd one? Come to the Archives Workshop to find out lol.
- If we have time, we will play a quick round of multiple-choice trivia pertaining to all things archives.

Don't forget The National AA Archives Workshop will be held in Ontario, Canada September 7th through the 10th this year.

Again, I will be staying Friday and Saturday night at the hosting hotel so I am available if there are any mini movies you would like to see, something you would like to research together or if you just wanna chit chat I will be around.

Yours in service,
Joy McC., Archives Chair

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

- Formation of the Archives Committee was approved by the body on April 12, 1987
- Our first "repository" was housed at the University of Kentucky.
- Three Ad Hoc Committees were created to search for an acceptable building site for our archives collection and to discuss funding the repository (March 23, 1997, April 16, 2000 and October 15, 2000) we finally landed in Lexington in 2001.

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT!



ARCH

TRADITIONS

CONCEPTS

SERVICE

NEWCOMER

PRAYER

MEDITATION

TWENTY FOUR

SOBRIETY

COMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS



SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023
SHOT GUN START: 9:00AM • LUNCH FOLLOWS
EAGLE CREEK GOLF COURSE
2820 KY-53 • La Grange, KY 40031 • (502) 222-7927
Contact Bill Miller (502) 548-0477 ; Bruce Hoke (502) 708-9174 ; Moe Foster (502) 432-7756

★ PRIZES ★ LUNCH ★ FRIENDS ★ RECOVERY ★
PLAYER ENTRY FEES INCLUDE GREEN FEE, CART & LUNCH
Per Person \$125 Per Team (of four) \$500 Register by July 20, 2023

Bill W. Picnic

September 9th at Yellow Creek Park in Owensboro KY
9:00AM-4:00PM CST

Agenda

- Panel from 10:00AM-11:00AM
- Lunch is served at 11:30AM
- 2nd Panel from 12:30PM-1:30PM
- Speaker Jennifer J. at 2:00PM
(All Times are Central Standard Time)

There will be Cornhole and Half-pot drawing!!!

Please bring covered side dish to help contribute to the lunch, The Meat will be provided.

31st Falls City Convention



October 6-8, 2023


Crowne Plaza Hotel
830 Philips Lane
Louisville, KY 40209

Full weekend experience!
Speakers • Meetings • Meditations
Service Workshop • Carnival • FUN!

\$30 Admission for 3 DAYS!
Register Online • FallsCityConvention.com



Convention Speakers:
Cindy M.
Georgetown, IN


AREA 26 MEETING SAVE THE DATE 

OCTOBER 7TH AND 8TH, 2023
 Hosting districts: 6, 14, 18, 21, & 32

HYBRID MEETING!
 ALL ARE WELCOME AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!
JOIN ON ZOOM!
 MEETING ID: 213-070-4560
 PASSWORD: service (lowercase)

VENUE & ROOMS @ HOLIDAY INN CINCINNATI AIRPORT
 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd. Erlanger, Ky 41018
 (859)-294-5067

BOOK PRIOR TO SEPT 26, 2023
 GROUP CODE: A26
 ROOM RATE: \$119/night
 OR
bit.ly/area26assembly
 QR Code!



2023 TRISTATE CONVENTION
 "YOUR IMAGINATION WILL BE FIRED"

BILLY N. PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL
CUSHING P. MONTGOMERY, AL
LARRY C. MURFREESBORO, TN
SHARLI R. BOWLING GREEN, KY
DEBBIE C. (AFG) INDIANAPOLIS, IN

NOVEMBER 3RD-5TH
Owensboro Convention Center
 501 W 2nd St Owensboro, KY 42301

Register Online: <https://tinyurl.com/5axtrvey> Detach and mail this form with a \$40 check/money order, payable to Owensboro Host Committee: Owensboro Host Committee, PO Box 516, Owensboro, KY 42302. One form per attendee. ARE YOU SA/IL/SHEN?

NAME: _____ CITY/STATE: _____
 BADGE NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
 HOME GROUP: _____ EMAIL: _____

Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Waterfront \$134/Night +tax
 401 W 2nd Street Owensboro, KY 270-685-2005 <https://bit.ly/TriStateAANov2023>

January 27 ~ 28, 2024
Area 26 Winter Assembly

Holiday Inn / Sloan Convention Center
 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green, KY 42103
 Reservation Link: [Area 26 AA Assembly Conference](#)
 Reservation Code: A26 ***Room \$104***
 Setup Friday January 26 after 6 PM Central
 ZOOM INFO: Meeting ID 213-070-4560
 Password: service



Inspire and Attract! **SSAASA7** South East Region Service Assembly
 Meet your peers around the South East Region
 Hosted by Area 14, North Florida

- ✓ Panel Discussions
- ✓ Service Workshops
- ✓ Share Your Service Experience
- ✓ Learn and Discover
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities

Southern States A. A. Service Assembly
Orlando Florida
Sheraton Orlando North
November 17-19, 2023



Questions? Chair.ssaasa7@gmail.com

SSAASA7.ORG

Scan to go to website

