

# Kit

Keep in Touch

WITH SERVICE

SUMMER 2008

AREA 62  
COMMITTEES  
PAGES 3-6



OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR SERVICE

South Carolina

On the Web at

Area62.org

## SERVICE IN ACTION



# A Ride Home

Submitted by Rick H, Bluffton

The yellow station wagon taxicab sat alone under a cypress tree at the Hilton Head Island Airport waiting, hopefully, for its last fare of the day. It was about 7:30 on a misty evening in the spring of 1984 and the cool South Carolina breeze through Tom D.'s open window felt good after a 12-hour day in the cab. Tom had already made several trips to and from the airport and he was looking forward to the end of a long day.

Tom had moved to Hilton Head Island from Pittsburgh several years earlier. The truth was he had never intended to make Hilton Head his home but was merely passing through on his way to Florida, where he hoped to make Pittsburgh's weather a distant memory.

Memory had been Tom's specialty at the University of Pittsburgh where he had been teaching courses in memory development for nine years. When Tom stopped at Hilton Head on his journey south, he fell in love with the Lowcountry with its wide live oaks and mysterious marshes. He went to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting that evening and settled in.

While Tom sat in his cab drifting off with his own memories and looking forward to the end of a long day, Dr. Harry H. was collecting his luggage after his flight to Hilton Head Island. Harry was originally from Vermont, ironically the state where both of AA's founders, Bill W. and Dr. Bob, were born.

Harry was a general practitioner in a small town and unlike Tom, he was not looking forward to a quiet evening and the end of the day. To the contrary, Harry was eagerly anticipating a drink, several in fact, and ideally a night of revelry to kick off a week of

partying. Here ostensibly for a medical conference on Hilton Head, Harry had other things on his mind. As he walked outside with his luggage and headed for the yellow cab he spotted across the road, Harry had no idea that the cab ride he was about to take would change, and perhaps save, his life.

As he opened the door to the cab, Harry greeted Tom and asked if he could take him to his hotel on the Island. "I'll have you there before you know it," said Tom. Harry gave him the name of the hotel in the middle of the Island but added "I'd just like to leave my bags and if you wouldn't mind, I need a lift from there to Callahan's."

Tom said sure. He knew Callahan's Sports Bar & Grill well, having dropped many a fare at the bar over the years and helped carry a few to his waiting cab at closing time. But Tom had never spent more time than that in Callahan's. 23 years sober and an active member of AA, Tom didn't drink or hang around places where people did. Tom started the cab and headed off.

Tom talked with anyone and everyone easily and had a knack of putting those he met instantly at ease. Harry felt the same comfort in the cab and laughingly shared his plans to truly enjoy this week and spend only the minimum amount of time required at the convention and most of his time in the bars. Harry had been traveling to Hilton Head for years, and Tom could tell that he knew the local haunts well.

It was also easy for Tom to tell that his new friend was no stranger to hard drinking and when Harry shared with Tom that he had even tried AA sporadically over the past 10 years

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# A Ride Home (cont. from page 1)

ago, Tom began to think of alternative plans for Harry's week.

True to plan, Tom drove into the driveway of Harry's hotel 15 minutes later and Harry jumped out, asking again that Tom wait. "I'll only be a minute," said Harry, "then Hilton Head, here I come." It was more than a minute but not by much and Harry was back and ready to go.

But soon into the last leg of the drive, Harry felt that they were heading in the wrong direction, and when Tom took a left off Highway 278 onto Mathews Drive, he knew it. "Hey," stammered Harry, "you're headed the wrong way. Callahan's is down on the south end." And indeed it was, but Tom remained calm. "I've got a better place in mind for you. Take it easy," Tom assured Harry. Harry, believing that Tom's local expertise would lead him to the bar of his dreams, relaxed.

But Harry again grew suspicious as Tom turned into a dark driveway that led to a short two-story strip mall. The lights were out except in a few windows on the second floor with a dimly lit sign in one that read "Y.A.N.A." "Are you sure this is the right spot," a confused Harry asked. "This is it," said Tom. "I assure you that this is the right place for you tonight." Tom parked and got out of the cab and started up a flight of stairs. Harry hesitated but followed.

When they entered a large single room, Harry knew right away that this wasn't a nightclub. When he looked at the wall and saw a banner displaying the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, he knew just where he was and thought of turning and fleeing but before he could do so, several warm voices greeted him and someone pulled up a chair for him. Once he saw that Harry was settled, Tom quietly wished him well and left before he could protest. For the next hour Harry sat through his first AA meeting in years. Later he would learn that "Y.A.N.A." stood for "You are not alone," and for the first time in a long while, Harry wasn't.

Harry doesn't remember much from that meeting, but recalls that he heard enough to convince him to pick up a white chip at the end, the Lowcountry's way of inviting a new member to try a new way of life. And enough was conveyed to Harry at that meeting to convince him to come back the next night and the next and before he knew it, the week was over. Harry had not had a drink, had attended all

the sessions at his medical conference and left the Island sober, unfortunately not in Tom's cab, but on his way to a new life all the same.

Tom and Harry were not in touch for quite awhile but when years later Tom met Harry's son, Arum, who coincidentally lived on Hilton Head Island, he learned that, despite some tough challenges along the way, Tom's decision to bring Harry to *his* club that spring evening in 1984 had been a turning point in Harry's life. Not only was he sober but he was now the Medical Director of the most well known recovery center in California where he was, like Tom, helping others find a new way of life and staying sober himself in the process. Tom and Harry have since had the opportunity to meet again during a few of Harry's visits to Hilton Head.

Tom continued driving his cab for several more years before he retired. Harry, it turns out, was not the first or the last "fare" to be diverted from his original Hilton Head plans and Tom still gets calls today from parents, spouses and recovering people all over the country thanking him for his rerouting.

Tom is 54 years sober today and like Harry, is all about helping another alcoholic in need. When one sits back and ponders these lives, it's not hard to imagine that literally thousands of people are alive and well today because of the efforts of these two men and a single inspired cab ride.

## Recovery Word Puzzle

E Z I L A N O I T A R D N O E  
S D E G A R U O C Y B O R L C  
S S I S D U S E R V I C E D N  
E K E R S K T O L S F T S T A  
N H Y N P E T I L O A E E I T  
I U T H G N R U R N R S N M P  
P M S L E N P G O I U A T E E  
P I E V O M I N O R P E M R C  
A L N D O V Y L R R R S E S C  
H I O C E M E E L A P I N P A  
M T H N I B N V E I G D T I M  
M Y E T I D E F V E W L W L E  
E S Y M E D I T A T I O N S N  
S D S R V E D U T I T A R G D  
O B S E S S I O N Y T I N A S

acceptance amends anonymity compulsion courage disease fear  
forgiveness gratitude honesty humility inventory  
love meditation obsession oldtimers pride progress rationalize  
resentment sanity service slips spiritual surrender willingness

Keep In Touch (Kit) is distributed at each Area 62 Assembly. Area officers, committee chairs, and AA members share about what is happening in service work around Area 62. If you have a story to share about exceptional service work that carries the message to the still-suffering alcoholic, please send it to [62kitchair@area62.org](mailto: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.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

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

That statement is the essence of what committee work is all about. A.A. can not exist without trusted servants who are willing to give of their time and energy behind the scenes to keep the wheels turning. If you want to be of service, we have a place for the talents you bring. Find a committee that interests you, and

*Get Involved!*

### ARCHIVES ..... JOHN C

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“History,” wrote Thomas Carlyle “is the essence of innumerable biographies.”

Perhaps nothing better sums up AA history than the millions of personal stories of recovery that comes together as a priceless legacy in The A.A. Archives.

Hello everyone. I am John C., your Archives representative for S.C. area Assembly for 2008 and 2009. I look forward to these next two years and want to thank the assembly for yet another opportunity to continue my recovery through service. I am excited about the chance of working with all those who have been involved in archives and all of the new faces to archives.

It is our responsibility to do our part to preserve and record the history of AA in South Carolina. By doing this we assist in preserving the story of AA as a whole worldwide. Everyday we are losing irretrievable artifacts and biographies of those members who have set the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous in South Carolina.

I urge all DCM's to appoint District Archives Representatives and that every group have an active archives Rep. Let's try to get as many of these appointees to our area assemblies. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any service on any level.

### GET INVOLVED!

The Area Archives is looking for Group Histories of all groups in South Carolina. Fill out the Group History Questionnaire on the Area 62 website.

Archives is in need of the selected Grapevine issues, identified on the website. If you have any of the issues listed, please email the Area 62 Archives Committee.

### ARCHIVIST ..... KCH

I have been active in service to Alcoholics Anonymous 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 I had to be there two hours before the meeting). I have always had sponsors (personal and service) and a Home Group.

My interests in A.A. have been history and traditions. A late friend would remark that “we looked pretty good for a couple of old A.A. history buffs.”

Archives requires 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 Archives Committee and our policies.. Our Area Archive Service Committee has a supplement to the A.A. G.S.O. Archives Workbook. The Areas can be found on our area website and the later can be found at the G.S.O. website.

### Why do we have both an Archives Committee and an Archivist?

“The Archives Committee is responsible for establishing policies, budgets, and procedures. It undertakes and maintains final responsibility and authority for the use of the archives, and exercises its group conscience in regard to matters of general policy.”

*Archives Workbook, A.A.W.S., Inc., pg.12*

“The Archivist is the focal point of the collection, determining on one hand what to include in the collection, and on the other hand working towards making the collected material available to the greatest extent possible. The archivist collects, organizes and preserves material of historic interest.

“The archivist is responsible for both the physical and the intellectual integrity of the collection. It is important to ensure the privacy and protect the anonymity of members whose names are included in the collected documents. The archivist is also responsible to report regularly to the area committee or, if it exists, the area archives committee, about new material received and give updates about ongoing projects at the archives.”

*Archives Workbook, A.A.W.S., Inc., pg.13*

# STANDING COMMITTEES

## ARRANGEMENTS ..... MATT VB

The Area 62 Arrangements Committee handles the physical details of the Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings, including scheduling the hotel and necessary rooms, chairs, sound system, and the all-important coffee. Many meeting participants volunteer their help for setup and take down activities.

Arrangements representatives must “practice these principles in all their affairs” with everyone else involved, especially hotel employees. It is important to be friendly no matter what. Sobriety is often about accommodating other people, not just A.A. members.

I have made coffee and setup meeting rooms for a lot of groups, including my own, which prepared me to do it at the area level. Service work at the group, district and area level makes sobriety possible for a lot of people including me.

### GET INVOLVED!

Almost all A.A. meetings require the service of members in setting up the meeting, making coffee, etc.

## CORRECTIONS ..... TOM D

62corrchair@area62.org

The function of the Corrections Committee is to carry the message to alcoholics incarcerated in jails and prisons. Generally, volunteers need one year of sobriety, but each institution may have its own requirements. We need volunteers to go to these places — we are people poor.

Our goal for the Corrections Committee is to have programs in all penal institutions, county and state, 12 Step Programs where possible. We need state-wide programs that can be supported by the DOC State Office.

What qualifies me to lead this committee is that I lived in jails and finally worked in a county jail and started meetings at penal institutions, and I drank a lot.

Service work is the key to lasting sobriety. It has become a key for my sobriety and many of the people I have sponsored. Without service we are not carrying the message to the maximum.

### GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in Corrections, ask your GSR or DCM about opportunities in your area.

## CPC ..... DON H

62cpcchair@area62.org

In a nutshell, CPC deals with professionals in the community — giving talks at professional seminars, schools, health fairs, and seminars conducted for professionals. CPC sends annual letters —to the media, schools, churches, magistrates, treatment centers, and funeral directors. These letters touch on specific Traditions; that AA is available; and what and who we are.

In the 2001 Membership Survey 27% of those surveyed identified courts, counseling agencies, and health care providers as a factor “most responsible for members coming to AA.” Each talk or letter is an opportunity to inform professionals that AA is available as a community resource, both locally and internationally.

To enhance CPC in SC, one of our goals this year is to teach 50 individual groups how to host professional workshops to spread the word in their community. As each group hosts such a gathering, other AAs come and listen and learn how to do it in their community.

We welcome new folks into the CPC committee as we gather to learn and spread the message of AA to the alcoholic seeking help. “Together, we can do what none of us could accomplish alone” (AAWS).

### GET INVOLVED!

If you have suggestions, questions, or an itch to get involved, feel free to join the committee, or contact your GSR or DCM about opportunities in your area. . And thanks for letting us serve.

## GRAPEVINE ..... HOLLY K

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The basic job of the Grapevine representative, or GvR, is to make the magazine available to the home group, and to encourage AAs to read it, subscribe to it, and use it in Twelfth Step work. The GvR may volunteer for the service position or be elected.

### GET INVOLVED!

Does your home group have a Grapevine representative? If not, volunteer to perform this vital and interesting service work. Subscribe to the Grapevine, use it in meetings, and recycle read copies through an A.A. meeting for others to read.

# STANDING COMMITTEES

## KIT NEWSLETTER .....LYN N

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**K**eeP In Touch (KIT) is Area 62's Service Journal and is distributed through GSR's to local meetings and is available on-line at area62.org.

My goal for KIT over the next two years is to inform, inspire and motivate AA members about the importance and benefits of service work, both to those they serve and to their own sobriety.

Technically I am qualified for this position by many years in the printing industry. During my sobriety, I have served in all service positions at the Group level, from coffee-maker to GSR. I have carried the message to treatment centers and prisons.

Service work has kept me sober. Seeing the miraculous transformation of a sick alcoholic into a joyful member of the human race reminds me how far I have come. Watching the agony of those who don't "get" the program reminds me of where I will be if I don't maintain my spiritual condition on a daily basis.

### GET INVOLVED!

KIT representatives are needed in most districts. Make the newsletter available to your home group and encourage AAs to read it and get involved in service work.

## LITERATURE .....SHERI G

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**T**he primary responsibilities of the Literature Chair is to let people know about the different kinds of literature we have. To get the DCM's to appoint chairs in districts. My major challenge over the two years is filling the district chairs. What I hope to accomplish is to get groups to have literature available.

I have been a GSR a couple of times, secretary for District 12, and DCM for District 12, workshop coordinator for Williamston Group. Service work for others has helped me. It is a true blessing to watch people grow in service as well as meet the old-timers in service.

### GET INVOLVED!

District Literature representatives are needed. Talk to your GSR or DCM about opportunities in your district.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION ...HERMAN R

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**T**he goal of AA Public Information is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. PI representatives inform the general public, including the media, about the AA program, reach people whose work is or may be involved with the active alcoholic, and keep the Fellowship of AA well-informed, so that members and groups may carry the message more effectively.

My goal is to get people involved and educating them about why this committee's work is important. We depend on DCMs to inform us about what's in place in each district and what needs to be done to improve the information we provide the public.

I have served as District PI committee chair. Service work keeps me a member of "we," the first word in the First Step. We do this together.

### GET INVOLVED!

Ask your GSR or DCM about Public Information opportunities in your area.

## SPECIAL NEEDS .....JEFFREY J

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**S**pecial Needs has a very broad range of responsibilities for helping members with a wide range of disabilities: physically disabled, deaf, hearing, blind, visually, learning and reading impaired, seniors and homebound, those with language barriers, and single parents requiring childcare.

The Area Special Needs committee needs a district committee chair in each district. Special needs would like to accomplish a complete state-wide inventory during 2008, so that we can update the area website with wheelchair accessible meetings.

I gained service experience by having the most important position that one can have in AA — making coffee. Being willing to do that helped me do other things — serving as secretary and GSR, District 81 Special Needs committee chair, District DCM and now Area Special Needs chair. Full circle, I guess that's where God wants me.

### GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in carrying the message to the professional community, ask your GSR or DCM about opportunities in your area.

# STANDING COMMITTEES

## TREATMENT ..... RANDY S 62txchair@area62.org

The mission of the Treatment Committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups who carry the message to alcoholics in treatment facilities, setting up means of bridging the gap from treatment to A.A., and working to clarify what A.A. can and cannot do, within the Traditions, to help alcoholics in treatment.

My goal over the next two years is to expand the "Bridging the Gap" program and to encourage more involvement from the A.A. community in carrying the message.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve in whatever capacity possible. I am qualified for this position because I am an alcoholic that wants to help.

Service work is a way to demonstrate the gratitude I have for my sobriety, in addition to getting out of self. I have enjoyed making new friends and acquaintances throughout this journey.

### GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in carrying the message to the alcoholic who is incarcerated, ask your GSR or DCM about opportunities in your area. The Corrections Correspondence Service offers an opportunity for A.A.s on the "outside" to share experience, strength, and hope through letters with fellow members. You may write to G.S.O. to become a part of this service.

## WEBSITE .....KYLE S 62webm@area62.org

The Area 62 website is a valuable source of information for all – area and district representatives, groups, GSR's, and most importantly, the potential newcomer who is looking for information about a meeting in the area.

I am challenged in this position to learn the involved procedures in editing and maintaining the information, relying on the experience strength and hope of others that have served before me. I do want to do my best to keep the available information current.

Goals would include an inventory of the website and its contributors, learning to be as helpful in this capacity as I can, and attempting to be as patient and helpful as my predecessors and role models in the program of AA.

I have served as a GSR for the Keep It Simple group (Lugoff) in District 22, and also as the District 22 web rep. I guess my biggest qualification for this position is that I was, and try daily to be, willing. I am just another drunk doing the deal one day at a time, and service work helps me do that.

### GET INVOLVED!

Bookmark area62.org, go there often, and make use of the information. Make sure your group is listed in the meeting schedule and that the information is up-to-date. Inform the Website Committee of appropriate area news and special events well ahead of time.

# www.area62.org

Visit often for the latest news & information

- Area News
- Committees
- District & Groups
- Intergroups
- Events
- Member Services
- Find a Meeting
- Links to:  
AA Grapevine, Inc.  
AA World Services



**OUR SOLE PURPOSE IS TO HELP THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC**

## Posthumous Anonymity

by K.C. H.

*“In the Akron cemetery where Dr. Bob and Ann lie, the simple stone says not a word about A.A. This final example of self-effacement is of more permanent worth to A.A. than any amount of public attention or any great monument.”*

Instead of making another request for items for the Area 62 Archives, the time seems most appropriate to take another look at anonymity and how it is applied to archives.

Because our primary purpose is to try to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, we should always be mindful of the full meaning of Traditions 11 and 12 as we serve in any capacity with our archives. Whether we are writing our group history, presenting an archives workshop, or putting a history display together for our or Area functions, let us make every effort to present the materials in a factual way that allows for attraction and not promotion.

We need A.A. members' full names in our repositories. In order to keep the record undiluted, these names should not be published, or become part of any public records at any outside agencies, including archives in universities and private foundations. Many alcoholics still believe that once an alcoholic dies that it is alright to use their full name. However, this is not so.

A.A.'s conscience has spoken on several occasions through our General Service Conference that anonymity continues after death. AA members generally think it unwise to break the anonymity of a member even after his death, but in each situation the final decision must rest with the family (1971 GSC Advisory Action, reaffirmed in 1988). Once again we are reminded that this is a program of attraction and not promotion. It does not matter who these people were. It only matters that, through this A.A. program and the grace of God, they were able to stay sober and helped to carry the message of A.A. to the still suffering alcoholic.

Nevertheless, we can't remain unknown to each other and carry on. So the anonymity inside the program (Tradition 12) does not mean surrendering our names, although we are free to do so if we choose. What it really means is that we are to persistently strive to practice a true humility that does not take credit for anything we have done to serve A.A. We shouldn't put

some people on a pedestal or overly praise them for doing what this program suggests we must do to live, and that is to carry the A.A. message.

Posthumous anonymity is included in the 12th tradition. Bill W. recalled his last meeting with his close friend and co-founder: “Dr. Bob was essentially a far more humble person than I, and anonymity came rather easily to him. When it was sure that he was mortally afflicted, some of his friends suggested that there should be a monument erected in honor of him and his wife, Ann — befitting a founder and his lady. Telling me about this, Dr. Bob grinned broadly and said, ‘God bless ‘em. They mean well. Just let’s you and me get buried just like other folks.’”

“In the Akron cemetery where Dr. Bob and Ann lie, the simple stone says not a word about A.A. This final example of self-effacement is of more permanent worth to A.A. than any amount of public attention or any great monument” (A.A. Come of Age, pages 136-137). The only monuments in A.A. are the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts.

The 57th General Service Conference and the General Service Board provided that “A section on posthumous anonymity be developed by the Publications Department for inclusion in the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” and a draft be brought back to the 2008 Conference Committee on Public Information for consideration.”

The Area 62 Archives is a valuable tool to try to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic. It must insist upon the strict adherence of the traditions. “The spiritual paradox is also true that morbid fascination into deceased members' lives, with the things they wished to be held in confidence, which our program assures us we all deserve, strikes at the very heart of what this spiritual way of life is all about.

*(To be continued in next issue of KIT)*

**2008 A.A. 64th  
Southeast Conference  
& Virginia Area Convention**



***“The Hands of A.A.”***



**August 21-24, 2008**

at

**Sheraton Premier • Tyson’s Corner, VA  
800-325-3535**

Pre-registration: \$25.00 • At the door: \$30.00

**Link to information about these conferences at [area62.org](http://area62.org)**

**2008 Southeast Regional Forum**

With our U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

**November 21-23, 2008**

*Crowne Plaza Knoxville. Knoxville, TN • (865) 522-2600*

**There is no Registration Fee**

*2008 Conference Theme:*

***Communication and Participation  
The Key to Unity and Self Support***

- Why should I care about A.A. beyond my home group? • AA History — boring or incredible spiritual journey • How does support of GSO help AA’s worldwide?
- Does your home group use the AA Grapevine or La Viña as a Twelfth Step tool?
  - The upside triangle — how are the General Service Board, the AAWS and Grapevine Boards accountable to the Fellowship? • How do I have a voice in AA?
  - What do the Traditions and Concepts have to do with my home group?