

DELEGATE's Corner

Delegate's Corner for August:

MSCA 09 PANEL 68 DELEGATE JESUS OLIVAS April 15, 2019

In thinking about my community as a remote community; I thought about how it is that we are still somewhat remote inside the community at large. I'll begin with a quote from a Spanish Speaking member from my area who said this when the Hispanic-Women's Movement that took-off in the Pacific Region; "Why do women want to start their own women-only meetings? Do they want to divide A.A. or what? The Spanish speaking culture and Mexicans specifically tend to be patriarchic and some would say macho in their way of thinking. Therefore, our meetings are dominated by about 99% men including my homegroup in Long Beach, California. We tend to focus more on who is in charge rather than who gets the help they need. One definition that resembles my culture is; (Patriarchy is a social system in which men hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property. Some patriarchal societies are also patrilineal, meaning that property and title are inherited by the male lineage. Wikipedia)

This one from Webster's Dictionary: In a dominant patriarchal society with heavy Catholic influence, Mexico's women were expected to follow traditional gender roles.

You can take the person out of the small town but you will not change their small-town mentality. I know I will not be liked by this because I'm breaking the rules. There are things we don't talk about even if that very thing is hurting our family. Reminds me of my denial that alcohol is really not the problem or it is not that bad. If only I drink less. If only I will conform and live by the family's rules. Then, everything will be fine. We will get by and that's what matters. It could

AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 11
ASC**

Salvation Army
340 S. Palm Ave.
Hemet, CA 92543
District 14

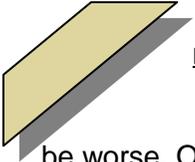
**September 8
ASSEMBLY**
District 10

**October 13
AREA ELECTIONS**
District 6

**November 10
ASC**
District 17

**November 16
SERVATHON**
District 30

**December 8
ASC**
District 8



be worse. On and on and on we justify our behavior because it is so ingrained in our culture and customs and in our way of life. It's always been this way. Nobody cares what happens to us anyways.

I believe Mexicans or Hispanics are only one example of this way of living or should I say; surviving. I see it in the inner city where I work. We have thousands of people who barely survive every day. I see it in other minorities, as well. Alcoholism is very prevalent along with other societal problems that we don't care to mention or address because we are too busy trying to survive. Places of Mexico I have visited prove this point as well. In January of last year, my wife and I traveled to Jalisco, Mexico to visit her family. It's a small city or big town and people work very hard to get by. I myself grew up in a farm in Mexico when I was young and would not believe that parents give alcohol to their kids at a very young age. I'm told that my father gave me a shot of Tequila when I was 4 years old. I do not remember a thing so I tended not to believe it. At least, I didn't believe it until I saw it with my own eyes. I usually help my in-laws with farm work; feeding and milking cows. It is very common for the men to drink coffee and sugar with milk right out of the cow when they are milking the cows first thing in the morning. Close to 99 percent of the time they will mix a squirt of alcohol with the coffee because they believe alcohol will kill any bacteria in the milk. I've drank the coffee without the alcohol it's called a virgin (pajarete) or cappuccino with no alcohol. If you don't add the alcohol it's a sign of weakness and you are not very masculine or macho. Unfortunately, that mentality still abounds. I witnessed this first-hand when the father of a 6-year old fixed him a cup of coffee with six drops of alcohol. They don't use a dropper either. This man was still drunk from drinking the night before so I'm pretty sure he put in more than six drops of alcohol in the kid's coffee. He was pouring right out of the bottle. Needless to say, the little boy said he wanted a refill once he finished it and he ask for more alcohol please. I said to these grown men; don't you think he's a bit young even for 6 drops? They laughed and told me how they had all grown up this way. I thought to myself: no-wonder you're still drinking like you are?

Thank you for the opportunity to share.

Panel 68 Delegate,
Jesus Olivas

A.A. HISTORY AUGUST

August 1:

1946 - Washington Times-Herald (DC) reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address

August 3:

1954 - Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hosp. after 50th detox

August 3:

1989 - Liberty Bell Group founded in Lake Elsinore, CA - August 3, 1989

August 8:

1879 - Dr. Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

August 9:

1890 - After Annual Picnic for 400, LA groups announce 1000 members in 11 groups

August 11:

1938 - Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book

August 15:

1890 - E. M. Jellinek is born, author of The Disease Concept of Alcoholism and the Jellinek Curve

August 16:

1939 - Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

August 18:

1988 - 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia

August 19:

1941 - 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver

August 25:

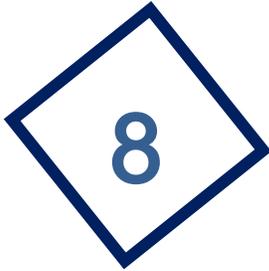
1943 - AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA

August 26:

1941 - Bill writes Dr. Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated

August 28:

1954 - 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond Walker



Step Eight:

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

Tradition Eight:

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

Concept Eight:

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

A.A. HISTORY AUGUST

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Other **August** events for which we have no specific date:

1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

1939: Dr. Bob wrote & may have signed article for Faith magazine.

1941 - 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim

1981 - -Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000



**PRAASA 2020
March 6th - 8th, 2020
Tucson, AZ**



***We are only as sick as our
secrets.
Some of us are sicker than
others.***

**CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE
69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The following recommendations were approved by the 69th General Service Conference:

Floor Actions

It was recommended that:

1. The proposed floor action that "A draft Fourth Edition of the Spanish Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed and a progress report be brought to the 2020 General Service Conference" be committed to the trustees' Literature Committee.
2. The proposed floor action that "The pamphlet 'A.A. for the Black and African- American Alcoholic' be updated and a progress report and/or a draft be presented to the 2020 General Service Conference" be committed to the trustees' Literature Committee.
3. The "A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials" be recommitted to the trustees' Literature Committee with an updated proposed policy to be brought back to the 70th General Service Conference.

CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

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Agenda

It was recommended that:

4. The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference be: "2020: A Clear Vision for You."
5. The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference:
 - Recovery - Who Is Missing in Our Rooms?
 - Unity - Practicing Our Principles
 - Service - Keeping A.A. Relevant
6. The workshop topic for the 2020 General Service Conference be: Attraction Through Action

Archives

7. The 1940s home movie of the co-founders and their wives be added to the Archives video "Markings on the Journey" at an estimated cost of \$5,000.
*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

8. The text "They may help arrange hospitalization" be removed from the section "What can you expect from A.A.?" in the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community."

Corrections

No recommendations.

Finance

It was recommended that:

9. The level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members be raised to \$10,000.

Grapevine

No recommendations.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

It was recommended that:

10. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2020 International Convention.
11. An anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2020 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony be approved.
12. Anonymity-protected video footage with highlights of the 2020 International Convention be produced for maintaining archival footage of the Convention, as well as for sharing the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2020 International Convention.
*Members serve on this committee as a secondary committee assignment.

Literature

It was recommended that:

(See Next Column)

13. The pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be revised to add the following text regarding anonymity:

1. Under the section, "What does a sponsor do and not do?" (p. 13), after the current bullet "Impresses upon the newcomer the importance of all our Traditions," add a new bullet with the following language:

Emphasizes the relevance and spiritual value of anonymity, both on a person to person basis, as well as at the public level including social media. (For more information see the pamphlet, "Understanding Anonymity").

2. Under the section, "How can a sponsor explain the A.A. program?" (p. 15), add a 6th paragraph:

Many sponsors discuss the significance of anonymity at a personal level and public level early on. Anonymity at a personal level provides protection for all members from the identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers. At the public level of press, radio, films, and other media technologies, such as the internet, anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their

A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain. The sponsor is quick to point out the benefit of anonymity at this public level. Sponsors may provide examples from their own experience of maintaining public anonymity.

14. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.
15. The trustees' Literature Committee update the pamphlet "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" and bring back a progress report or draft pamphlet to the 2020 General Service Conference.

Policy/Admissions

It was recommended that:

16. To allow time for discussion, the "Process for Polling the General Service Conference between Annual Meetings" which currently reads:

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CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

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Timing

In keeping with the G.S.B. Bylaws, Conference members will be given two weeks from the time the poll is emailed to respond with their vote. Dates for all votes and motions will be included with the poll, using a form similar to the "Timeline for Polling Conference Between Meetings." All times listed are Eastern Time.

The original poll will be emailed by 2 p.m., and voting will open that day and remain open for two weeks.

Voting will close at 2 p.m. two weeks after the poll was emailed. By 5 p.m. on the day the poll results are due, Conference members will be notified of the results by email. A request for any minority opinion will be included with the poll results.

Be replaced with:

Timing

In keeping with the G.S.B. Bylaws, Conference members will be given two weeks from the time the poll is emailed to respond with their vote. Dates for all votes and motions will be included with the poll, using a form similar to the "Timeline for Polling Conference Between Meetings." All times listed are Eastern Time.

The original poll will be emailed by 2 p.m., and discussion will open that day and remain open for **one week. Voting will commence on day seven at 2 p.m. after discussion closes.**

Voting will close at 2 p.m. two weeks after the poll was emailed. By 5 p.m. on the day the poll results are due, Conference members will be notified of the results by email. A request for any minority opinion will be included with the poll results.

Public Information

It was recommended that:

17. The trustees' Committee on Public Information develop a plan to produce video shorts based on current A.A. pamphlets that provide information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
18. The video PSA "My World" be discontinued.
19. The "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates" be reaffirmed.
20. Two PSAs be developed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 for each PSA, and that if full-face characters are shown, to include an "actor portrayal" disclaimer on screen.
21. The text addressing anonymity and safety be included in the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" as follows:
 - Q. Is it okay to tell someone if I witness or experience inappropriate behavior that happens either during or outside meeting times? Can I alert the proper authorities if there is criminal behavior?

(Continued from Previous Column)

A. Groups strive to provide as safe an environment as possible in which members can focus on sobriety, and, while anonymity is central to that purpose, it is not intended to be a cloak protecting inappropriate or criminal behavior. Saying something about inappropriate behavior or calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is meant to preserve the safety of all members.

22. The wording of the last sentence in the section titled "How A.A. Members Maintain Sobriety" in the flyer "A.A. at a Glance" be changed from:

Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the suggested Twelve Steps for recovery from alcoholism.

To:

Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the **Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, which are suggested as a program of recovery.**

23. A progress report on the usefulness and effectiveness of the A.A.W.S. YouTube channel be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.
24. All current video PSA titles be updated for search optimization purposes.
25. A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. apply for "LegitScript" certification to qualify for Google Ad Words/Grants.
26. A.A. World Services, Inc. apply for Google AdWords/Grants, for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public.
27. A.A. World Services, Inc. implement Google AdWords/Grants for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public and that a report be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Report and Charter

No recommendations.

Treatment and Accessibilities

It was recommended that:

28. Ashley's story (an A.A. member who is Deaf) be added to the pamphlet "Access to A.A.: Members Share on Overcoming Barriers" and that the video version of the pamphlet be updated to reflect this change.

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CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 69th GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

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29. The pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late" be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an updated "How Do I Find A.A.?" section. The committee requested that a progress report or draft pamphlet be brought back to the 2020 Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities.
30. The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment and Accessibilities develop anonymity-protected audio interviews with military professionals about their experience with A.A. as a resource for posting online.

Trustees

It was recommended that:

31. The following slate of trustees of the General Service Board be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2019 following presentation at the 2019 General Service Conference for disapproval if any:

Satisfactions of Right Living

"Still more wonderful is the feeling that we do not have to be specially distinguished among our fellows in order to be useful and profoundly happy. Not many of us can be leaders of prominence, nor do we wish to be. Service, gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the well-understood fact that in God's sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely given surely brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we need no longer be square pegs in round holes but can fit and belong in God's scheme of things—these are the permanent and legitimate satisfactions of right living for which no amount of pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes. True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God."

Excerpt From
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
AA World Services, Inc.