GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

FLORIDA STATE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN AREA
July 1, 1974.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD QUARTERLY GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY, HELD IN JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLA., SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 1974, AT 2:00 P. M:

This assembly was preceded by a caucus of committee members and GSRs present at 1:00 P. M. Its purpose was to eliminate extra business matters from our assembly so that the delegate would have ample time for his Conference report. We felt that all matters should include the vote of both committee members and GSRs present. The summary follows:

Item One: We discussed the need for our own area guidelines for the election of a delegate. (a) Who would be eligible. (b) The election procedure to be followed. (c) Who would vote. We selected a committee to study this matter and to present its findings and suggestions at our fourth quarterly assembly in October. The committee comprises: Harry B. G , Bert L Earl K. M (past delegates), Joe C and Joella S (present committee members).

Item Two dealt with the election of a committee member in the Northern Florida Area. We suggested our preference by a vote that all district committee members be elected prior to the (October) election assembly, and that both outgoing and newly elected GSRs should participate in voting, following the suggestions in our Service Manual.

The caucus was adjourned and the assembly met at 2:00 P.M. The minutes follow:

Present were delegate, Bill P chairman, Jesse C. P . Committee members and alternates present were: Marie Toerpe, Barbara , David G , Peter E , James C , Joe C Elise D Buck R , Joella S , Evelyn D Al M , Richard N and Ted K Those absent were: Lou M , George O , Alice B Don M , Polly W and Evelyn S

The chairman opened the meeting with the serenity prayer then turned the meeting over to the delegate for his Conference report. "Understanding and Cooperation - Inside and Outside AA" was the theme of the Conference. After playing the tape of Bill W.'s last talk, Bill P stated that the cooperation inside of AA must be extended to our friends in the professional fields outside of AA. That we needed to progress - to move ahead with the times -

if we want to increase the percentage of alcoholics helped by AA.

He stated that the Conference named five new regional AA trustees to the General Service Board, of which Dave C , Raleigh, N. C., will serve our Southeastern Region for a three-year term.

The World Directory will now be issued in four parts: Eastern U.S., Western U.S., Canada, and All Other Countries. Area committees and delegates will have the primary responsibility for seeing that accurate group information is supplied to GSO. The four directories will continue to list group membership figures, group contributions for GSO support, and group meeting days. Group meeting times and places will not be published but will be noted on the backs of the group cards for the GSO files. When you get your new group cards please note that both back and front must be filled in. This is important. Note, also, the Conference Area you are in: Northern Florida. The two names for group contact and the GSR's name must be written in full. No initials, please. Also write in the full mailing address of the GSR. Return these cards to your committee member or delegate - they will mail them to GSO.

Bill noted that our groups have grown from 4,052 in 1950 to the present number of 22,467. We need to realize that we are not so self-supporting, as this year Publishing gave $152,800.00 to meet our budgeted deficits at GSO.

The money folder "How Far Can $3.00 Go?" will be redesigned and rewritten with the following changes: incorporation of a pie chart with appropriate footnotes. Suggested titles: "A Penny A Day For Sobriety" or "Is Your Sobriety Worth A Penny?" The section on how to contribute will include a subsection on how groups distribute their money after group expenses are paid, with the suggestion that 60% go to Central Office or Intergroup, 30% to GSO, and 10% to area committee support. It was suggested that there be a better utilization of the slogan "A Penny a Day For Sobriety" such as a brochure itemizing how little $3.65 will buy today. That GSO prepare a guideline for delegates on how to approach committee members and GSRs on the subject of financing.

A recommendation was made that every group be urged to buy a copy of the Final Conference Report.

Other recommendations were that better understanding be sought of the role of two-hatters through discussion at assembly and area general service committee meetings, and that the film "Bill's Own Story" be made available to Al-Anon Family Groups.

Literature accepted the report of a sub-committee on putting some new stories in the Big Book to meet today's needs (such as retired people, etc.).

The Grapevine recommended that groups give gift subscriptions on

anniversaries and AA birthdays, and pointed out that the magazine does not necessarily endorse opinions expressed by AA contributors. Also that the Board be given Conference Approval to raise the price of the Grapevine for single copies and subscriptions if the trend of rising costs indicates that the need is there.

It was recommended that all Institutions Committees and outside sponsors make every possible effort to cooperate with institutions' regulations and to maintain good communications with institutions' personnel. That institutions committees and outside sponsors inform inside AA group officers what the outside AA members can and cannot do.

In reference to the discussions regarding the listing of "gay" groups in the World Directory, it was agreed at a special session that all AA groups should be listed. This is in accordance with the definition of an AA group as stated inside the front cover of our World Directory.

A trend toward better understanding, cooperation and coordination was reported between intergroups and general service committees. It was again noted (Conference Action) that the delegate is asked to set up an intergroup where there is none in his area.

For all those who have not noted the change in our new Service Manual: at an assembly meeting all GSRs vote in all matters along with their committee members.

Bill noted that when he went through the listing of our groups at Records at GSO he still found some groups listed with GSO and not with our area committee, and some listed with the area committee but not with GSO. He asked us to correct this.

The secretary's report of our March assembly was accepted as read. The treasurer gave her report, giving a bank balance of $773.55 with all bills paid. Out of 114 groups asked to contribute to the area committee, 67 responded. Not quite two-thirds of the total. Since GSO had recommended that area contributions toward Conference expense be raised from $150.00 to $200.00, we discussed an increase of the delegate's expense money from $450.00 to $600.00 yearly. The treasurer noted that his expenses had been running $10.00 to $15.00 more per month than anticipated. A motion was made in favor of this and we voted in its favor. This will naturally take precedence over any prior discussions or votes.

Our election assembly will be held in October in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., and will be the fourth and final meeting of the year. An additional letter will inform you of the date and the agenda. Best wishes to you all for an enjoyable summer and I'll see you then.

Sincerely,

Barbara