

K.I.T.

Keep in Touch with Service in Area 62
Spring 2010

A Message from our Delegate

David T.
Area 62 Delegate

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new DCMs and GSRs to the Area Assembly. Whether this is your first Area Assembly ever or the first time to the Assembly in a new service position, we're all in the process of learning something new again in Alcoholics Anonymous. I must say that, at times, I am a bit intimidated by the challenge of taking on a new service position and all there is to learn. Fortunately, we have a wealth of experience in those who have gone before us, and I, for one, am not afraid to ask for help. I hope all of you too will always feel free to ask for help and ask any questions that come to mind.

At this March Assembly, we will have our Pre-Conference Assembly, where we will discuss issues that will be discussed and voted on at the General Service Conference during the week of April 18-24th. The goal of the Pre-Conference assembly is to inform the members of our area of matters that will come before the conference and to inform me, as Delegate,

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Getting to Know Our Committee Chairs

Jack S.
Convention Chair

I am the current chairperson for the State Convention Committee. District 42 is home and my home group is St. John's in Columbia. Past service history is asst. Treasurer, Columbia Intergroup; Chairperson Columbia Intergroup; GSR for St John's group; DCM for District 42; Arrangements Chair for Area Assembly; Co-Chair and Chair for the 62nd SC State Convention in Columbia last year. Current position is to insure that State Conventions are conducted within the framework of the Traditions. This committee is composed of past, current and future State Convention Chairs and the Alternate Delegate. Service work is the backbone of my sobriety and of AA. I believe service work is the best way to express our thankfulness for our sobriety. Working with and for others has been the highlight of my sobriety.

Chuck H.
Archives Chair

My sobriety date is June 30th, 2003 and my home group is the Survivors Group in District 72. (Mt. Pleasant) I was first encouraged to do service work early so it has always been an important aspect of my personal recovery. I learned that there are two types of service work, one that supports the Twelve Steps, while the other supports the Twelve Traditions and Concepts. During my 3rd month of sobriety I began making coffee and setting up for the Fewell Group in Greenville. My current assignment is Area 62 Archives

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of the group conscience of our membership on these matters. The entire conference agenda has been posted to the members section of our website at www.area62.org and is available to all interested members. Some of this agenda has been sent to each committee chair and DCM and will be discussed in the Standing Committee meetings. In our afternoon session, the standing committee chairpersons will present their committees recommendations. We will open to a full assembly discussion of these issues and then vote to get a sense of the group conscience of the Assembly on each item discussed.

The timeline is pretty tight between the time I receive the conference agenda and the meeting of our Assembly. Many of you may be hearing of the matters discussed for the first time here at the assembly and wish to get the group conscience of your home group members. I'd like to remind you that the process of discussion and communication of your wishes does not stop here at the Assembly with the Saturday afternoon session. Please take advantage of the agenda posted to the website and if you would like any additional background material on any agenda items, please email me at 62deleg@area62.org and I will send you this information. Likewise, I am always available to hear your group conscience on these matters after you have discussed them in your groups and districts.

Thank you for your willingness to serve Area 62 and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Messages from our Area 62 Officers

Herman R. Area 62 Alternate Delegate

For the first few years, matter of fact, ten years, I thought if I went to a meeting and sometimes shared, that I had fulfilled my obligation to me and my fellow man; later on I was told that I had limited GOD'S ability to be of maximum service to me and my fellow man. I started as alternate GSR then became GSR in my home group. I served on committees at district. Later on I became alt. DCM then I became DCM at district 10. I have held the office of alt. chairperson at area, public information chairperson at area and today I

have been blessed to become **Alternate Delegate, Panel 60, Area 62** for South Carolina. It never ceases to amaze me what God can do when I get out of the way. I would also like to take this time to thank GOD and all the other people who believed.

Cyndi F. Area 62 Chairperson

I make my home at the Steppin' Out Group on Lady's Island, Beaufort, SC. We host a Step/Lead by one member who shares his or her experience, strength and hope concerning the 12 Steps on Monday nights over a ten-week period. I believe it is the best group in Alcoholics Anonymous, and if you don't think your home group is the best, come join mine, or find another that is...

I came to AA February 5th, 1988. That was in Washington State Area 72, and they brought the 55th International Convention to me in Seattle when I was just 2 ½ years sober. At that event, I met our delegate to the General Service Conference and also the area newsletter editor. Very soon thereafter, I began editing my district's newsletter and followed that job with district secretary, GSR and alternate DCM in turn. I served as registration chair when Area 72 hosted the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA). And when Washington State finally split into two areas, I was secretary for the transition committee.

My term as DCM was cut short when my children needed me in South Carolina. I found AA immediately upon my move, and the group I joined did not have a GSR...so I attended my first Area 62 assembly in October of 1996. Yes, y'all did it different down here, but I sat down and asked the delegate why and what for, and learned more of autonomy, confirmed that service is service anywhere I go in this great fellowship, and saw that group participation across this state was about the same as back home. I remember sitting on a workshop panel early on and got a laugh when I said I understand that you didn't much care how we did it 'up north, out west'.

But service work in AA does not go unnoticed. When the time came for a change in Area 62, which meant a

Messages from Area Officers, Cont'd

massive revision to our Structures and Procedures, the chair and past delegate invited me to participate on the committee that took up the task. The result of our efforts was approved at the October 2001 assembly in time for the first election completely corresponding to the third legacy procedure as outlined in the AA Service Manual. I had been DCM for District 61 and helped revive the Area website when it disappeared. It was truly an honor to be elected your secretary within the new expression of General Service in South Carolina.

Subsequently, I rotated through the positions of alternate chair, registrar and alternate delegate, working alongside the spiritual lions of service in our area, learning more of the application of our Traditions and Concepts to all levels of this society of recovering drunks. I hope in this term as your Area Chairperson I can continue the legacy of service inspired by those who have preceded me.

My simple goal for 2010, presented in our 7th Tradition and the concept of prudent reserve, is to encourage each trusted servant in South Carolina to remember where money and spirituality mix, and to highlight the valuable work we do and the necessity for funds to do it. Keep those green cards on hand and the contributions flowing.

Yours in service and gratitude, Cyndi.

“Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.’s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all of these services is our Third Legacy of Service.”

(A.A. Service Manual, page S1)

Committee Chair. I am not going to name all the service positions I have done since this is my way of giving back. There were many others who stood next to me to make sure what I was doing benefited the whole of AA, not just my own ego. I was amazed with all the people giving their time and efforts to make sure all groups and districts had what they need so the next newcomer coming through the door has the same service opportunities and tools as those before them. I also learned the power of both the majority and minority voice from individuals at a group level, the group voice at the Area 62 level, and Area 62’s voice shaping GSO policies and procedures.

As the Area 62 Archives Chair, I plan to keep the momentum going and stay the course of prior Chairpersons. There is a solid foundation on which to build. These items include: collecting the missing histories of groups throughout the districts, constructing a traveling display of Area 62’s history for all districts to use at special events, continuing to push for fireproof cabinets to protect all the valuable AA histories that reside at the current Archives Depository, using one of Area 62’s greatest resources, the Area 62 web site, to collect the various districts’ meeting minutes so all DCM’s can see and possibly use the lessons from other districts to strengthen their own, and finally ensuring that all of us need to be involved in contributing and preserving Area 62 AA history. I am grateful to have been given this opportunity for Area 62.

K C H. Archivist

My sobriety date is February 11th, 1989 and my home group is the Back Porch Group in District 81. (Conway) I have been active in service to AA almost from my first days sober. At six months I was handed a bag of money and directed to have the literature laid out and the coffee made an hour before the meeting. (That means getting there 2 hours before the meeting) I have always had sponsors (personal & service) and a home group.

My interests in AA have always been historical. A late friend would remark that “we looked pretty

Messages from Area Officers, Cont'd

Marshal C. Area 62 Alternate Chairperson

Six years ago I came to Spartanburg, SC for a family reunion. My first attraction was that South Carolina is beautiful. My cousin showed me some houses and the agent I was speaking with knew someone in the fellowship, a meeting schedule was faxed to me. I saw that there were meetings in Greenville and Spartanburg so I looked at my cousin and told her I would be right back.

Service work is an honor and a privilege. In South Carolina, mine started at the Camelback Group in Greenville, SC. In Boston, MA where I had a front row seat watching when a member of the fellowship moves into a new area. She found a home group, a sponsor, socialized, got active in service work, sponsored and in a short time people were around her. That course of action also worked for me. In Alcoholics Anonymous service will help me stay sober. Sobriety will help me stay grateful. Gratitude will help me keep a conscious contact with GOD.

Laurie C. Registrar

Thank you all for the vote of confidence. My name is Laurie C. and I am an alcoholic! My sobriety date is September 12th, 1991. I moved to Sumter just over a year ago from Maine Area 28 and my home group is the Sumter Group.

I have spent most of my AA life in service and the greatest privilege has been the job of GSR. The GSR is our most important role in service (of course with the exception of a 12 step call). As it is written the GSR is the protector of our Traditions and Voice of our groups. Without the group voice we will surely become top heavy, our triangle will flip and we will fall from within. So thank you for your diligent work and carrying my voice and my group's voice.

I am so grateful to serve you as your Area 62

Registrar. The Registrar's job is to aide our Area in data communication with GSO. The correct information is very important for many reasons. For example the GSR packet can't get to you if the incoming GSR name has not been updated; also there is a vital piece of information that is used in our Membership Survey pamphlet. If the correct number of group members is not listed on the group change form when they are submitted, the data will not be correct. So please fill in all the blanks on your group change forms and remember I am here to assist you in any way.

I have been known to take on a challenge or two in my AA service. I was taught the reason for sharing our service resume is to show that we have the experience to do the job at hand as suggested in our service manual. Many of you heard my resume' at the assembly so instead of listing my complete service experience, I would like to list a few of my greatest personal challenges and achievements; I am sober!, I am a great greeter!, I help bring meetings inside the walls, I have a sponsor and I sponsor others.

Now for a few duties from the bottom of the inverted triangle; 8th tradition worker at CSO (Central Service Office) in Area 28, Alt. GSR, GSR, LCM (Local Committee Member), Area 28 Treasurer, Area 28 Alt. Chair, Area 28 Archives Chair...I also served positions in Corrections, PI, CPC, Treatment, Bridging the Gap and Finance. I had the opportunity to serve Area 28 as Registrar for 1 ½ terms and assembled and printed the Area 28 meeting list that listed 550 groups/meetings within the state for 4+ years.

My sponsor taught me we do what we do to ensure AA will always be there. Get involved, participate and learn it is one hell of a journey. Again, thank you!

**JoAnne B.
Area 62 Treasurer**

Current position Area 62 Treasurer, my name is JoAnne, grateful recovering alcoholic. I am in District 30, home group is Aiken Central Group. Hmm..service history, here goes, for **Home Group**, buyer of supplies, secretary, alt. GSR, GSR, Treasurer, KIT rep.; **District**, alt. secretary, secretary, KIT rep, alt. DCM, DCM, treasurer; **Area 62**, KIT Area Chair, Alt. Treasurer, Treasurer. I've got to say reality kicked in when Linda sent me her final report. I got a little overwhelmed and the only response I could think of to send her back was OMG! I looked at the report and tried to figure it out and when the changes needed to be done, I had to delete a couple of times, shut down my computer and go to a meeting. God gave me the answer, and I called a past Treasurer, who was more than willing to come over and show me how it is done. I really am thankful that this is a 'we' program. Just like any service work, when I finally get it right it will be time for me to rotate out. I think this position is going to be wonderful, I get to talk to people all over the state when I have to find out a little more info than what they put into their envelopes. I love being of service to AA and the people in it. Service enhances the quality of my sobriety.

"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."

(Bill Wilson)

good for a couple of old AA history buffs." Archives require patience and fortitude, always being reminded that service can be silent. I prefer to 'fly under the radar' as they say; sometimes more gets done that way. I am guided by God, the Area Archives Committee (policies), and the help from GSO archives and other area archivists. I look forward to continuing with the projects that the archives committee has started and hope to have many of the projects completed in the near future.

**Matt V.
Arrangements**

Arrangements is all about securing a respectable and inexpensive facility for the single Area Committee Meeting sometime in Jan. or Feb. and for each Area Assembly later on. This includes working with every host district assigned to doing the hospitality room as well as members of the hotel staff. It is important that all the Officers, DCMs and GSRs are properly taken care of for what is usually a long weekend. This means remaining open minded to any requests or recommendations. In short what I do is tables and chairs while making sure the temperature is not too warm or cool. There are also a lot of questions from everyone, especially the host districts. Making all that coffee is really the most difficult task at each Assembly. The Arrangements Standing Committee Chair basically makes sure everybody is comfortable so they can get down to business. I never really need any helpers since many of the members in attendance offer me help along the way. It is not easy to rotate someone like that out immediately every couple of years because it takes time to learn the routine.

**Tim M.
Corrections Chair**

I am Tim M. from Johnston, SC. I got sober in Pinellas County, Florida, August 1st, 2002. I spoke at a halfway house on my 91st day and never looked back as to where I was going in service for Alcoholics Anonymous. You had to have one year sobriety to carry the message behind the walls in Florida. That's how long I waited to go inside, one year. At a 1 ½ years, I was the district alternate chair and district chair followed. In 2006, my wife, Diane, and I moved to Johnston, South Carolina.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**63RD ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA AREA 62
STATE CONVENTION - *A NEW FREEDOM***

LANDMARK RESORT - MYRTLE BEACH, SC

MARCH 11 – 14, 2010

75th International AA Convention

San Antonio, TX

July 1 – 4, 2010

**66TH SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE**

MIAMI, FLORIDA

AUGUST 11 – 15, 2010

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FORUM

SPRINGMAID RESORT

MYRTLE BEACH, SC

DECEMBER 10 – 12, 2010

MORE INFORMATION AT

area62.org

My home group is Back to Basics (Aiken) in District 30. I started knocking on detention center and correctional institution doors and finally got to walk into Trenton Correctional Institution the first week of January 2007. (We celebrated 3 years this past January) I stood for District 30 Correction Chair and now, I stand to be a trusted servant, for Area 62, as Correction Chair.

I hope in the next two years our correction committee can continue to grow as much as it has in its last two.

**Jim S.
CPC Chair**

I am excited to serve this rotation for the Area 62 South Carolina AA as the CPC Chairperson. I look forward to meeting the CPC members for the districts across our area. I believe that we can help the professional community to better understand Alcoholics Anonymous in a variety of ways. Our literature, letters, email and meetings should help reach out to our professionals. Our committee as a whole looks forward to helping our Area Chairperson and Delegate to continue passing on the much needed information of recovery, service and unity.

As for prior service, I have been an Intergroup Rep., Alt. GSR, GSR, district treasurer, Alt. DCM, DCM, Area 62 Web Coordinator, Alt. Area 62 Treasurer, Area 62 Treasurer, and Alt. Area 62 Chairperson.

I am a member of the Valley Group in District 30.

**MaryAnn D.
Kit Editor**

I'm an alcoholic named MaryAnn. I got sober in Lancaster, District 51 on July 15th, 1998. My home group is the End of the Road Group and I love Alcoholics Anonymous. I've served as Alt. GSR, GSR, Alt DCM, DCM, and secretary treasurer for my home group.

I really wanted to be of service to AA, but being KIT Editor was not on my list. When Cyndi called and asked if I would serve, my first reaction was to say "No Way! I don't know how to do that!" But my sponsor has always told me never say no to AA when asked to be of service. So here I am!

Once I got past the fear of the unknown, I've actually started enjoying putting the newsletter together. I'm new at this, so I'll probably mess up a couple of times, but that's OK. I don't have to drink over it.

**David S.
Literature Chair**

I am very grateful for AA! I was fortunate to join AA September 10th, 1970. I have a burning enthusiasm to support the Fellowship that is saving my life. This does not mean that I rush headlong into service or say "yes" to every request. I definitely pray, talk it over with my wife and my sponsor or other trusted members before accepting a commitment.

When I was about 10 months sober, my sponsor told me that Twelve Step work or Service work (besides going on 12 step calls) included buying a Big Book, reading it and buying a Big Book for others. Also visiting AA members in the hospital or home if they are physically unable to get to meetings; buying and reading other Conference approved literature, and attending meetings sober. I was shown that chairing a meeting, cleaning up, and becoming a GSR of a group are all forms of AA Service.

Therefore, it was not too surprising when my sponsor suggested that I get into Service, since I had worked the 12 Steps and was making an effort to grow along spiritual lines. When I was sober 3 years I was elected GSR of my home group and was excited! My first Area meeting was a shock, however, because I saw AA members in heated debate over money and I did not like it. On the way home for the Area Assembly, an elder statesman explained that the GSRs were not exactly fighting; they were very concerned that the funds collected would be spent in the most crucial way to best help the alcoholic who still suffers. He further explained that some of us alcoholics are more emotional (and sensitive) than others! I was encouraged to keep going to the District and Area meetings – I did and as I understood more, I grew to like it – and it was fun! Just when I started to learn what was taking place, it was time for me to rotate out!

My wife and I moved to Spartanburg, SC in December 2004. I was still active in service work, and I am trained to get involved in AA as much as possible, so I found the Primary Purpose group and started to attend District 20 meetings here.

I was elected Alt. DCM in 2005 and in the fall of 2007, I stood for DCM and was elected! I am now servings as Area Literature Chair, which I am looking forward to. AA is a way of life for me, and I believe that I should strive toward unselfishness and love. One of the ways I can do so is by "being of service" while focusing on AAs Conference approved literature.

**Ed M.
Public Information Chair**

Recently I was appointed Area 62 Public Information Chair. I take service work seriously, and having little experience I have been reading up on the subject. I'm humbled and excited and I thank the committee for the chance to serve as always.

My home group is the Garden City group. I've been intergroup rep, intergroup chair for districts 81 & 82, special events chair for district and intergroup, GSR, Alt. DCM & DCM. I'm currently co-chair for the 2010 State Convention, greeter & coffee maker. All these things help keep me sober along with an amazing sponsor, so thank you John P. Also, thanks Bubba.

**Rob C.
Special Needs Chair**

I found my experience in Special Needs has been a very rewarding and useful experience that I hope I can share with others. Being partly disabled myself has given me a common feeling about working with others who would like a better understanding of how a disabled person feels. Not only that, but a new understanding of how we can better serve.

My work with the newcomer has given me a chance to see how I can help others who would like a new way of life. Carrying meetings to nursing homes and to the home bound older members of AA, shows me the joy I can bring to those who feel that they've been forgotten.

I look forward to being able to serve you for the next term. My friend, Jeff, has been very helpful in getting me prepared. I'm planning to do a new inventory on Special Needs in the Area. With God's help, I hope to be of service and hope to get to meet you all and help where I can.

**Carol S.
Structures and Procedures Chair**

I'm your incoming Structures and Procedures Chair for Area 62. My home group is the Carolina group in District 71 (Summerville area). We meet on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. I believe that for AA to be a part of me, I have to be a part of it. This means being of service at every level I possibly can, even if I'm unsure as to my capabilities of handling the position. I was taught to stand if I qualify and to serve if asked.

I look forward to being of maximum service to Area 62 and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Amy B.
Treatment Chair

I am from District 7, Greenville, SC. My home group is the Traditional group which meets on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. Service history was started in where I got sober, Lexington, KY, District 28 Area 26, by a sponsor that told me to show up. I was hooked, starting with meeting responsibilities. Learning that AA is bigger than just the group, I began the journey at the District and Area level. In Lexington I served as GSR, Special Needs chair at the District level and helped with the State Conference Committee. Moving to Greenville, South Carolina in 2004, I involved myself in district 7. Serving as GSR for a home group, then DCM of District 7.

Thank you for the opportunity to stay involved in AA as a whole. Service work for me keeps me right sized and involved in the lives and heartbeat of AA.

Cecil R.
Web Site Coordinator

Where service is concerned, I try to keep my approach simple by remembering "faith without works is dead", "you will know them by their fruit", and "God doeth the works". These short phrases remind me that my faith is useless without action, that my actions are evidence of change, and that the real work, love, is done by God. I used to say "thanks for letting me serve" out of routine. Now it's a grateful prayer.

Keep in Touch (KIT) is distributed at each Area 62 Assembly. KIT is a way for us to keep up with service in Area 62. If you have a story to share about exceptional service work in the area, please send it to 62kitchair@area62.org. KIT presents the experience and opinions of members of Alcoholics Anonymous on the disease of alcoholism. Opinions expressed here are not those of A. A. as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by Alcoholics Anonymous or the Area 62 Assembly.

Reflections on Service

Hi everyone, I'm Robert and the Panel 58, Area 62 Delegate. That is a fancy way to say that I just rotated out as South Carolina's Delegate and now get to sit in the back. MaryAnn was kind enough to ask me to share on my experience. Thanks for asking.

I just heard a Class A non-alcoholic Trustee on our General Service Board give a talk. He began, "I wish I was an alcoholic." Those few words told me that he got it. He got some of the joy that alcoholics share when they give back and become a small part of something much greater than themselves.

Serving as Delegate was a way that I tried to give back. Having just rotated, I am too close to it to have a good take on it. Right now I have mixed emotions. It was not all fun and games. It was often hard and frustrating. Yet I would not give hardly anything to miss seeing AA in action at this level. To experience people throughout North America unite together in one place at one time to help drunks is, well, overwhelming. I prayed that I would not cuss or cry. I did both.

My prayer for you is that you give this type of service a chance. Every member of our Area Assembly is a past delegate or delegate in training. Please, please, make yourself available to serve. God will do the rest.

My name is Robert and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for my life.

