



The Boomerang

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Fall Edition

Area 28 Fall Assembly Agenda October 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2016

Please, silence our cell phones while in the Assembly Hall

FRIDAY:

- 5pm Registration Opens / **Pot Luck Dinner Begins**
- 6:00 - 6:45 Speaker Meeting - *Willie K.*
- 7:00 - 8:30 GSR & DCM Town Hall Q & A conducted by our Past Delegates

SATURDAY:

- 7:30am Registration Resumes
- 7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:45 All trusted servants / participants to gather inside the Assembly Hall.
- 9:00 - 10:15 Assembly convenes with the Serenity Prayer and Readings of our: Daily Reflections, 12 Steps (Short Form), 12 Traditions (Short Form) and our 12 Concepts (Short Form).
- Housekeeping:** Host Assembly District Chairpersons *Mary A.-Peter B.-Area Chairperson Byron B.*
- Officer's Reports (2-minute Time Limit)
- District Chairpersons Reports (2-minute Time Limit)
- 2016 Spring Assembly Report (District 1 Host Committee Chairperson - *Jim L.*)
- 2016 Post Conference Forum Report (District 7 Host Committee Chairperson - *Dick L.*)
- 2016 Round-Up Report (Our Round-Up Chairperson - *Lillie H.*)

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 Standing Committees Meet

Noon - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 3:30 Assembly resumes

- Roll call and establish a quorum
- Call for New Districts
- Approve 2016 Spring Assembly Minutes
- Third Legacy Procedure for "Alternate Treasurer" - Our Area 28 Past Delegates Will Facilitate
- Third Legacy Procedure for "Trustee At Large" - Our Area 28 Delegate Gene W. & Area 28 Chairperson Byron B. Will Facilitate
- Accept Bids for Spring Assembly Mar 31st, Apr 1st & 2nd, 2017 - Start with West 1st, South 2nd, North 3rd, East 4th
- Accept Bids for Post Conference Forum May 21st, 2017 - Start with West 1st, South 2nd, North 3rd, East 4th

Sunday:

- 7:30 - 8:30am Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:45 Spiritual A.A. Speaker - *TBA*
- 9:00 - 11:55 Assembly reconvenes with the Serenity Prayer, Daily Reflections, 12 Steps
- Adjourn Assembly

For those who wish to join us, we will close with the Responsibility Pledge

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.

Motion:

Scarborough Route One Group in **District 1** presents, the AA preamble be changed to reflect, “we are self-supporting,” leaving out the phrase “through our own contributions”

Discussion:

Why? Because it is not accurate information. We are self-supporting through our own contributions plus the sale of AA literature.

PREAMBLE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION: THE PREAMBLE was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine. It was written by the then-editor, who borrowed much of the phrasing from the Foreword to the original edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. In those early years, the Grapevine had just begun to circulate among nonalcoholic, and the Preamble was intended primarily to describe for them what AA is and is not. It is still often used for public information purposes. As time passed, it began appearing in all Conference-approved publications, and many AA groups now use it to open meetings. The original version differed in two ways from the familiar form we all know: 1) It stated that the only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking,” and 2) it contained only the very brief statement “AA has no dues or fees.” People often ask why the word “honest” was deleted. At the 1958 General Service Conference, a delegate asked about the words “honest desire to stop drinking,” suggesting that since “honest” does not appear in the Third Tradition, it might be deleted from the Preamble. In discussion, most Conference members felt that as AA had matured, it had become almost impossible to determine what constitutes an honest desire to stop drinking, and also that some who might be interested in the program could be confused by the phrase. Thus, as part of the evolution of AA, the phrase had been dropped from common usage. The midsummer 1958 meeting of the General Service Board of Trustees ratified the deletion, and since then the Preamble has read simply “a desire to stop drinking.” At the same time, the phrase “AA has no dues or fees” was clarified to read as it presently does: “There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.” The current version of the Preamble appears on page one of every issue of the Grapevine.

Someone stated GSO believes literature sales are contributions also. The fact is that Hazelden buys our literature and sells it at a profit. We are getting money from outside entities not from our own contributions. Reference the Forward to the First Edition: *“We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book. For them, we hope these pages will prove so convincing that no further authentication will be necessary. We think this account of our experiences will help everyone to better understand the alcoholic.*

Many do not comprehend that the alcoholic is a very sick person. And besides, we are sure that our way of living has its advantages for all. It is important that we remain anonymous because we are too few, at present to handle the overwhelming number of personal appeals which may result from this publication. Being mostly business or professional folk, we could not well carry on our occupations in such an event. We would like it understood that our alcoholic work is an avocation. When writing or speaking publicly about alcoholism, we urge each of our Fellowship to omit his personal name, designating himself instead as “a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.” Very earnestly we ask the press also, to observe this request, for otherwise we shall be greatly handicapped. We are not an organization in the conventional sense of the word. There are no fees or dues whatsoever. The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. We are not allied with any particular faith, sect or denomination, nor do we oppose anyone. We simply wish to be helpful to those who are afflicted. We shall be interested to hear from those who are getting results from this book, particularly from those who have commenced work with other alcoholics. We should like to be helpful to such cases. Inquiry by scientific, medical, and religious societies will be welcomed.” Sales of AA materials pulls about 20% of income from sale of literature.

The motion was moved, passed, and will be voted on by the groups at the fall assembly.

I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there, and for that I am responsible.

Motion:

The Archives committee would like to purchase a laptop computer, a scanner and the necessary archives software and antivirus software not to exceed \$1000.00.

Discussion:

Archives is about preserving and distributing historic AA documents relative to Area 28. Currently the items in archives are stickered and numbered and kept via a personal computer and scanner. We're finding that often times those stickers fall off and we now are not categorized as we should be. The archive should also be in possession of the area and not a personal system. Having an electronic inventory will prevent this from happening in the future and make it easier to distribute to the area our archives in paper and electronic format. This is primarily done through scanning, emailing and using technologies that are electronic. Having a computer and scanner specifically dedicated to Archives will give the Archives committee the ability to do their job better to save artifacts of Area 28 as well as share them in the most efficient way possible to the members of Area 28. An external drive backup will be vital to keep a separate record of all items processed. Robin, our immediate past archives chair, spoke to the importance of this. The purchased equipment is needed to categorize Area 28's history. It is a worthwhile investment to preserve our electronic archives. Archives Chair, Peter, the archives chair, agrees. Two computers the area had at CSO burned out and there was nothing left on the hard drives. We already have the external hard drive. What we need is a laptop, scanner and software, that should not exceed \$1000.

The motion was moved, passed, and will be voted on by the groups at the fall assembly.

Motion:

District 21 presents to Maine Area 28 Fall Assembly. To forward to the 2017 General Service Conference Secretary, for inclusion on the 2017 General Service Conference Agenda, the following: That the 2017 General Service Conference reconsider the 2016 General Service Conference decision to remove the text in Concept XI regarding male/female distinctions by restoring Bill W's original wording and adding an appropriate footnote (amendment) denoting the change.

Discussion:

The General Service Conference Committee on Report and Charter approved this at the GSC in April to remove the following text from the Concept XI essay on page 58 of Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W. (the AA Service Manual): *“Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us — of both sexes — have been emotionally damaged in the area of man-woman relations. Our drinking has made us wrongly dependent on our marriage partners. We have turned them into our “moms” and “pops,” and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake. It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they are women. 10”* The current footnote on page 59 reads: *“10 These restrictions and gender distinctions ceased to apply in the late 70s when the first male staff member was employed, and later in the mid-80s, when the first female senior-level manager was employed.*

Today, six out of the eleven A.A. staff members are men, and half of the management team are women, reflecting a G.S.O. hiring policy based on ability, and unrelated to gender and in compliance with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity and Fair Employment Practice laws. A conference action took place in April to remove the above text: This affects the Preface because it says that this is the original manuscript of 1962. It wouldn't be anymore because it has been removed.

The motion was moved, passed, and will be voted on by the groups at the fall assembly.

Motion: The Area 28 Finance Committee made a motion, to put on the Fall Assembly agenda, and the motion was seconded, that a new computer be purchased by the Area for the Area Treasurer. The new computer would need to be capable of handling software to perform the Area Treasurers Duties. The new computer shall not exceed \$800.

Discussion: What's wrong with the one we have? The current laptop is ancient, and not adequate. Some of the hardware is starting to fail. We have outdated software and hardware. The current laptop was purchased eight years ago.

The motion was moved, passed, and will be voted on by the groups at the area assembly..

Motion: To add the service position of Alternate Area Webmaster, to be appointed by the Area Chairperson after consultation with the Website Committee and Webmaster. This appointment will be confirmed by the Area Assembly at its next meeting; s/he would serve a two-year term with an option to stand for reappointment for an unspecified number of panels.

Discussion: This would be a nonvoting position. What will this position cost? Budget to be decided, \$200 is customary for alternate positions. This is different from #2Website Chair. Intent/Purpose: If an Alternate Webmaster is added to the Area 28 Service Structure, this person will provide continuity and will participate in committee activities as fully as possible and serve as backup to the Webmaster. Current Practice: The Area Webmaster is appointed by the Area Chairperson in consultation with the Website Committee and the Webmaster and is then confirmed by the Area Assembly at its next meeting. The Area Webmaster serves a term of two years with the option to stand for re-appointment for an unspecified number of panels to serve.

Motion was moved, passed, and will be voted on by the groups at the Fall Assembly.

SERVICE IS FUN: MINORITY OPINION

If this statement is not true for me, then the quality of my sobriety suffers. It is my interaction with others where growth and understanding of myself and my motivations are revealed. The thirty-six principles of the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts lead to improvements in my interactions with others. Call this path "The road to progress is always under construction" from an old-timer, "Trudging the road of Happy Destiny" from the Big Book, or "Gratitude without action is hypocrisy" from a past delegate. This process begins usually, when after a while, we hit a plateau and remain there for a while. It is then that we hear from our sponsor, AA friend, or old-timer that we need to change our listening habit from listening for what is the same to how something is said differently by a speaker in their sharing of experience, strength, and hope. It is at this point that we begin to appreciate the nuances and start listening for the minority voice by hearing what has changed. It is also at this point where the old ideas of majority/minority, right/wrong, yes/no, begins to change from what we have learned to what we have to learn to unlearn. We move from self (compare) to others (identify).

Most of us have read and reread the service literature over the years. A careful reading reveals that the minority voice is carefully cultivated. It is perhaps this characteristic that distinguishes AA from other entities. This is a paradox as in AA we strive for consensus in all matters (acceptance or absence of active disagreement), an understanding that a three-quarters vote is considered binding in matters affecting AA, a two-thirds majority election vote (or to the hat between two or three candidates) as outlined in our Third Legacy Procedure, or to a simple majority in less important matters.

To counter or balance this attempt at consensus, we have Concept III, IV, and V: The Right of Decision (III), Right of Participation (IV), and Right of Appeal (V). For example, in III, we endow all usually with the right "to be informed, but not instructed". If "instructed" then the "trusted" servant is really a messenger, whereas "informed" implies the "trusted" servant can change their thinking if more information becomes available and then explain why their thinking changed. Under IV, participation is expected of the trusted servant regardless of the stance taken. Under V, it is expected that if the trusted servant thinking differs from the norm, trusted servants are expected to have the courage to voice their concern and why, as it may affect AA as whole. It is here that the spiritual aspect of AA operates, for someone who had just voted for something, may wish to change their vote. If the body agrees that more information is needed by a simple majority vote, discussion begins again, and another vote is taken which may reverse the previous vote. This process is usually the result of someone listening for something different, hearing it, and having the courage and conviction to express this difference.

The minority opinion is a vital part of the spiritual aspect of the program and gives the chance for the "Higher Power" to maybe express itself in the group conscience. Learning about myself is fun.

Love through service,

Bob D, Past Delegate, Panel 36

FROM THE AREA 28 CHAIR

Greetings fellow trusted servants. My name is Byron B. and I am a recovering alcoholic. I serve as your Area 28 Chairperson. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many A.A. registered Groups and their members, Group Trusted Servants, GSR's, District Secretaries, Treasurers, District Standing Committee Chairpersons, DCM's, District Chairpersons, Area 28 Committee Chairpersons, Area 28 Officers and Past Delegates for not subsidizing your monetary contributions and your service to and for the sick and suffering alcoholic in and out of the halls of A.A...

At times we experienced trusted servants take for granted and assume that our new trusted servants (GSR's, DCM's, District Chairperson's, Area Committee Chairperson's and Area Officers) are knowledgeable and informed of how we as an Area operate as an A.A. Service Support Structure.

Each registered A.A. Group, District, Area, General Service Office are collectively part of our A.A. Service Support Structure. Our Central Service Office's (CSO), Intergroup's, Grapevine, Levina are part of our A.A. Support Entity.

Each January in Area 28 is the start of a new year in service work. In January of 2016 we as an Area became Panel 66, in January of 2018 we will become Panel 68. This due to when we have our elections the second year of service in the Fall at our Fall Assembly of an odd numbered year and start with new trusted servants in January of an even numbered year.

In the months of January, February, August and September (held at the present time at the Best Western in Waterville, Maine) we have what is called Area Committee Meetings (ACM's). It is recommended and all are encouraged to attend and participate at our ACM's, Pre and Post Conference forums as well as our Area Assemblies (Spring & Fall).

Voting members at our ACM's are the following; District Chairperson's, (Area Committee Chairpersons); Archivist, Boomerang Editor, Bridging The Gap, CPC, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine, Guidelines, Literature, Love and Service, Public Information, Round-Up, Special Needs / Remote Communities, Treatment, Website, Area Officers. Your Area Chairperson conducts and facilitates all ACM's and Assemblies, your Area Delegate conducts and facilitates Pre and Post Conference forums (your Area Chairperson opens and closes Pre and Post Conference Forums).

Business Conducted at our ACM's is as follows; Officer Reports, Area Committee Reports, District Chairperson Reports, Accept ACM Minutes from previous ACM (potential errors or omissions on minutes to be heard) Financial Report, Unfinished Business, **New Business**. This is where and when motions may be presented by any member of the fellowship to do with our fellowship.

The motion is heard and decided by the voting members in attendance at our ACM's weather the motion warrants to be posted on the Area Chairpersons Agenda at the next Assembly for the fellowship to become informed, discuss and voted on to be passed or declined at our assembly.

At our Pre Conference forum (usually held in March at the present time at the Best Western Hotel in Waterville, Maine) our Delegate informs us of agenda items that will be discussed at the General Service Conference that our delegate will attend in April.

At our Post Conference Forum (usually held in May hosted by a District whom was selected at our Fall Assembly form the previous year) our Delegate informs us of discussion and decisions of agenda items from the General Service Conference as well as share their personal experience from the General Service Conference.

At our Spring Assemblies (usually held in early April hosted by a District that was selected at our Fall Assembly from the previous year) our fellowship as a whole is informed by our Delegate of discussion of the

General Service Conference agenda items that took place at our Pre Conference Forum. Our Delegate gets a general sense and feeling from our fellowship of what the fellowships group conscience is.

A good portion of this assembly is devoted to our delegate so that he /she can receive a motion of how to be instructed to represent Area 28. There is much other business that takes place at our Spring Assemblies as well.

It is important for each and every one of us as trusted servants to be patient and tolerant of all aspects of our agenda items at our assemblies. All agenda items are carefully planned for the benefit of the fellowship. Often there are trusted servants that decide to call it a day and not be present to voice their groups conscience or concerns and not vote on matters that concern all groups and our fellowship in Area 28 as a whole. This type of behavior is disrespectful to our home group and ourselves as trusted servants, each of us accepted the

On the Friday Nights of our Assemblies after registration and usually a pot luck supper, there is a speakers meeting. After the speakers meeting there usually is a workshop or town hall format of open discussion so to inform and involve our most important trusted servants our GSR's, DCM's and District Chairpersons. Your Area Chairperson is responsible for establishing the topics and selecting the trusted servants whom will facilitate topics and discussion.

In the Fall (usually held in October hosted by a District that was selected at our Spring Assembly) there is more agenda items than a Fall Assembly of an odd numbered year when elections take place and require our third legacy procedure.

The subject matter is meant and intended to inform and refresh our memories as trusted servants for our Groups, Districts and Area of who, what when where we as an Area conduct our business for our fellowship.

As always, thank you for your service and thank you for my life.

Byron B.

Area 28 Chairperson – Panel 66



Area 28 Spring Assembly 2016

I attended the Area 28 Spring Assembly in Portland and I was very impressed with the amount of GSR'S and District chairs that attended. Saturday morning we had over 121 voting members, and then we lost over 50% of the voting members by evening. I know folks had to go to the mall and shop, I know folks had to go back to their hotels to swim and take a nap, or just go sightseeing.

I know when I was a GSR my first sponsor told me that when I take a commitment that I make a commitment and do my job to the best of my ability. Also he said that my group covers my expenses to carry their vote to A.A. not to just go and pick up finance papers and other papers that are there to bring back to my group and say here is what we did and make up some exaggerated report.

Need I say anymore??

To thine own self be true.....

Lenny G.

Boomerang

Southern Reporter

From the North

Hello my name is Mary B and I am a recovering alcoholic. I've been asked to write about the Frontier Group in Fort Fairfield. At the time of its beginning in the 1940's or 50's, Fort Fairfield was a prosperous town. There were many large potato farms with potatoes being the main industry. Since Fort Fairfield was located just a mile from the Canadian border and also near Loring Air Force Base it attracted many people to the town. It's been said that F.F. had more drinkers than any other town in Aroostook County but I think many towns feel the same way about their community.

I've been going to the Frontier meeting for thirty and have seen many changes over the years. We used to have very large meetings. People from nearby towns, Canadians, and servicemen and women from Loring attended this mtg. Some nights the church would be so full that people had to sit on the rickety piano bench or on the floor. We always had a greeter to welcome people at the door. This was especially important as many nights there would be a shaky newcomer who needed that friendly handshake. Many old timers were there with their words of wisdom that were helpful to the new and old alike.

The Frontier Group hosted many outside activities to give us places to go and things to do. Dances, suppers, exchange meetings were and ongoing theme. We also spoke at the Rehab in Limestone as well as the AA meetings at the Houlton Jail. Service work was second-nature to most of the members. Back then smoking was allowed at the meetings so the air was generally blue by the end of the hour. Newcomers were asked if they would wash ashtrays and put the chairs away. They seemed to enjoy being helpful and "being a part of "the AA group. In the 80's and 90's as large farms were sold off and L. A. F. B. was closed down our attendance started to go down a bit, but we were still the largest group in the area.

When our members celebrated an anniversary they went all out in providing goodies and sometimes an entire meal. One farmer rented a hot dog steamer and served hot dogs complete with all the fixings. As I love to cook, I would make chicken stew, cakes, and lots of goodies. We had many comical things happen at our meetings. One member would always end his sharing with, "if you walk like a duck and quack like a duck, chances are you are a duck." This saying would give the newcomer who was uncertain about whether or not he or she was a "real" alcoholic something to ponder.

One evening the person who was to open the meeting was absent so we decided to hold the meeting in the church driveway. It was a beautiful night and many folks said afterward that it was one of the most spiritual meetings they had ever attended.

The Frontier Group is still here with fewer in attendance most weeks. But the faithful members try to be of service in all areas and be there for the newcomer. We invite you to attend our Tuesday night meeting at 7pm at the Episcopal Church on Main Street when you are in the area.
Mary B.