

A note from the editor

Another change to Committee membership – unfortunately, Michelle (elected to the position of Treasurer by the Third Legacy Procedure in March) has had to resign before taking up the position due to personal reasons. Kylie F. from Ballarat was the other contender for Treasurer and her appointment to the position was ratified at the Area Assembly on 5th June.

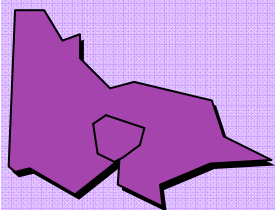
Commiserations to Michelle, and welcome to Kylie.

Speaking of the Third Legacy (as explained last issue) AA has some unusual procedures, developed out of AA experience, that seem to work to modify the excesses of our alcoholic natures and our defects of character! This month the 'minority voice' is explained, and the 'group inventory.'

By the way—remember that any member, not just GSRs, can subscribe, to the Newsletter at areadnewsletter@gmail.com. Remember to include a phone number so that we can contact you if your email changes and you forget to notify us.

To save on costs, we don't send out hard copies, we only send out electronic copies.

The deadline for any articles/reports for the October 2011 edition is 16th September.



Special Interest Articles...

Minority Voice	1
Format for a Group Inventory	2
Is our group aligned with the 12 Traditions?	2

Individual Highlights...

District News	3-4
About those AA	
Group problems ...	4
Can you speak a second language?	4
When an alcoholic calls	5
Corrections News	5
PI News	5
Coming Events	6

'The Minority Voice'

The purpose of this article is to briefly outline the meeting procedure for hearing the minority voice with reference to p8 Concept 5 p152 *The Australian AA Service Manual 7th Ed 2007*.

Who is the 'minority voice' in meeting procedures?

The minority voice is 'a smaller party voting against the majority'. (*Concise Oxford Dictionary 6th Ed 1976*).

How does the procedure for the minority voice work?

- We move to vote on a motion.
- After every lost vote the minority are given an opportunity to have last word.
- However the minority can only say things that have not been said before.
- After hearing the minority voice, any Conference/Group Conscience member (who voted with the majority) can move a motion to re-vote, on the original motion.
- The Chairperson then asks the Conference/G/C for a sense of the meeting whether there should be a re-vote.
- If the majority do not request a re-vote, the original vote stands.
- A conference/G/C member who voted with the minority cannot request a re-vote.

Why do we use the Minority Voice procedure?

- Sometimes the majority may be wrong and the minority right.
- Promotes wide and thorough debate
- Desire for unity.

"Right of Appeal"

In concept 5 we are given a right to speak up, as trusted servants or group members Without prejudice or fear of reprisal' (Concept 5 p152 the ASM).

What This Means

- Listen and Learn.
- Keep an open mind.
- One day at a time.

It should always be remembered the minority view is not a veto.

Adapted from a presentation given at the 2011 National Convention

Format for a Group Inventory

Many groups periodically hold a "group inventory meeting" to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover through AA's suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. Some groups take inventory by examining our Twelve Traditions, one at a time, to determine how well they are living up to these principles.

The following questions, compiled from AA shared experience, may be useful in arriving at an informed group conscience. Groups will probably wish to add questions of their own:

1. What is the basic purpose of our group?
2. What more can our group do to carry the message?
3. Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs?
4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group do to retain members?
5. Do we emphasise the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?
6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other AAs outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?
7. Does our group emphasise to all members the value of keeping up with the kitchen, set-up, clean-up and other housekeeping chores that are essential for our Twelfth Step efforts?
8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?
9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive and accessible meeting place?
11. Does our group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of AA—as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service?
12. What has our group done lately to bring the AA message to the attention of professionals in the community—the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?
14. Is this inventory being taken in a sincere spirit of improvement rather than fault-finding?
15. Are group service positions being rotated regularly?

The Australian AA Group Handbook, 2009, p.36-37

Is Our Group Aligned With The Twelve Traditions?

Some groups take inventory by *examining our Twelve Traditions*, one at a time, to determine how well they are living up to these principles.

The following questions were taken from the core of what is said in the Big Book, 4th Edition page 561 - 566 and the Twelve and Twelve. Read the corresponding Tradition out of the Big Book then the consideration. If the answer is yes to any of these, it may be that the group is acting outside the principles of that Tradition. However, the Traditions should be taken as a whole and not in isolation. Traditions Two—Eleven are the way in which we carry out the intent of Tradition One.

One: Does our group put the interests of any individual above the welfare of the group or of AA as a whole?

Two: Does our group do anything that misrepresents the conscience of the majority of the group?

Three: Does our group exclude anyone with a drinking problem from attending the group?

Four: Does our group do anything that does not conform to AA principles and affect other groups or AA as a whole?

Five: Does our group do anything that conflicts with our carrying the AA message to alcoholics who want a way out from their drinking problem?

Six: Does anything we do affiliate, endorse or bind the group, actual or implied, to any related facility or outside enterprise?

Seven: Does the group receive donations from anyone other than an AA member?

Eight: Are there any fees besides meeting expenses being charged for Twelve Step work, ie: fellowship,

sponsoring, step work?

Nine: Is there a governing individual or exclusive group authority that dictates organisation to our group?

Ten: Does our group do anything that publicly states an opinion or takes sides on any issues or controversy that are outside of AA?

Eleven: At the general public level, does the group publicise any individual AA member's name or picture as a self-appointed representative of AA?

Twelve: Does our group give personal distinction to any AA member either among fellow alcoholics or the general public that puts their opinions above the conscience of the group or AA?

District News...

An AA District is a geographical unit within an Area containing a number of AA Groups, the number being dependent on the ability of the General Service Representatives (GSRs) to communicate between each other and to meet regularly together with comparative ease.

A metropolitan District may cover a small area but contain hundreds of Groups, while a rural District may cover many square kilometres but include as few as 3 or 4 Groups. As the number of Groups in an Area increases more Districts are formed, each new one then electing another District

Each District has a Committee Member (DCM) on the Area Committee.

Experience has shown that the answer to growth rests in the setting up of more Districts to meet the Fellowship's expansion in size and activities.

Extract from *Australian AA Service Manual 7th Edition 2007* ~ Section 4 *The District & DCM*

"Because of the closer communication links within the District, the Groups are able to share together and to carry their message more effectively."

Ballarat District

Hi from the Ballarat District, The Ballarat District has elected its new committee and it is great to see some new faces doing service work.

Our committee consists of:

- DCM Dave A.
- SECRETARY Lesley P.
- TREASURER Burnie H.
- WEBMASTER Sue M.
- LITERATURE Steve C.
- Phone Coord Little Di
- PUBLIC INFORMATION.I Jill O.

Young in sobriety but keen to learn! The 24 hr phonline continues to function well and is averaging 4 or 5 calls per week and of those at least one alcoholic is getting to their first meeting or receiving the 12 Step call

in their home.

Our P.I co-ord has taken up her new role with a great passion, distributing literature to health service groups, hospitals etc. She is also going onto local radio VOICE FM to share her experience strength and hope. Financially the Ballarat District is very sound through support from nearly all local groups. Funds are being used mainly for P.I work, with a focus on newcomer packs.

A Christmas in July dinner /dance is being organised as a fellowship get-together on 30 July 7pm Eureka Hall Stawell St Ballarat contact Meredith 0400253878 or Rob 0405102596. Prison service work continues by a small dedicated group and is very

rewarding work, with the hope of involving more members onto the roster.

All in all our District is doing the best we can and is being reflected by the attendance at our last District meeting by 13 members.

Yours in service, Dave A

Ballarat District Committee.

<http://sites.google.com/site/ballarataadistrict/>

Next District Meeting

Sunday 21st August 1:30pm

Eastwood Leisure Centre.

Eastwood & Peel Sts, Ballarat.

Calder District

Calder District DCM's Report to D-Liberation Newsletter June 2011

The last Calder District meeting held on 14th April was a little disappointing considering at only three GSRs plus three committee members were in attendance. This was down from thirteen at the February meeting. The good news was that we had two new GSRs attending for their first time, Joe from Moonee Ponds Friday and Annie from Essendon North. The Calder District is only as good as the GSRs attending from the Groups in our District so I urge as many as possible GSRs to come to our next District meeting on the 14th July next. Glenn B, our PI coordinator, has organized a small sub-committee to plan a Service Information Day with the topic centred on Tradition 5 – "Each group is a spiritual entity

having one primary purpose – to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers". The date for this event will be October 22nd next and the venue will be the Flemington Neighbourhood House. More news about this service day will be distributed later.

Frank O'L is presently looking after the DePaul roster and doing a wonderful job. The DePaul roster is presently full with 2-3 members attending a one-hour session every Monday night. A Temporary Contact Sponsor who will bring the clients to meetings for up to a month after they leave the detox center follows this up. Mark H has the responsibility of looking after this roster. We have prepared another 50 Newcomer Packs for distribution to DePaul and Ozanam House. More volunteers are always welcome.

The next Calder District Meeting will be held at the usual venue, Flemington Neighbourhood House, 28 Farnham St, on Thursday 14th July at 8pm. Please come along and make a difference.

Yours in AA service

Kevin H

Calder District DCM

Next Calder District Meeting:

Thursday 14 July at 8:00pm

Flemington Neighbourhood House

28 Farnham Street, Flemington.

All GSRs in the District are encouraged to attend.

Geelong District

Not much to report from Geelong – all groups travelling reasonably well – Geelong Friday recently celebrating 40 years; Tuesday Primary Purpose back in beautifully renovated rooms; Lara about to move into new venue, and Torquay have put their early Saturday morning meeting into recession over the winter months – not too many folks want to get up on a cold Saturday morning! Currently we have 11 groups offering 18 meetings.

Obviously need to take a leaf out of Ballarat's book as currently only four GSRs from our District are active which means quite a few groups are not in the loop.

Portfolios likewise continue their valuable work – Anniversary

Committee progressing nicely for this year's 56th celebration last weekend in October; Geelong Withdrawal Unit roster going well with regular meetings on Monday evenings always well received; PI Committee had intended to organise professionals lunch during Drug Action Week in June – but time and resources were too limited however now planning one for March 2012 with three new members on committee seems more achievable, also regular displays at local libraries are hopefully attracting interest. Jail roster unfortunately still struggling – hopefully members will respond to a recent flier.

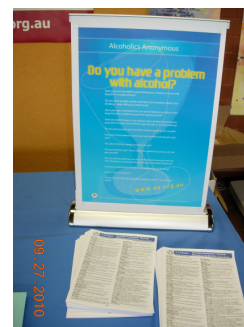
Yours in service

Sue T
Geelong District DCM

Next Geelong District Meetings:
Saturday July 2nd & September 3rd 10.30am

Open Doors Meeting Place,
Church of Christ Hall
cnr Little Myer Street & Latrobe Tce, Geelong

Further information available from Sue T on 0417 562604



Western Suburbs District

No report submitted. For PI activities, see the PI Co-ordinator's report

Next Western Suburbs District Meeting:
Tuesday 7:00pm 5 July. Venue TBA



About those AA group problems...

Group problems are often evidence of a healthy and desirable diversity of opinion among group members. They give us a chance, in the words of Step Twelve, to "practise these principles in all our affairs." ...

... Almost every group problem can be solved through the process of an informed group conscience, AA principles and our Twelve Traditions. Some groups find that their GSR can be helpful in this process. For all involved, a good sense of humour, cooling-off periods, patience, courtesy, willingness to listen and to wait—plus a sense of fairness and trust in a "Power greater than ourselves"—have been found far more effective than legalistic arguments or personal accusations.

The Australian AA Group Handbook, 2009, p.37-38

Can you speak a second (or third) language?

If so, you may be able to help a fellow alcoholic with the message of recovery delivered in their own language. If you are willing to talk to another alcoholic reaching out for help, register with one (or all!) of the 12th Step help-lines specifying your other language and your availability.

Anonyme Alkoholiker

مدمني الكحول المجهولين

alcooliques anonymes

शराबी बेनामी

Анонимни Алкоголичари

Ανόνημοι
Αλκοολικοί

alcolisti
Anonimi

戒酒

Anonimni alkoholičari

alcohólicos Anónimos



“When an Alcoholic Calls”

In May of 1935, Bill W., downhearted at the grim conclusion of a business venture, found himself pacing the lobby of Akron's Mayflower Hotel. As he recalled, "The bar at one end of my beat was filling up rapidly. I could hear the familiar buzz of conversation in there. Down at the other end of the lobby I found myself pausing before a church directory. Then I was seized with a thought: I am going to get drunk. Or no, maybe I won't get drunk; maybe I'll just go into that bar and drink some ginger ale and scrape up an acquaintance. Then I panicked.... I remembered that in trying to help other people, I had stayed sober myself.... I thought, 'You need another alcoholic to talk to. You

need another alcoholic just as much as he needs you!' " (A.A. *Comes of Age*, pp. 65-66)

With this thought, Bill looked up at the church directory and — at random — phoned the Reverend Tunks, who put him in touch with Henrietta Sieberling, who would put him in touch with Dr. Bob. Bill's phone call not only set a significant series of events in motion, but for the first time in A.A. history, an alcoholic picked up a telephone instead of a drink. In recounting their experience, strength, and hope, many A.A.s relate how a particular phone call requesting help — a call made to an A.A. member, intergroup/central office, hotline, or

any other helping agency — signaled the beginning of their journey of recovery.

Excerpted and reprinted from Box 459 Vol. 57, No. 1 / Spring 2011 page 10

Have you volunteered for AA phone service work, either answering calls or by being on the local 12 Step List?



Corrections Committee News

It is now appropriate that we re-establish the cooperative partnership between the groups within Area D and Area C and bring the positive elements of the "Prison District" under the responsible and effective guidance of the traditions and concepts of AA as a whole and the general service conference.

We need members to be willing to go on rosters to visit and establish meetings within correctional facilities. If you are at least 2 years sober and are willing to have a go contact me as follows:

Peter Martin Phone: 9077 3641 (mob) 0422 0905597 email: petermartin54@gmail.com

The fund established by the prison district to provide literature to inmates

and support for any members carrying the AA message into correctional facilities has been exhausted and literature is currently being made available by responsible groups and individual members who support the few members who work in this valuable area of service. It is essential to maintain the fund and receive support from Members, Groups, Districts and Areas. Inmates by the very nature of where they live are incapable of being self-supporting.

We are guests in each correctional facility and each one has its own individual requirements. AA's presence in correctional facilities is usually based on good personal relationships between the administration and members.

12th Step work in Correctional Facilities is rewarding and I encourage members to be willing to go on rosters to visit and establish meetings within correctional facilities.

Currently members are attending the following facilities: Barwon Prison; Margoneet Correctional Centre; (both in the Geelong Area); Dame Phyllis Frost Centre; Melbourne Assessment Prison; Metropolitan Remand Centre; Ararat Prison; Langi Kal Kal Prison; Loddon Prison; Tarrengower Prison; Beechworth Correctional Centre; Fulham Correctional Centre. We have also been contacted by the Juvenile Correctional Facility at Malmsbury.

Peter Martin, Chairman, Corrections Committee

Public Information News...

"Someone has said that the heart of AA is one drunk carrying the message to the other drunk. This is still a good, basic, down to earth way of staying away from the first drink"

(an extract from the AA Group Handbook)

Tradition 11 states "Our Public Relation Policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of Press, Radio & Films." Keeping this Tradition in mind Area D has continued its PI effort during the first half of 2011. We know that as individuals we remain anonymous, but that the Fellowship must not. The Public needs to know that we exist. The Calder District is hosting a PI Forum on the 22nd October 2011. Keep this date free. This promises to

be an enjoyable day with interaction & fellowship.

Drug Action Week is the 17th – 24th June & many contacts have been made and a great deal of literature has been distributed.

Kangan Tafe requested literature for nine of its Campuses during Drug Action Week, as well as Anglicare. A huge thankyou to the Calder District who helped in this effort by supplying 100 PI Packs as well as CDs for the Deaf Alcoholic.

The Calder District continues its proactive work, once again holding an AA stall at the Moonee Valley Festival. Most Councils hold a Festival day each year & it would be great if each District or Group has a

look at their local Council's website to see when it's being held. I am sure Calder District would be only too glad to share their experience.

The Western Suburbs District has supplied literature and posters to the Civic Centre in Werribee. Posters have been formulated for notice boards around Werribee. There has been a follow-up request from a Medical Practice in Melton, after the PI Forum at Jeff's Shed, for literature and information. Groups in Werribee have listed their meetings in the local rag in the "What's On" column & continue to supply Doctors with literature.

In love and service

Sharon R

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Region**
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We're on the web!

See us at
www.aread.org.au

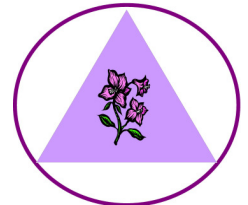
Disclaimer:

Except for material identified as being taken directly from AA Conference Approved Literature, articles published in this Newsletter are the experience and opinion of the author, and are not necessarily the opinion of AA.

Coming Events ... dates to put in your calendar

- Next Area D Assembly**
Sunday 4th September, 1:00 pm
Ballarat
Eastwood Leisure Complex
20 Eastwood Street ([map](#))
Workshop 10:00—12.00: Discussion of Conference Topics
- Area D Women's Day in AA**
Saturday 9th July 9am—5pm
Ivanhoe Uniting Church, Seddon St, Ivanhoe
Plenty of meetings, workshops and wonderful fellowship!
- Ocean Grove Trivia Night**
Saturday 27th August 7pm
St Peters Church Hall, Draper St, Ocean Grove
(Melways 483 J11) **BYO supper plate—prizes galore and lots of fun as always!**
- Ocean Grove Discussion Group 7th Anniversary**
Wednesday 7th September 8pm
St Peters Church Hall, Draper St, Ocean Grove—Supper provided, **come and help us celebrate!** (Melways 483 J11)
- Kyneton 2nd Annivesary**
Monday 8th August 7:00pm
Catholic Church Hall, 53 Ebdon St Kyneton
- Committee meeting organising the 2012 National Convention** in Melbourne
Monday July 18th 7:30pm
(3rd Monday in every month)
Gahan Centre Corner Greville & Grattan St Prahran
- Geelong 56th Anniversary**
October 29th & 30th 2011
Whittington Neighbourhood Centre, Worden Crt, Whittington

Area D Women's Day in AA



Recovery, Unity & Service



About Area D

Area D Southern Region is a part of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Structure of Australia.

As such we fully participate in the Australian General Service Conference.

We also support the AA National Office in any way we are able.

Bordered by the Yarra river, the Area includes the Western and Northern suburbs of Melbourne and extends to include other major cities such as Geelong and Ballarat, and regional

centres such as Daylesford and Kyneton.

