

Area 62 presents SSAASA – Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

November 8-10, 2019 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina verbose

What a beautiful place! Thank you very much for the opportunity to attend. I am very happy that I was able to attend SSAASA and I would attend again. I loved the focused interactions between all attendees. Specifically, between people from the host Area, Area 62, by my count 13 Area Delegates, our Southeast Regional Trustee, a Class A Trustee, staff from GSO, a Trustee at Large, and many Past Trustees. I attended the following breakout sessions: 12 Concepts for World Service, The Pro/Con of “Should we have a linked in page?”, a GSO Presentation, Southeast Regional Trustee Report, Technology Advancements, Area Chair: Leadership, AA around the Globe, Secretary/Registrar, SSAASA Business meeting, Past Trustee’s Sharing Session, and the Ask it Basket session.

At our first **guest speaker** meeting, Cathy B, Southeast Regional Trustee, asked all Delegates to come to the mike and give only three words about their General Service Conference experience. Here are a few of them: Area 14 Delegate: Unbelievable, exhilarating, and educational, Area 15 Delegate: Spiritual, Humbling and a Privilege, Area 62 Delegate: Awesome, Amazing and Priceless and Area 71 Delegate: Absolutely Life Changing. Our second **guest speaker**, Michelle G, Class A Trustee, shared her story and told us a couple of things about Trustees. She said that all Trustees work together, they don’t distinguish between Class A and Class B, that when a Trustee is needed, they are all available. Please do not hesitate to call upon your Trustees.

During the **Concepts** workshop three people each discussed a ‘block’ of Concepts in threes. I noted the following: You need to participate! We need good leaders. You need to identify. Find a sponsor who has your story. Unity is the most important. It’s about responsibility and trust. Should reps from our Intergroups be allowed to vote. Question the decision not the person. Very important to not make it personal. If your going to quote from the Concepts; read three paragraphs before and after the quote. Read the Conference Charter and the By-Laws to know what the General Service Board has a right to do. Do the Traditions before the Concepts. Well done is better than well said. Need GSRs to pick good Delegates. It takes a written proposal from 2/3 of all A.A. groups to make a change to Article 12 in the Charter, or the 12 Traditions or the 12 Steps. Article 12, Warranty two, “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle. The reserve fund replenished by book sales has saved the collapse of GSO. We’re are about good policy. A good test is “Is it spiritual, is it practical?” and finally Trustees make sure the money is spent well.

Next up was **Should we have a linked in page for Alcoholics Anonymous**. At first, I thought no but after this workshop I am for having a linked-in page for AA. What sold me: It would standardize the message. We must use the tools available to us. AA the organization is not

Anonymous, the individual is anonymous. AA is a company. Companies are linked in users. GSO audit reports say we are not reaching the outside world. GSO has been questioned: Why is it so hard to reach you. How come you guys aren't out in the real world? Say what AA is and AA isn't. It should be managed by AA.org. Fear is disguised by prudence.

From the **Regional Trustees report**: GSO has switched to a new database and the transition did not go well. some pointers the Group number has changed. The old numbers are now legacy numbers. When searching for your group, search by name. Able to download the meeting guide from aa.org. There is a back log in disseminating kits for GSRs and DCMs. The Big Book has been translated and available on disk for ASL. As Director of A.A.W.S, Cathy B said, "My reality has exceeded my dreams".

In **Technological Advancements** we talked about existing websites and about Area 62's website, the need for SSL certificates. Google will not list you without it. If you are linked to an unsecure website, you can't use transaction locking. Don't forget accessibilities in your websites. Shane brought up that secret/private groups in Facebook are more useful than websites and asked Do you use secret/closed groups. Remember on Facebook you don't own your data, Facebook does. Collecting contributions/donation by using Venmo finished out the discussions.

My takeaway from **the Area Chair: Leadership** breakout was 1) Be centered in all three legacies, unity, service, recovery. Do not deviate from the service structure. Get to know your guidelines and your advisory actions. Know Roberts Rules. Be kind, courteous and keep the order great.

Our **Trustee at Large**, Newton, presented an amazing international data map that showed 180 items where in the world groups, and GSO offices have sprouted up. The General Service Office in Cuba is now legal. Newton also presented many pictures of all his travels over the years to many countries having or starting A.A. It was all pretty neat.

The **Registrar/Secretary** breakout yielded the following: In South Carolina, you must opt-in for snail mail instead of email. This was a huge cost-savings. Georgia stopped snail mail altogether. This might be something we think about. North Carolina has one person do both Secretary and Registrar duties, and he brought it up to find out how others did it. There was no other area, or district that was set up like that. In South Florida each district, has their own registrar, but they have software that enables this. Steve sold Carl and I on their process. We are going to contact South Florida to see how they did this and see if it is something that North Florida might do.

The **SSAASA business meeting** related that the next SSAASA would be held at the Tampa Marriott Airport on Nov 19-21, 2020. Bidding for 2021 has begun. Three motions were presented and passed and two were table for the next SSAASA.

The **Past Trustees' Sharing Session** went like this: Need to have information flowing. What is the best kind of communication to the 36 million people out there? AA the organization is not anonymous. On your service resume: don't say what you did, say what A.A. has done for you.

Let's make sure we harness our young people, and finally some ideas from the **ask it basket**:
The one-time donation is \$10,000.00 to A.A. Keep the hard copy of handbooks for committees as well as putting them online. We need structure, but maybe let a participant tell their recovery story at your District meeting. Helps to get to know everyone.

This was an amazing experience. Again, thank you for the opportunity to attend.

Terri-Lynn S.
Panel 69, Area 14
Secretary





