MINUTES OF THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE NORTH FLORIDA AREA CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
January 8, 1994, Ocala, Florida

General Assembly meeting called to order by Chairman, Fred W at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Howard S , Corresponding Secretary called the roll. Officers and Committee Chairman present, D1-5,D2-0,D3-3,D4-3,D5-7,D6-5,D7-7,D8-3,D9-3,D10-4,D11-1,D12-7,D13-3,D14-4,D15-3,D16-1,D17-9,D18-7,D19-5,D20-7,D21-1,D22-0,D23-4,D24-3,D25-4,D26-0,D27-0,D28-6,D29-3,D30-1,D31-6,D32-5. Howard thanked the Assembly for all the cards and calls last quarter.

RECORDING SECRETARY Any corrections to the minutes? No. "Motion to accept the minutes as mailed." Motion carried. No opposed. Kathy reported that the United States Postmaster has just increased our bulk mail rates. We did pay .098 per piece of mail. The new rate is .100. On 700 pieces of mail per quarter, our increase will be $1.40 per quarter. Kathy also thanked the district secretaries for all the district meeting minutes she is receiving. These minutes will become part of our North Florida Archives.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken R , the Treasurer distributed the 1993 Year End Budget Results, Income and Expenses Year End 1993 Report, and refers to 1994 approved Budget, which is included in the 1993 Fourth Quarter minutes. Our last quarter was an exceptional quarter. Total income was $9,004.30. Group contributions were $7,542.50, $2,000 was given to us by the Florida State Convention and $5,542.50 group contributions. This is the best we have ever done. We had a total income of $28,000 and had estimated $23,000. Ken went on to explain the Delegate expenses and refund received for 1993. Total Officer expenses $1,426.60. The literature was replenished for Grapevine and A.W.S. The Fidelity Bond insurance was paid for the Treasurer. Committee expenses, under Special Projects, Ken gave detailed report on Conferences that CPC put on this quarter, also replenished CPC literature. The Assembly host expenses were $1,707.90. Our checking account balance is $13,403.73 until today and now it is probably $12,500.00. Our prudent reserve is $19,398.00, which is within our target area of 3/4 of a year estimated income. "Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report." Motion carried. No opposed.

DELEGATE'S REPORT, Tom D

Two month's ago our Southeast Regional Trustee, Gay G , took our Accessibilities Phamplet to the board in New York and they loved it, except for the cover. The cover is too much like our other phamplets. We will comply and change

for the next printing. We just printed 1,000 copies. We sent a copy to every Delegate in the US and Canada and we have had many favorable replies. Unfortunately we cannot afford to send out all the copies requested. I have sent a letter to our Trustee requesting Conference Approval.

One year ago we started an inventory process. Our Alternate Delegate, Dan Eberlein, has done an outstanding job, as you will see. I would like to commend him at this time. Grapevine subscriptions have leveled off. June of 1994 they are printing a 96 page double issue at no extra charge. You will receive a back issue at no extra charge with each new subscription.

Tom read a letter(highlights only)from our Trustee. The "Red Little Book" is printed by I.W.S., which claims to be an A.A. group. Tom cannot find this group listed anywhere. Our lawyers have written letters requesting they desist in writing and publishing this book. The Delegate poll on a book with just the stories from the Big Book was defeated. Only 9 responded of the 91 Delegates and Tom was a Delegate that responded. The Annual Anonymity letter to the press has gone out. They are revising the Treatment Facility phamplet.

The next Regional Forum will be the first weekend in December in Biloxi, Mississippi. Tom related some cases where The Fellowship had been sued in court. Each case we won. We do not bring suit against anyone but we will defend ourselves when we are sued. Read part of a letter from Ann Bruning on the circle and triangle. This is still an issue. More to follow after the Conference in April. The questionaire that Tom brought in regards to older alcoholics is to be used in discussions at the group level. Talk these issues over and let's try to bring the oldtimers back to our meetings. Also the Posthumus Anonymity questionaire (which will be included in the minutes) should be discussed at the group level.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE, Dan E

About seven months ago I was asked to correlate the results of our inventory. I have done this and I will read the results and they will be included in the minutes. Dan read results. The most difficult part of the correlation was that some folks answered with "fine", others wrote seven pages. Dan, "in my opinion after attending 28 or 29 consecutive area assemblies, Area 14 has always been instrumental in bringing new topics, ideas, change and continued growth." A lot of good has come from this area. We are certainly alive and well in Area 14.

ARCHIVES

Alternate Chairman, Pennye B , chaired the meeting. Theme of the Workshop was "How to conduct an Interview." 12 were in attendance at the meeting. Pennye quoted Bill W. Then Pennye gave a sample interview with Elise. The following recommendations were made: The interviewer should give the full name of the person being interviewed. The interviewer should identify himself. At the beginning of the tape give the date, place, and time. Ask "how many groups were there when you came in?" 12 step calls they may have went on. Recall of funny incidents they may remember. Send a letter to the person you interview, follow-up letters, and a thank you. Pennye suggested we have fun with the interview.
Question: Do we use last names? Answer: Use release forms and ask person if its okay.

Pennye suggested all Archive material be brought to the next assembly. At the upcoming assembly everyone is welcome to come and participate in the Archives on-going workshop. Also a Archives Workshop on March 5th, Saturday, at the Oldest City Group, 1:00pm to 5:00pm, 144 King St., St. Augustine.

ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

Dennis C , Chairman. We had a couple of new people in our group today, the Chairman of the Florida State Convention, and a young lady who works with the physically impaired. The basic focus of the workshop was our purpose to assist alcoholics who are blind, deaf, bedridden, wheelchair bound or otherwise impaired.

Several districts reported having home meetings, homebound meetings. These people are affectionately called "homers". Many districts report having sign translators to assist the deaf at meetings. Districts reported carrying the message to older alcoholics who may have trouble with night vision,etc. We can pick them up for meetings. These oldtimers are a treasure of A.A. experience and have much to contribute to our meetings.

The importance of signers at the State Convention and the need for all areas of a hotel to be accessible. A suggestion for us to tape our Accessibilities material for blind members who wish to carry the message. Dennis pointed out the reference section of the phamplet Accessibilites has printed where all materials from G.S.O. are listed. A new contact was made with the National Mental Health Institute of Deafness, PO Box 365, Safety Harbour, Fl. 34695, Tampa 1-800 742-0232 ext. 421, Miami 1-800 235-3230 ext. 109.

Bernie from District 9 said he got a call from a Treatment Facility that had two patients that were deaf and blind and they wanted to know if we knew how to communicate the

message to them. More will be revealed while we work on this.

C.P.C. COMMITTEE

61 in attendance. The first order of business was handing out the CPC Guidelines and sample talk sheets. A review of the 1993 Conferences was done with demographics focusing mostly upon the medical field. It was agreed to expand the locations out to Gainesville, Tallahassee, Daytona Beach, Melbourne and Jacksonville, rather than centering solely on the Orlando area. We need to concentrate on other conventions, such as clergy, law enforcement, and those professionals in the Educational system. One GSR who sobered up in California shared that a CPC booth was displayed daily in a California courthouse with great success.

Two North Florida area assembly members who are lawyers shared their ideas on CPC and the legal system. Another GSR suggested presentations for Senior Citizens and A.A.R.P. contacts. It was also suggested that we contact local civic clubs and business associations, and even the PTA. One GSR shared that an editor of a religious newspaper requested a presentation and various church contacts were discussed. Even contacting the fire departments and emergency professionals was discussed. The CPC committee welcomed Judy Peterson, our new Alternate Chairperson. We know she will be doing great CPC work in Tallahassee. Discussion of the conventions where we displayed our "homemade" board.

CORRECTIONS

Joe F , Chairman, new Alternate Chairman Elmer C . 57 in attendance. Theme for Workshop "Workshops and Service." Joe reported that the trip to Madison Correctional was a big success. First time ever for a three day workshop, brief discussion of this event and the impact. Richard Bush is our new representive in G.S.O. for Corrections. The Pre-release program was discussed and South Florida Corrections workshop in Palm Beach. This workshop was attended by Joe and our Delegate, Tom Dougherty.

North Florida made a motion to release $400 for taking inmates to the State Convention and put into special projects to use at the workshop level in North Florida. The workshops will be held at various locations in North Florida. This motion was carried 100%.

District 31 Lost & Found Club gave $15.00 for Corrections Literature. Several in attendance shared what was happening in their districts.

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

Charlotte B , Chairman, 24 in attendence. Our goal this year is to have a GVR in every district. District 7, 8, and 14 reported that they cannot find anyone for their districts. Charlotte will try to assist these districts. Our A.A. World literature, as well as, Grapevine has sold very well this weekend. We are still struggling with whether to sell A.A. World literature at the assemblies, how much, etc. Two suggestions were made: 1. Host Committee sell the literature. 2. Intergroup where the assemblies are held be in charge of the A.A. World literature. Some districts do not have an Intergroup, so we are still working on this issue. Financially we are doing quite well this year and I will make an inventory for the next assembly.

There is going to be a new article "Spotlight on Service." These articles will be written by the Fellowship on chairing meetings, making coffee, etc. Be sure and submit and article if you can. Jackie C. from district 31 will have an article in the April issue. Dennis from District 31 has a letter in this issue. This is a great selling point, when our assembly members are submitting articles for the Grapevine. I did talk to South Florida Grapevine Rep. and she will probably come to our next assembly. This was a good learning experience for me this year. If we all do a little bit, a great deal can be accomplished.

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE

Marlene S , Chairman, Ginny S , Alternate Chairman. 53 in attendance. Theme of the Workshop, "What is Intergroup's Roll." Marlene thanked all the Districts involved in the Service Workshop held in Winter Park that she attended.

Intergroup Guidelines dated 9/92 were distributed as well as the new staff assignments at G.S.O. It was stressed that Intergroup's Purpose is to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We are trying to improve communication between Intergroups and Districts.

A question was raised about the offices accepting collect calls. The consensus of opinion was not to accept collect calls. The topic, "Should Intergroups sell non-conference approved literature?" A lively discussion ensued.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Dave W , Chairman, 71 in attendance. Dave read the quarterly report from G.S.O. for November 1993. In the P.I. section there were three items of interest. 1. The Annual Anonymity letter to the media is undergoing some revision.

2. Radio spot [PSA-R09] had been listened to and was re-approved for continued distribution. 3. The fact that we now have no closed-captioned television PSA's is being discussed. A report and recommendation will be forthcoming.

Dave has been going through the PI Workbook and going to various workshops on various aspects of PI work. Theme for today, "Working with Newspapers and Magazines." Dave covered several subjects located in the workbook behind the tabs entitled "Carrying the Message-Media" and "Guide Letters." Some of the subjects covered were, 1. How to approach editing and reporters. 2. How to write a press release. 3. What is "real" news. 4. How to develop a feature story. 5. How to conduct a press conference. 6. Sample of press releases and feature stories. 7. Samples of small public service pieces for use in newspapers and where space permits. 8. Several points pertaining to anonymity and our Traditions we need to remember when working with the media.

Dave introduced Fred H., P.I. Chair for Northeast Florida Intergroup Services(Duval County). Fred discussed some of the exciting projects he and his assistants are working on. 1.] TV PSAs in the Jacksonville area. 2.] They distributed AA literature at a health and safety fair at the Mayport Naval station. 3.]Writing an article on history of A.A. in North Florida for publication in the Florida Times-Union. 4.] Speaking at a local high school. 5.]Working with two local health magazines.

Fred reported on placing copies of A.A. videos in Blockbuster stores. Corporate Manager wrote backing saying that they should approach each individual store manager for approval. Questions and answer session followed. One point made during the discussion was that even though we may do our best to insure that A.A. traditions of Anonymity, etc. are observed by reporters, sometimes reporters end up publishing things that are contrary to what was originally discussed. We must remember: essentially we have no absolute control over what they print. We are seeking their cooperation. When mistakes are made we need to remain courteous.

Apparently some unknown A.A. members are participating in a "live" radio call-in talk show on AM1600 in Ocoee. Dave said he would find out more about this.

TREATMENT FACILITIES

Debbie W , Chairman, Neal B , Alternate Chairman, 41 in attendance. Opened the meeting with a question and answer session to utilize experience, strength, and hope, within the area. Topics covered: 1.]Trouble areas in the districts. How to reach the Treatment Facility clients in

the first 24 hours. 2.] Ways to set up temporary contact points within your districts. 3.] How to get volunteers to go into the Treatment Centers with meetings. 4.] How to keep our enthusiasm fresh [not trying to do it all ourselves]. 5.] Treatment Facilities also include Mental Centers for drug abuse, Halfway Houses, Detox Centers, etc. Do not exclude these areas in our efforts to carry the message. 6.] We will at the next assembly provide some copies of the guidelines for setting up temporary contact points. These guidelines have worked well in other areas.

Finance Committee-Dick G , Chair, 14 in attendance. Treasurer's report given and discussion. A request to increase contribution to G.S.O. for Delegate's expense from $600 to $1,600 for 1994. Discussion followed and recommendation will be made to increase.

Request was made to purchase tape recording equipment and microphones. Discussion and recommendation of $800 to cover the cost of this expense.

Decision made to set up a capital budget, in addition to our operating budget.

Decided to put Grapevine Literature budget in a separate category.

Discussion followed on our five year projected budget. Any requests for the 1995 budget should be given to the Finance Committee by the April 1994 Assembly.

Growth Committee-Bob L , Chair, 22 in attendance, Alternate Chair, Steve W . Eight committee members present. The meeting was opened to any Growth topic. Briefly discussed the LCM method that D-14 uses and D-13 told us they voted to attempt the LCM method. Bernie D-20 said they voted not to give the LCM a vote. Jacksonville has started using an Inter-District meeting to re-align the districts and to help the Service Committees in those Districts get established. Many districts reported 'Inter-district' meetings to promote unity and co-ordinate service.

Jimmy G. mentioned perhaps having 'cluster' workshops in various areas of the state...Bringing the area committees to the districts, having officers and committee chairs,one day workshops.

We talked about how to help, in-active districts and in-active groups. How to work with groups that want to change. Districts must remember autonomy. Inventory was mentioned and personal contact.

Site Committee-Corrine F , Chair, 16 in attendance. Corrine thanked the hosting districts, Districts 6,8,32.

April of 1994 will be Districts 9,10,11,18, and 31. District 7 will host the July 1994 Assembly and District 19 will host the October 1994 Assembly and will ask for help if they need it. January of 1995 will be Districts 12,15, and 23. April of 1995 will be Districts 6,8, and 32.

Friday night coffee is the responsibility of the hosting district. We need to start working on guidelines to take to motels for estimates on future sites. Is Melbourne too far south, or should we investigate all feasible areas?

We need to make our reservations as early as possible. Corrine asked us to go over the guidelines and to make suggestions for any revisions necessary.

Fred introduced Deborah K the 1994 State Convention Chairman. Deborah thanked the assembly for inviting her and she had a good weekend with us. "Celebration of Sobriety" is the theme and Deborah explained how conventions are a way to celebrate sobriety. The convention is July 6-10th, 1994, at the Registry Resort in Naples, Florida. Deborah reviewed all the hotel ammenities, which were numerous as the Registry is one of the top 100 resorts in the world. There are refrigerators in every room, grand size balcony, phones in the bathrooms, hairdryers,etc. They have an ice cream parlour, open air trams, pools, health club, 15 tennis courts. The rates are $85.00 per night. Many workshops, Over and Under, Sponsorship, Language of the Heart, Humor and Laughter, Jeopardy(Service Manual, Big Book, 12&12). Polynesian buffet, you get a lei, dances, talent show, walk/run, there are babysitters available through the hotel. Mailers will come out in March and April, make your reservations as soon as possible, registration is going very good and you won't want to miss the 38th Florida State Convention.

Fred will not say too much at this time. Please read last assembly minutes[Officers meeting] for more information on July and October of 1994 assemblies. Our officers new slogan for this year is "Service...Spirituality in Action."

Please take the questions from last months minutes back to your groups for discussion. 1.Shall we reimburse Past Delegate's expenses(room and mileage]when they assist in our October assembly? 2. Shall we reimburse on a rotating basis, a Past Delgate, that we ask to Chair a Service Manual Workshop? 3. Shall we consider purchasing recording equipment for the North Florida Area Assembly?(see new business) 4. Are we doing enough to assist the new GSRs that attend our assemblies? Question from the floor. Approximate cost of questions #1 funding. Approximately $86.00 per Delegate, may be as many as four. We only have election every other year. Service Manual workshops are four times a year, one Delegate to chair.

The Structure and Guidelines ready for the Printers, thank you Judy.Peterson.

NEW BUSINESS

"It is recommended that the Assembly purchase a tape recorder and three channel microphones, tapes, and miscellaneous cables for $800." The motion carried. No opposed. No minority.

"It is recommended that the contribution to G.S.O. for the Delegates expense to the General Service Conference be increased from $600 to $1,600 for 1994."

Discussion followed on whether to raise the amount. At one point the question was called but we did not obtain a 2/3 vote. Scott, District 24 expressed that his district felt that New York had this money budgeted and we did not factor in to our 1994 budget. Since we have a surplus why not take our time. Tom our Delegate said we cannot delay the vote. Dennis expressed opinion on our need to consider our local issues first. Discussion closed. Motion carried. 13 opposed. No Minority.

Fred encouraged everyone to keep participating at the area level. Our next officers meeting is February 6, 1994. Motion to adjourn the meeting, please leave name tags on the way out.

Minutes Submitted by:

Kathy P

Kathy P , Recording Secretary

OFFICER'S INTERIM MEETING
FEBRUARY 6. 1994
Victor E. Club, Deland

Fred opened with the Serenity Prayer. Howard took roll. Those in attendance: Fred W , Tom D , Kathy F , Howard S , Dan E , Ken R , Bob L , Marlene S , Elmer, Alternate Chairman for Corrections, Dick G , David W , and Heidi F

Howard requested that any changes in the roster from any of the districts or officers be given to him. These changes need to be listed with name, address, zip code, and phone number. Many changes have been reported with incomplete information. This does not get the minutes mailed to the right address.

Tom, our Delegate, gave report. The Accessibilites phamplet will be talked about at the July board meeting. This phamplet was well received but it will take some time for approval. Tom and Dan, our Alternate Delegate will be going to Atlanta for the Delegates Meeting this coming weekend. They will give us a report at the next assembly. Tom said that Jim Estelle will be at the meeting and Tom intends to talk with him over our disapproval with the decision on the circle and triangle. The ad hoc committee has met and Tom will give us any information he receives. The IWS, Inc. has informed G.S.O. that they are going to print a Twelve and Twelve. The board will be meeting in regard to defending our copyright. Discussion followed on IWS, Inc. New Grapevine workbook. Special 96 page issue due out in June(see Grapevine regular minutes).

Ken gave interim treasurer's report which is not complete since we are only 6 weeks into the 1st quarter. Assembly collections were $804.23 amd $801.48 in Literature sales. He will be sending check to New York for $1,600, that was voted on at our last assembly. The coffee & tea expense for last assembly was $1,748.32. Ken explained that he and Howard will be contacting the hotel for further information on this bill. Discussion followed and a signed chit system for receipt of coffee at further assemblies will be used. By using a system, Ken will be able to reconcile the consumption to cost when paying the bill.

Standing Committees. Heidi for Archives handed out a flyer for the Archives Workshop to be held March 5th at the Oldest City Group in St. Augustine. Book of resolutions was discussed and Heidi will be working on this. Discussion followed on minutes on diskette, minutes transferred acid free paper, How much to we save for historical value? How much for future computer storage?

Elmer gave report for Corrections. At the last assembly there were two collections taken up. This is not to happen again. If a committee needs more financial support, they need to request it through the Finance Committee. Also Joe reported at the last assembly that the Lost & Found Club donated $15.00 to the Corrections Committee for literature. This is against traditions and needs to be given back to the club.

Fred strongly suggested that if North Florida gives finances to hold a workshop, then a collection should not be taken up. Discussion followed on issues for future. Where do the NFAA's responsibilities stop and the districts pick up?

Marlene reported that the Intergroup Offices are all communicating very well. November 10,11,12, 1994 will be the Intergroup Meeting in Vancouver. $97.00 plus tax Canadian per room night. Dave Webb, P.I. Chair, reported he has an Alternate, Fred Heyne from Jacksonville. The system for checking out tapes is working very well.

Dick explained 501C4 entity which we are now and a 501C3, which we would be if we incorporate. The biggest advantage to 501C3 would be limited liability. New York encourages incorporation or insurance coverage. Dick will explain this to the North Florida Area at our next assembly. A vote was taken of all the officers. The vote was unanimous in favor of incorporating and becoming a 501C3.

Pat D. , the South Florida Delegate, will be the Saturday night speaker at the July assembly. At the October Assembly, the Saturday night meeting will be the 1995 Budget process and regular business meeting. The Sunday morning meeting in October will be the NFAA election. Fred will bring the reservation forms for July and October, to the April assembly.

Discussion on whether the committees should be funded. Growth, Site, and Finance. Dan explained why they were not and the history of these committees. Bob from the Growth committee also reported on cluster meetings in the Jacksonville area and the need for DCM educational workshops. Fred read out of page 5 of the guidelines that we are currently having printed. All candidates to stand for election will be past DCMs, current DCMs, or a nomination from the floor with a 2/3 majority needed to be placed on the ballot.

Tom reported that the tape system was out of stock and they will call as soon as it is available. Suggestions and ideas for a five year vision meeting for NFAA. Give suggestions to Fred.

Minutes Submitted by:

Kathy R

Agenda for April 1994
Open, Roll, Officer's Reports

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives
Accessibilities
C.P.C.
Corrections
Grapevine
Intergroup
P.I.
Treatment

Special Committees;
Site
Growth
Finance

OLD BUSINESS

1. Shall we reimburse Past Delegate's expenses (room & mileage when they assist in our October election.

2. Shall we reimburse on a rotating basis, a Past Delgate, that we ask to Chair a Service Manual Workshop?

3. Are we doing enough to assist the new GSRs that attend our assemblies?

Incorporation-501c3

NEW BUSINESS

LCM Method

NORTH FLORIDA AREA CONFERENCE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
SECOND QUARTERLY ASSEMBLY - April 8-10, 1994
STEINBRENNER'S YANKEE INN I-75 & U.S. 27 3810 N.W. Blitchton Road, Ocala, Florida 32675 904/732-3131
THE ASSEMBLY OFFICIALLY BEGINS ON SATURDAY, April 9, 1994 AT 10:00 A.M. AND SUNDAY, April 10,1994 AT 9:00 A.M.

(Whenever possible, make reservations at Steinbrenner's, our Assembly benefits through the number of reservations)

Friday, April 8		
8:30 P.M.	Discussion Meeting	
Saturday, April 9	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration:
9:00 a.m.	Officers Meeting	Stallion Room
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Traditions	Unity Room
	Committee Meetings:	
	Site Committee	Service Room
	Growth Committee	Recovery
	Finance Committee	Stallion Room
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Public Information	Unity Room
	Accessibilities	Service Room
	Treatment Facilities	Recovery
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	LUNCHEON	
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Corrections	Unity Room
	Archives	Service Room
	Intergroup	Recovery
2:45 p.m.-3:45p.m.	C.P.C.	Unity Room
	Grapevine	Stallion Room
	Service Manual	Recovery
4:00-5:30 p.m.	GSR Meeting	Unity Room
	DCM/OFFICER Meeting	Recovery Room
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Dinner	
8:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.	OPEN SPEAKER MEETING	Unity,Ser,Rec

Immediately following Speaker Meeting Officers's Forum in the Unity,Service,Recovery

Sunday, April 10	9:00 a.m.-noon	General Assembly

RESERVATION REQUEST FOR NORTH FLORIDA AREA CONFERENCE
Ramada Steinbrenner's Yankee Inn
I-75 & U.S. 27-3810 NW Blitchton Road, Ocala, Florida 32675,904/732-3131

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Arrival Date _____ Time _____ Departure Date _____
Type of Room Requested _____
Major Credit Card _____ Name on Card _____
Card# _____ Expiration Date _____
Make Checks Payable to: RAMADA STEINBRENNER'S YANKEE INN

NORTH FLORIDA AREA CONFERENCE
Income and Expenses
For the Year Ending December 31, 1993

INCOME	12/31/93	percent	9/30/93	percent	6/30/93	percent	3/31/93	percent	Yr-To-Date	percent
Group contributions	7542.50	84%	4918.60	75%	4747.45	78%	5261.91	81%	22470.46	80%
Assembly collections	764.01	8%	962.13	15%	907.57	15%	976.27	15%	3609.98	13%
Grapevine sales	573.55	6%	650.95	10%	282.15	5%	192.85	3%	1699.50	6%
Interest income -checking	41.89	0%	29.26	0%	46.43	1%	28.87	0%	146.45	1%
-savings	107.55	1%	73.31	1%	152.81	2%	107.61	2%	441.28	2%
less refunds		0%		0%		0%	-6.92	0%	-6.92	0%
less bank service charges	-25.20	0%	-40.29	-1%	-17.40	0%	-24.20	0%	-107.09	0%
TOTAL INCOME	9004.30	100%	6593.96	100%	6119.01	100%	6536.39	100%	28253.66	100%
OPERATING EXPENSES										
Delegate & Alt Expenses										
Registration/Gen Service		0%		0%		0%	600.00	10%	600.00	3%
Reimbursed Personal Expenses	1092.00	17%	576.00	12%	996.25	20%	1336.64	21%	4000.89	18%
Refund	640.74	10%	300.00	6%		0%		0%	940.74	4%
Total Delegate Expenses	451.26	7%	276.00	6%	996.25	20%	1936.64	31%	3660.15	16%
Area Officer Expenses										
Duplication & Supplies	648.29	10%	583.78	12%	460.13	9%	482.27	8%	2174.47	10%
Postage & Telephone	344.86	5%	136.01	3%	432.94	9%	324.12	5%	1237.93	6%
Reimbursed Personal Expenses	218.45	3%	203.65	4%	613.73	13%	257.73	4%	1293.56	6%
Rent	15.00	0%	15.00	0%	15.00	0%	15.00	0%	60.00	0%
Fidelity Bond Insurance	200.00	3%							200.00	1%
Refund		0%		0%		0%	-9.51	0%	-9.51	0%
Total Officer Expenses	1426.60	22%	938.44	19%	1521.80	31%	1069.61	17%	4956.45	21%
Area Committee Expenses										
Duplication & Supplies		0%		0%	5.44	0%		0%	5.44	0%
Postage & Telephone	20.27	0%	54.80	1%	87.44	2%	138.67	2%	301.18	1%
Reimbursed Personal Expenses	553.52	9%	484.52	10%	591.62	12%	368.96	6%	1998.62	9%
Literature	1072.80	17%	748.40	15%	327.75	7%	431.51	7%	2580.46	12%
Special Projects	1124.37	18%	1378.23	28%	425.00	9%	722.82	12%	3650.42	16%
Total Committee Expenses	2770.96	44%	2665.95	54%	1437.25	30%	1661.96	27%	8536.12	38%
Assembly Host Expenses										
Miscellaneous Expenses	68.82	1%	70.37	1%	55.00	1%	72.00	1%	266.19	1%
Coffee & Tea Cost	1614.08	25%	877.85	18%	861.10	18%	1060.45	17%	4413.48	20%
Trustee reimbursement				0%		0%	441.72	7%	441.72	2%
Signer	25.00	0%	75.00	2%		0%		0%	100.00	0%
Total Host Expenses	1707.90	27%	1023.22	21%	916.10	19%	1574.17	25%	5221.39	23%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	6356.72	100%	4903.61	100%	4871.40	100%	6242.38	100%	22374.11	99%
INCOME(LOSS)AFTER EXPENSES	2647.58	42%	1690.35	34%	1247.61	26%	294.01	5%	5879.55	26%

12/31/93 balances
Checking account: $13,403.73
Prudent reserve: $19,398.80

Please make checks payable to:
North Florida Area Conference of AA

Include on face of check:
1. group name
2. group number
3. district number
(see your BCM if you have questions)

Mail to:
Ken R

Respectfully submitted,

Ken R...
Treasurer

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 1		
Arlington		0.00
Beach Blvd.	25.00	75.00
Central	300.00	900.00
Fiesta	57.50	139.50
Language of Heart	28.42	62.24
Mon Roving Stag	74.90	203.80
The Group		5.00
	---	---
	485.82	1385.54
DISTRICT 2		
Caboose		0.00
Helping Hands		60.00
Hospitality		0.00
One Step at a Time		0.00
Plaza		0.00
Sunrise	38.71	104.01
	---	---
	38.71	164.01
DISTRICT 3		
Eureka Fri Nite		10.00
Cassat Winners	100.00	250.00
Happy Hour	20.00	95.00
Jax's Mens	35.00	114.00
Middleburg	5.00	20.00
Orange Park		154.12
Timaquana Ladies		0.00
Trinity		15.00
Westside	100.00	400.00
	---	---
	260.00	1058.12
DISTRICT 4		
Callahan	27.00	88.81
Fernandina Beach	13.08	180.96
Highlands' Hope	6.00	17.56
Riverview Study		0.00
Trout River	50.00	80.00
	---	---
	96.08	367.33
DISTRICT 5		
Came to Believe		64.85
Capital City	50.00	100.00
Central	250.00	550.00
Conscious Contact	30.00	30.00
Fireside		21.25
Happy Hour		0.00
Quincy Kitchen		9.00
Living Sober	20.00	60.00
Lloyd New Hope		30.00
Mens Faith		0.00
Northside	60.00	189.55
Open Door Speakers		43.50
Powder-No Puff	25.00	25.00
Quincy	25.00	45.00
Southside		0.00
Stearns Street		0.00
Tues Night Womens		10.00
	---	---
	460.00	1178.15
DISTRICT 6		
New Life	15.00	50.00
Night Owl	30.00	120.00
Oldest City	30.00	60.00
	---	---
	75.00	230.00

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 7		
Altoona Backwoods		20.00
Clermont	20.00	50.00
Happy Hour	35.00	175.00
Keep It Simple		15.00
Lady Lake	12.00	56.00
Leesburg Wed Nite		3.00
Leesburg Transition		69.80
Lunch Bunch		4.00
Literature Study		14.00
Nine Twenty Five	14.20	20.70
One Day at a Time	17.00	17.00
Stepping Stones	64.00	259.00
Tavares 12 x 12	26.00	101.00
Triangle Breakfast	20.00	20.00
You Are Not Alone		20.00
	---	---
	208.20	844.50
DISTRICT 8		
Brighter Days		45.00
Grace		0.00
Happy Hour	30.00	162.15
Road To Recovery	50.00	100.00
Way of Life		0.00
	---	---
	80.00	307.15
DISTRICT 9		
District 9	75.00	75.00
Blue Bottom	90.00	190.00
Couples Recovery	93.70	177.37
Crossroads		8.40
Friends of Bill W.	30.00	60.00
Friendship		0.00
Holden Park		16.00
Pine Hills Grace	35.11	722.54
Prncpls Personalties		11.00
Sand Lake		0.00
Take It Easy		0.00
Turning Points		35.00
Turkey Lake		20.00
	---	---
	323.81	1315.31
DISTRICT 10		
Apopka Step		0.00
Big Book Thumpers	10.00	24.00
By The Book	70.00	130.00
Freedom		30.00
Living Sober		100.00
Marvin R.		0.00
Mon Big Book	20.00	71.00
New Hope	11.50	41.40
Single Purpose	10.83	25.83
Solution		90.00
Tanglewood	8.00	28.00
Winter Park Mens		0.00
Winter Park Womens		10.00
	---	---
	130.33	550.23
DISTRICT 11		
Bar None	50.00	50.00
Brown Baggers	6.00	21.00
Central Orlando		0.00
Dry Dock #24	100.00	100.00
Free To Be	101.13	101.13
Free Riders		0.00
Union Park		0.00
	---	---
	257.13	272.13

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 12		
District 12		175.00
11th Step	80.00	260.00
After Hours	4.47	4.47
Barefoot Bay	20.00	80.00
Early Birds	24.00	98.00
Eau Gallie	70.00	150.00
Home Base	26.59	86.60
Just Us Pickles		71.29
Melbourne		0.00
New Hope		40.00
Palm Bay Lunch Bunch		0.00
Serenity	50.00	215.00
Sober Awakenings		0.00
Soup Line		0.00
Women's		24.63
	---	---
	275.06	1204.99
DISTRICT 13		
District 13		50.00
Ask It Basket	15.00	45.00
Aripeka Big Book	5.00	10.00
Audio Big Book		0.00
Friendship		0.00
Hope	56.42	92.67
Monday Night		0.00
Open Door	15.00	60.00
Sunday Women's		0.00
Tranquility		15.00
	---	---
	91.42	272.67
DISTRICT 14		
D-14 (disbanded grp)		64.00
Design For Living	13.50	28.50
Downtown	32.60	311.04
Free To Be	40.15	40.15
Hawthorne		0.00
Men's	49.96	49.96
Mon Nite Smokeless	70.00	149.63
Promises	20.00	50.00
Solutions		19.64
Southwest		0.00
Student		49.60
TuesNight Step Study	23.44	70.51
Unity		29.54
Womens Step Study		193.30
	---	---
	249.65	1055.87
DISTRICT 15		
Courage to Change		0.00
Gateway		150.00
How It Works	20.00	30.00
Merritt Island	45.00	195.00
New Beginnings		0.00
New Hope		40.00
Roosevelt-Tropical		0.00
	---	---
	65.00	415.00

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 16		
12th Step		20.00
Lake City		0.00
	---	---
	0.00	20.00

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 17		
Belleview	100.00	350.00
Belleview BkfstBunch		0.00
Eye Opener		69.42
Fountan of Gratitude		49.00
Grace	2.55	14.67
Happy,Joyous,Free		79.83
Head Start	80.30	267.73
Lunch Bunch	23.85	98.86
Marion Oaks 12 Step		0.00
Marshall Swamp		25.60
Mens'		0.00
Ocala		45.00
Peace of Mind	23.00	65.50
Primary Purpose		40.00
Rainbow	9.00	45.00
Serenity		65.00
Shores of Sobriety		30.00
Snow Birds		10.00
Sobriety Live		58.65
Stick with Winners		0.00
We Give Thanks	20.50	28.00
Winners Circle	86.14	294.41
Womens Alcohol		12.21
Womens 6th Step		0.00
	---	---
	345.34	1648.88

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 18		
District 18	500.00	500.00
Altamonte Springs	5.00	15.00
Acorn		0.00
Back to Basics	33.00	153.41
Clean Air		65.00
Decisions	45.00	85.00
Geneva		0.00
Happy Hour	30.00	110.00
In Step	25.00	25.00
Just Do It	20.00	87.50
Longwood		30.00
Longwood Big Book	12.33	66.48
Oviedo	28.44	125.42
Sanford		0.00
Sanford Big Book		0.00
Sanford Womens	5.00	20.00
Sober Mon	3.38	29.63
Sobriety & Beyond	10.00	20.00
So Be It		0.00
South Sanford	29.00	119.00
Twenty-Four Hour		5.00
The Home		30.00
Wekiva Womens	40.00	90.00
Welcome Home	37.80	77.80
West Lake	30.00	30.00
Winter Park		102.14
	---	---
	853.95	1786.38

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 19		
District 19		50.00
Better Way		0.00
Boulevard		26.25
Common Ground		45.00
DeLand		35.00
Deltona Enterprise	25.00	75.00
Fountain of Youth	20.00	40.00
Grateful	25.00	100.00
New Freedom		0.00
New Hope		0.00
Noon		20.00
Open Door		12.31
Pass It On	25.00	50.00
Sober Women Today	3.90	15.20
Victory		0.00
	---	---
	98.90	468.76

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 20		
Beachside		40.00
Life's Journey		60.00
New Smyrna Beach	30.00	100.00
Port Orange		10.00
Wilbur by the Sea		50.00
Men's New Beginnings	20.00	64.68
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	50.00	324.68

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 21		
Aloha	20.00	35.00
Big Book Holly Hill	54.48	152.97
Big Book Step Study		0.00
Fifth Tradition		40.00
How It Works	20.00	120.00
KISS		33.00
Lest We Forget	12.00	102.06
Love & Service		25.00
New Womens		0.00
Seaside 12 x 12	20.00	59.00
Three Legacies		30.00
Turning Point		0.00
	---	---
	126.48	597.03

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 22		
Bunnell	5.00	15.00
Calm Seas		0.00
Happy Wanderers	5.00	16.00
Living Sober		5.00
Stormy Seas	10.00	20.00
TGIF Palm Coast	7.50	38.00
Women to Women	10.00	10.00
	---	---
	37.50	104.00

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 23		
Conscious Contact		53.48
Patrick		0.00
Sandpiper	40.00	120.00
Turning Point		0.00
Women's Beachside	30.00	30.00
	---	---
	70.00	203.48

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 24		
Azalea City	26.00	62.00
Big Bass		0.00
Interlachen		50.00
Palatka		45.00
Triangle		60.00
	---	---
	26.00	217.00

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 25		
B.S. (Bookstudy)	30.00	30.00
Beaches Unity	100.00	325.00
Brown Baggers	10.00	25.00
I Am Responsible	18.98	39.98
Intensive Care	8.00	23.00
Joy	21.18	55.43
Keep Coming Back		17.85
Lunch Bunch		27.00
Palms Big Book Study	5.00	20.00
Ponte Vedra Discuss		56.00
Ponte Vedra Valley	10.00	45.00
Ponte Vedra Mens		84.50
Savgrasse Dutch	5.00	20.00
Spring Break Rnd Up		200.00
There is a Solution		19.15
Women Enjoy Sobriety		59.69
	---	---
	208.16	1047.60

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 26		
New Hope		16.50
Oxford	30.00	90.00
Wahoo Historic Site	25.00	150.00
	---	---
	55.00	256.50

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 27		
Bronson Workshop		20.00
Friends of Bill W.		10.00
Williston Winners		10.96
	---	---
	0.00	40.96

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 28		
ABC Beverly Hills		20.00
Crystal River	150.00	150.00
High Noon		300.00
Inverness		60.00
Lecanto	100.00	100.00
Lunch Bunch		150.00
Red Eye	115.20	297.60
Share At Noon		25.00
Way of Life Holder	20.00	180.00
What's the Book Say?	30.00	45.00
Womens' Friendship		30.00
	---	---
DISTRICT 29	415.20	1357.60
Drop Anchor	25.00	106.00
Friday Lunch Bunch	25.00	136.00
Mid-Nite Oil		10.00
5:30 Sebastian 12x12		43.92
Tuesday Lunch Bunch		30.00
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	50.00	325.92

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 30		
Amethyst	15.50	43.09
Mandarin		15.00
New Beginnings		35.00
Sanman		20.00
Sober Solutions	28.00	28.00
Switzerland	18.00	53.00
	---	---
	61.50	194.09

	4TH QTR	YEAR
DISTRICT 31		
Midnight Madness		10.00
New Freedom	8.50	8.50
Primary Purpose	20.00	20.00
	---	---
DISTRICT 32	28.50	38.50
AA by the Sea	5.00	15.00
Any Lengths		50.00
As Bill Sees It		44.21
Lunch Bunch		140.00
O.B.		100.00
Ormand by the Sea		20.00
Primary Purpose	10.00	50.00
Sandpiper		10.00
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	15.00	429.21

Area 14 "A.A. takes it's 1993 Inventory"

The number of responses returned were less than anticipated, sufficient information, although fragmented, was received to draw the following conclusions:

D.C.M. District Inventory

1. How well are we doing our jobs?

   Overall the D.C.M.'s responding feel they were doing an adequate job. However, emphasis needs to be concentrated in the following areas:

   A). Group Visitation.

   B). District Workshops and Sharing Sessions.

   C). G.S.R. Participation at District and Area Levels.

2. How can we improve?

   A). Frequent Group Attendance by D.C.M.'s to provide information and improve communication.

   B). Schedule District Workshops and Sharing Sessions.

   C). Increase Effort to Educate G.S.R.'s as to their District and Area Level responsibilities.

   D). Establish Active District Service Committees, P.I., C.P.C., etc.

3. What are we not doing well?

   A). G.S.R participation at District and Area Levels.

   B). Communication between Area and District, District and Groups.

   C). Meeting Deadlines.

4. How can we correct the above?

   A). Provide communication through D.C.M. and Group contact.

   B). Hold more local workshops and sharing sessions.

   C). Encourage more groups to get active in the Service Structure.

5. How can we improve communication?

   A). Regular attendance at Group Business Meetings.

   B). Utilize a District Newsletter.

   C). Use a specific District Meeting agenda.

   D). Keep Area Secretary informed of all G.S.R. changes.

Area 14 Standing Committees

Area 14's standing committee's feel that each is aggressively carrying the message in their respective areas. Although each committee's inventory response contains specific agendas pertaining to their primary committee function, three consistent concepts emerged.

1. Committee's need more active participation, especially at the District Level.

2. More groups could be involved by taking Area Workshops to the District.

3. Communication could be enhanced by utilizing mailouts and a possible news letter.

Area 14 Officer's Inventory

Area 14's Officers expressed a generally positive attitude toward the direction and growth of their positions. Improvement however, could be made by addressing the following:

1). Increase Officer contact with Districts, especially by the Delegate, through District Work Shops and Business Meetings.

2). Focus on Educating D.C.M.'s and G.S.R.'s on duties and responsibilities of Area Agendas.

3). Encourage D.C.M.'s to get more active at the Area Level including standing for positions.

4). Officers strongly suggest that all Trusted Servants participate in the "Spirit of Rotation."

This concludes the report on the 1993 Area 14 Inventory.

Sharing for Anonymity Discussions

Tradition Eleven (long form): *Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.*

Tradition Twelve (long form): *And, finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.*

1. What is the relationship between Anonymity and "Selfishness--self-centeredness! That we think is the root of our troubles?"[1]

2. Discuss connection between humility, sacrifice and personal Anonymity at the public level:

   "We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have. . . Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public."[2]

   "This is why we see anonymity *at the general public level* as our chief protection against ourselves, the guardian of all our Traditions and greatest symbol of self-sacrifice that we know."[3]

3. Discuss the theme for the 1994 General Service Conference: *Spirit of Sacrifice*.[4]

   In what specific ways do Traditions One through Eleven relate to Tradition Twelve, ". . . the spiritual foundation of all our traditions. ."?[5]

   "The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit, well symbolized by anonymity, is the foundation of all these Traditions."[6]

4. How do you handle Anonymity within the group?

   "Of course, it should be the privilege, even the right, of each individual or group to handle anonymity as they wish. But to do that intelligently we shall need to be convinced that the principle is a good one for practically all of us; indeed we must realize that the future safety and effectiveness of Alcoholics Anonymous may depend upon its preservation.

   "It should be the privilege of each individual A.A. to cloak himself with as much personal anonymity as he desires. His fellow A.A.s should respect his wishes and help guard whatever status he wants to assume."[7]

   ". . .We found that each of us had to make willing sacrifices for the group itself, sacrifices for the common welfare. The group, in turn, found that it had to give up many of its own rights for the protection and welfare of each member, and for A.A. as a whole. These sacrifices had to be made or A.A. couldn't continue to exist."[8]

5. What about personal Anonymity at the public level?

"At the beginning we sacrificed alcohol. We had to, or it would have killed us. But we couldn't get rid of alcohol unless we made other sacrifices. . .We had to quit the crazy contest for personal prestige and big bank balances. We had to take personal responsibility for our sorry state and quit blaming others for it.[9]

"Were these sacrifices? Yes, they were. To gain enough humility and self-respect to stay alive at all we had to give up what had really been our dearest possession--our ambitions and our illegitimate pride. . .Sacrifice had to go much further. Other people had to benefit too. So we took on some Twelfth Step work; we began to carry the A.A. message. . . We couldn't keep what we had unless we gave it away. . . (Ibid)

"Thus we learned that sacrifice had to bring double benefit, or little else at all. We began to know about the kind of giving of ourselves that had no price tag on it." (Ibid)

" . . . we alcoholics are the biggest rationalizers in the world; that fortified with the excuse we are doing great things for A.A. we can, through broken anonymity, resume our old and disastrous pursuit of personal power and prestige, public honors, and money--the same implacable urges that when frustrated once caused us to drink. . . Moreover, they make clear that enough spectacular anonymity-breakers could someday carry our whole Society down into that ruinous dead end with them."[10]

6. Do we put some A.A.s on a pedestal? Do we respect the anonymity of all members, including our beloved Bill W. and Dr. Bob?

In October, 1947, Bill wrote:

"In actuality, A.A. has a score of 'founders,' men and women without whose special contributions A.A. might never have been. But somehow the title 'founder' seems to have attached itself almost solely to Dr. Bob and me--a phenomenon due perhaps to the general lack of information about our early days. This sentiment, though it prompts A.A.s to set us somewhat apart from the whole, is deeply touching to us both. We surely have more reasons for gratitude than anyone in the world. But we are beginning to ask ourselves if this overemphasis will be good for A.A. in the long run. Is so much sentiment for 'the founders' entirely wise?

"Perhaps we A.A.s can become a new kind of human society. To a degree hitherto unknown, A.A. may be able to function upon the power of its own fundamental principles rather than upon the prestige or inspiration of a highly personalized leadership. Thus the whole can become of transcending importance over any part; continued unity and success can then mostly depend upon God as we understand him working vitally in thousands of hearts rather than a few."[11]

###

DELEGATE'S REFLECTIONS

We have just completed four quarters of the 93/94 term, and have come a long way towards fulfilling our committment, I know that we will continue on this path, and successfully complete our goals in the next four quarters.

I would like now to discuss two of what I consider to be the most important aspects of the Area's commitment to the groups it serves, these are "COMMUNICATION & PARTICIPATION."

Webster defines Communication as: "An act or instance of transmitting a verbal or written message" and "a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs or behavior," I believe both of the above definitions are applicable to us. Participation is defined as: "The act of participating" and "The state of being related to a larger whole."

As we increase communication, we directly affect the act of participation. This can be accomplished directly by a more concerted effort by all involved in the Area activities.

The Area Committee must get more involved in the act of informing the Districts, and consequently the Groups and individual members, of any and all activities that directly affect the membership in any way what-so-ever. The membership must also express their feelings to the Groups, the Districts and to the Area Committee. In this way we will establish a better rapport among the members of the Area. This will in turn directly affect communications with the General Service Board.

How is this to come about? The Area Officers must get more involved in District and Group activities, (by invitation only) and the reverse must also be true. This is the "Participation" phase of the equation. When this is done, all will realize that everyone is interested in the workings of A.A., and will be more eager to become involved in more activities, thence we will have begun to accomplish our goals of better "Communication & Participation."

I am quite sure that if we all get more active in all Area activities, we will create a much better understanding of one another, and consequently accomplish much more and have a more harmonious relationship.

Yours In Service,

Tom

In continuing the articles on the 12 CONCEPTS, Concepts VI and VII will be discussed this quarter.

CONCEPT VI

ON BEHALF OF A.A. AS A WHOLE, OUR GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE HAS THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF OUR WORLD SERVICES, AND IT TRADITIONALLY HAS THE FINAL DECISION RESPECTING LARGE MATTERS OF GENERAL POLICY AND FINANCE. BUT THE CONFERENCE ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT THE CHIEF INITIATIVE AND THE ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN MOST OF THESE MATTERS SHOULD BE EXERCISED PRIMARILY BY THE TRUSTEE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE WHEN THEY ACT AMONG THEMSELVES AS THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

Just as the groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to the Conference, so must the Conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely in the absence of the Conference itself.

Next to the Conference, the Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants we have, therefore we to consider carefully the kind of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess.

It will be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference. In a general way, these relations are indicated in our Charter.The future may reveal flaws that we do not yet envision. New conditions may require refinements or even considerable alterations. For this reason, the Charter in most respects may be readily amended by the Conference.

We should be reminded that the present conditions are based on a great deal of experience. Even if someday we do make changes that happen to work out poorly, then experience of the past will not have been lost.

Now let us examine the need of a wide latitude of administrative freedom for the Trustees and the GSB.

The Conference Charter has granted a large amount of freedom for our Trustees, and we have reinforced these provisions by granting all world service bodies the Rights of "Decision," "participation," and "Appeal." There cannot be any question that their authority in this area is large indeed.

Why should we give our Trustees this wide latitude of judgment and action? We hold them responsible for all our service activities: AAWS & the Grapevine have combined gross revenues over 12 million dollars annually. The Trustees are also responsible for A.A.'s world wide public relations. They are the actual guardians of our 12 traditions, and A.A.'s bankers.

While they must always operate under close observation of the Conference, it is true that nobody but the Trustees and their wholly-owned service corporations could pass judgement upon and handle the large number of transactions now involved

in our total world service operation. For this large responsibility, they must be given a correspondingly large amount of authority and leadership with which to discharge it. Our Trustees must function almost exactly like the directors of any large business corporation. They must have the authority to really manage and conduct business.

This is the basic concept on which our structure rests. We have deliberately chosen the corporate rather than the institutional or governmental model, because it is well known that the corporation is a far superior vehicle when it comes to administration of policy and business.

Our service structure resembles a large corporation. The A.A. Groups are the stockholders; the Delegates are their representatives or proxies at the "annual meeting"; our General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a "holding company." And this holding company, the General Service Board, actually owns and controls the "subsidiaries" which carry on our active world services.

This analogy makes it even more clear, just like any other board of directors, our Trustees must be given large powers if they are to effectively manage the world services of Alcoholics Anonymous.

CONCEPT VII

THE CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES THAT THE CHARTER AND THE BYLAWS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD ARE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS: THAT THE TRUSTEES ARE THEREBY FULLY EMPOWERED TO MANAGE AND CONDUCT ALL OF THE WORLD SERVICE AFFAIRS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. IT IS FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CONFERENCE CHARTER ITSELF IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT: THAT IT RELIES INSTEAD UPON THE FORCE OF TRADITION AND THE POWER OF THE A.A. PURSE FOR ITS FINAL EFFECTIVENESS.

This concept may appear to be contradictory; we see a Board of Trustees invested with complete legal power, and that the Conference is clothed with traditional influence and financial power, that if necessary, it could overcome the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them - practically speaking.

The practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal powers of the Trustees. This flows from the traditional influence of the Charter itself. It comes from the large majority of the Conference Delegates chosen by the Groups. The Delegates can deny the Trustees the monies needed, - viz, the voluntary contributions of the groups.

While the Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that the Board will never contest the will of the Conference Delegates and the Areas they represent. As the conscience of A.A., the Delegates would find themselves in authority over the General Service Board and also its corporate arms of World Service.

The history of this development is interesting. In 1950 the question was, would the Conference or the Trustees have the last word? We knew the Trustees need to have the ability to conduct A.A. World Services, but must be placed in a position to answer to the traditions and the membership. From this, the Trustees were given the right to elect new Trustees, subject to approval of the Conference.

It was out of these considerations that the present Conference Charter was developed, it clearly gives the Conference the ultimate authority, but preserves the right of the Trustees to function freely. Our leadership cannot function if it is subjected to a barrage of harrassing directives.

The Trustees reserve a veto power over the Conference action; this is legally necessary and right in principle, even though the veto will seldom ever be used, however the veto could be of important and constructive use.

If, therefore, in the years ahead, the Conference bears in mind the actual rights, duties, responsibilities, and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the Trustees realize the Conference is the real seat of ultimate authority, we may be reasonably sure that neither will be tempted to make a "rubber stamp" out of the other. We may expect that grave issues will be resolved in harmonious cooperation.