

DCM Report
9-2-06
Bob S District
41 DCM

- I attended our Area 60 Third Quarterly Meeting on August 20th 2006, at the Butler Days Inn. The business discussed was as follows.

- Old Business

- Review of 2006 Calendar:

New Business

- Review of 2007 Calendar:
A GAW planning meeting will be held on January 14th 2007
- Matt H. (past delegate panel 45) chair of the ad-hoc Budget Committee reported that the Area's recent expenses would be reviewed to create a budget for 2007, which will be presented for approval at the fall assembly.
- Jean M. (DCM District 8) will serve as the Area Grapevine Representative. Many thanks to Paula H. who served us since the beginning of 2005 and is now moving out of state.

There is a need for AA members to fill the service positions in District 41. We will be holding an election on October 1st 2006. The following is some information as to why this is necessary.

Concept I - The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

From Twelve Concepts for World Service, pages 8 - 9:

Tradition Two, like all the A.A. Traditions, is the voice of experience, based upon the trials of thousands of groups in our pioneering time. The main principles of Tradition Two are crystal clear: the A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.

Tradition Two had been written in 1945, and our Trustees had then authorized its publication. But it was not until 1951 that the first experimental General Service Conference was called to see whether Tradition Two could be successfully applied to A.A. as a whole, including its Trustees and founders. It had to be found out whether the A.A. groups, by virtue of this Conference, could and would assume the ultimate responsibility for their world service operation. It took five years more for all of us to be convinced that Tradition Two was for everybody. But at St. Louis in 1955, we knew that our General Service Conference — truly representing the conscience of A.A. world-wide — was going to work and work permanently.

Perhaps many of us are still vague about the “group conscience” of Alcoholics Anonymous, about what it really is.

Throughout the entire world today we are witnessing the breakdown of “group conscience.” It has always been the hope of democratic nations that their citizens would always be enlightened enough, moral enough, and responsible enough to manage their own affairs through chosen representatives. But in many self-governing countries we are now seeing the inroads of ignorance, apathy, and power-seeking upon democratic systems. Their spiritual resources of right purpose and collective intelligence are waning.

Consequently many a land has become so helpless that the only answer is dictatorship.

Happily for us, there seems little prospect of such a calamity in A.A. The life of each individual and of each group is built around our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We very well know that the penalty for extensive disobedience to these principles is death for the individual and dissolution for the group. An even greater force for A.A.'s unity is the compelling love that we have for our fellow members and for the principles upon which our lives today are founded.

Concept II - When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

From Twelve Concepts for World Service page 10

It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot *of themselves* actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in 1955.

But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services – if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.'s Tradition Two.

- All groups in District 41 have the opportunity to participate in the election by sending their GSR to vote on the group's behalf. All groups have the “right of participation” guaranteed in Concept Four. Groups exercise this right by sending their GSR to vote. If a GSR chooses not to participate, the GSR is not doing his/her job. If a group chooses not to participate, then the group violates Tradition Four because such action *does* affect other groups *and* AA as a whole by weakening our collective group conscience and making the General Service Structure of AA less able to serve *all* the groups, and carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

In love and service
Bob Senft