

Area 57 Newsletter

"Our Real Purpose"

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Area Delegate

No better place to find phrase than page 77 of my Big Book in the chapter into Action.

As stated in our book, "Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us."

A relatively small sentence, less than 20 words, but a sentence with many strong messages.

Every time I see or hear this sentence I hear my old sponsor, Johnny O, may God rest his sole, saying to me, "Remember Ben, it says into action, not into planning." I was big on planning, well scheming really, but not much into follow through.

When we came to this page during our study of the book, Johnny would point out that these 2 pages, 75 and 77 contain a lot of work that requires action in program. He called them the Magic Steps. On 76 and 77 we studied steps 6,7,8 and 9, steps with not much written about them in the Big Book, but very powerful steps. Johnny said that these 2 pages in the Book are where we stop being takers and start being givers.

He further explained that the sentence about our real purpose contains the directive "to fit ourselves to be the maximum service". Of the many ways to fit ourselves, the single most important tool in my program to accomplish this has become my Home Group. Among other things, in our Home Group we study the book, we dive into service, do sponsorship work and develop our presentation of depth and weight to the new comers, in and outside our meeting.

My sponsor has many times pointed out that the next 2 directives and huge and lifelong. "...To be of maximum service to God." Wow, how many new roads can these few words put me on? What, exactly do I do to be of maximum service to God? Johnny started me out on this path by quoting another Old Timer, now gone, Earl H. who used to tell newcom-

Area 57
Quarterly Area
Committee Meeting
Sunday
December 3, 2017
Wyndham Hotel
(Formerly Crowne Plaza)
Oklahoma Ballroom
2945 Northwest Expy
OKC, OK 73112
9:00AM.....Registration
9:30AM.....Meeting

ers starting on this path, "Stop doing what you know is wrong and practice right, as you understand it." My experience has been, when I am trying to do right, I receive plenty of friendly help. Decisions are generally made pretty easy. More shall be revealed as the Book Says.

Now, the final few words in this sentence...," and the people about us." Big lesson here. The people, All the people. Not just the people in the Program. Not just the people who I like. Not just the people who like me, who think like me, look like me, talk like me, live like me, smell like me and on and on and on. My real purpose is to fit myself to be of maximum service to God and ALL people. Big challenge. Big action. Big rewards. Not much time. This life is pretty short...

Ben B.
Area Delegate
delegate@aaoklahoma.org

Alternate Delegate

Best I can determine, the phrase, "Our real purpose," only appears once in the Big Book: p. 77 in the chapter, "Into Action," in the discussion about Step Nine.

To expand on what they're telling us there, my amends to my family weren't

CONTACT INFORMATION

OK STATE AA COMMITTEE OFFICE (Area 57 Office)

Phone.....(405) 842-1200
Hours...Wednesday: 9am-11am
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Email..secretary@aaoklahoma.org
Website.....www.aaoklahoma.org
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4509 N. Classen, #101, OKC 73118
Mail Address:
PO Box 18415, OKC, OK 73154

OKC Intergroup Office:

24-Hour Hotline....(405) 524-1100
Office Phone.....(405) 949-0910
Email...admin@okcintergroup.org
Website.....www.okcintergroup.org
Address: 2701 N. Portland,
Suite E, OKC, OK 73107
Office Hours.....M-F 9am-6pm
Sat 10am-3pm

NE Central Service Office:

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Email.....necs@aneok.org
Website.....www.aneok.org
Address.....4853 S. Sheridan
Suite 600, Tulsa, OK 74145
Office Hours....M-Fri 9AM-6PM

Hispanic Groups:

Spanish Hotline....(405) 316-9742
Mailing address: PO Box 19554
OKC, OK 73144

NEED A PHONE NUMBER?

If you need a phone number to contact any District or Area Service Committee Chair or your DCM, they are available at Area Meetings, through your District Chair or by calling the State AA Office.

Area 57 Officers Reports

just to pay back the little loans of money I hadn't re-paid; it was to prepare myself to be a honest and responsible member of my family. When I sent my Mother flowers on my birthday (delivered where she worked), it wasn't to just say thank you for all the years she'd cooked, cleaned, washed ... it was to give her reason to be proud among the people who'd known about my failures (even if they didn't know about my drinking). Even more, I was learning to be sensitive to the needs and desires of others – as the member of a family.

When I took my Father to breakfast and to ballgames, it wasn't just to repay for the disrespectful way I said, "Yes Sir," throughout my childhood into young adulthood – acting respectful was good. But, more, it was to try to establish a relationship where we could respect each other, and maybe be friends.

Today, my brothers and their families come to my house once a week. This was a regular get together we started when my Mother was alive – she loved to see her grandchildren. Now that she's passed, we wanted to still get together. In part, my amend to my brothers is for being a very self-centered older brother; but, now, I'm just trying to be a brother. The bonus is I get to play with my nephew and niece (they are seven and five and much more fun than us grown ups).

The practice of our Steps and application of our Traditions have always given much more than a, "clean side of the street." They teach me how to be right sized: a friend among friends, a son to my parents, an employee to my employer.

Thank you A.A.

Jamie R.

Alternate Delegate
alt-delegate@aaoklahoma.org

Area Secretary

"Our Real Purpose"

When first reading the topic of this article, my mind went immediately to the last sentence of our A.A. preamble. "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety," is something many of us hear at least once

during a meeting. It is branded into the brains of many an AA member. Being somewhat into semantics, I realized I was asked to write about something entirely different. Our big book states on page 77, "...we are trying to put our lives in order. But this is not an end in itself. Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." But what does this mean? I truly believe that it means something different to everyone. We all walk through the steps in our own unique way and what comes as the result to this journey will inevitably vary from one AA member to another.

What it means to for me to "fit myself to being of maximum service" looks different from most people I know either in or out of the program. I think I over-complicated what my Higher Power's will for my life was in the beginning. I used to think that if I was good AA, then I would have multiple sponsees hanging on my every word for guidance, over committing myself to certain activities that involve nothing but AA service work, keeping my home group tidy/clean while making sure everyone had a cake on their birthday. Quite ambitious and arrogant of me, wouldn't you agree? While these are all important responsibilities people have in AA, I realize I cannot be everything to everybody....period! If I tried to meet every need that AA had, I might slack on the true calling God put on my life because I had overextended myself on trying to be superwoman to the masses (in and out of AA).

I remember restarting the steps a couple of years ago and getting to the 3rd step and asking my sponsor, "I don't know what my God's will is for my life. How can I do this step again?" And she said, "Laura, what if all God wants you to do is stay clean and sober? If you can do that, God will bring you through the rest." As a result of working through the steps and taking the

Today, my Higher Power has asked me "to fit myself" by staying clean and sober, trying to always do the next right thing, be the best daughter, sister, aunt, birthmother, friend, employee and AA

member that I know how to be, and most importantly...always being open to new possibilities that may come along. (If I hadn't done every single one of these things...sometimes imperfectly, I certainly would have never accepted the incredible opportunity as role of your secretary)

Laura K..

Area Secretary
secretary@aaoklahoma.org

Area Treasurer

Greetings Area 57! I was thinking about the topic for this quarter "our real purpose" and the book says "...to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." I became fixated on the word fit, so I looked it up. I found the definition might mean to be suitable for, or to be proper or becoming for, or to be of the right size or shape. Well anyone that owns a pair of jeans knows exactly about being the right size or shape for that pair of jeans. There is nothing more uncomfortable than a pair of jeans that don't fit. I have discovered that there is also nothing more uncomfortable in my life than to not be spiritually right sized or shaped. Through Alcoholics Anonymous I have found a program that works to improve the shape and size of my spiritual life and relationship with God. I really love our fellowship. It's though you guys that I learn to be of service to the people about us. I don't just mean to other alcoholics. While it is true I see people working tirelessly in service positions, and those dedicated to their home group, and many that take meetings in to various institutions. I also hear people sharing their experiences helping strangers, coworkers, friends. Watching you guys care for elderly parents and ill siblings. We are blessed group of people.

I am looking forward to the Area Committee Meeting in December. Please remember when submitting your group change forms to update the number of members of your group! This helps have more accurate amount of the per member and per group contribution amounts needed to meet the budget. It is also

Area 57 Officers/Committee Reports

very helpful to include the group number on your check or gratitude envelope. At the very minimum, please indicate your group's name.

Heather S.

Area Treasurer
treasurer@aaoklahoma.org

Conference Chair

Hello Fellowship,

We here on the conference committee are busy getting things ready for you. As of this week online registration is open! The flyers are printed and ready to go, you can download a copy of it from the state website. Remember early bird registration ends Dec. 31st, so save yourself some money and register early!

Once again this year we will be doing the Christmas gift boxes. You can pick yours up in the upcoming weeks at your local Intergroup or Central Service Office. We will also be set up at the Area meeting in December where you might get a little surprise with every purchase.

We are working hard to make this a time to remember! Obviously.

Ryan F.

Conference Chair

NECS

Hello from NECS!

We just wanted to let you know that in an effort to better serve our fellowship we are changing our operating hours at the office. Starting Nov 1st we will now be open from 9am to 6pm Monday – Friday. This will allow many to stop by after work and pick up a book or chip or two. As always, if you have any suggestions as to how we could improve the office feel free to stop by, call, or shoot us an email.

We thank you for your continued support.

CPC

Cooperation with
The Professional Community

Our Big Book reminds us on page

102: "Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful." For those of us who serve on AA's Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) committees, that means reaching out to social workers, attorneys, police and doctors, who, as part of their everyday jobs, encounter many still suffering alcoholics.

When I was taking an AA meeting to the jail a few weeks ago, one of the women said she would be getting out soon and planned to go to a homeless shelter but she didn't know where any local AA meetings were. I said I'd call the shelter the next day and ask if I could leave a list of meetings with them. When I later called the shelter, I left a message with the supervisor asking if I could make an appointment to bring a meeting list by and talk to her about AA. Although she didn't return my call, I treated it like a CPC presentation anyway. I dressed in business attire and "dropped by" the shelter, armed with list and pamphlets. The supervisor graciously gave me some time out of her busy day and so I talked to her about the difference between open and closed meetings, and where the nearest AA group was. At the end of my brief talk, the supervisor said she was going to drive by the AA group so she can tell her clients how to get there.

Of course all the CPC work in the world wouldn't matter if there were no AA meetings. When Dr. Bob was dying of cancer, an AA friend asked him why he kept going to meetings instead of staying home and conserving his strength. Dr. Bob said there were three reasons, but the most important was: "I belong at that meeting for the sake of the new man or woman who might walk through that door. I am living proof that AA will work as long as I work AA, and I owe it to the new person to be there. I am the living example." (Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, p 334).

Ruth C.

CPC Chair
cpc@aaoklahoma.org

Grapevine Chair

Recently when I have been taking my dog for a walk early in the morning I have been noticing the brightness of the stars. I now have seen that I needed to be reminded of my real purpose. To be of service to the God of my understanding and with His guidance, wisdom and strength to be of service to my fellow man. I am reminded that my higher power did for me what I could not do for myself, the relief from my obsession of drinking. The journey I find myself on could never have truly started without His effort on my behalf. Sometimes I get wrapped up in my own life and forget what He has done and neglect what His real purpose for me should be. He brightens the stars so I would remember the miracles He has shown on a daily basis. For all that He has done I will be forever grateful. I can try to repay the debt I owe to Alcoholics Anonymous through service work the debt I owe to Him is insurmountable so succeed or fail I will continue to do the best I can to be of service to the God of my understanding. Thank you all for allowing me to be of service to you.

Pete T.

Grapevine Chair
grapevine@aaoklahoma.org

Gratitude Chair

Letters from contributing members to Area 57 Gratitude Plan...

"I'm grateful today to be able to accept all of god's seasons in my life. Time for solitude, time for friends, time for family. I'm thankful I can enjoy all of these in the moment. I'm also thankful for peace of mind this program has given me, so that when I have problems I don't panic. Most of all I'm thankful I'm sober....there is always an answer in sobriety but when I enter the world of drinking I'm lost. I'm thankful for a place to stay for me and my son, and I'm thankful for the chance to be a full time father"

**Anonymous
District 30**

Area 57 Committee Chair Reports

The more I'm in sobriety, the shorter my gratitude list gets. I am starting to realize that the two things I have to be grateful for more than anything are my sobriety and the people that I love. The rest is replaceable.

Anonymous
District 30

Debbie T.

Gratitude Chair
gratitude@aaoklahoma.org

Public Information

We have had many opportunities this quarter to provide public information about Alcoholics Anonymous. The fall is a time where there are a number of health fairs and our outgoing District 30 PI Chair has participated in four of them connected to Tulsa Community College. He also made a connection with a teacher at TCC and a group of us did presentations for nursing students in two classes at the downtown TCC location and one class at the Owasso location. We were also invited to do a presentation for a life skills class at TCC. It was great to get to work with the teacher of this class because Beth S, Larry C and I had done public information presentation for her classes when she taught at Browne Mackie College. This teacher also teaches at Collinsville High School and is going to talk to her administration about having a public information presentation for the high school students.

We have also visited with a teacher at OSU in OKC and she is planning to have us do a presentation for her classes of students who are working toward a counseling certification. We have a member of the fellowship who attended the last Area Meeting and Fun in the Fellowship to thank for the networking that provided us this opportunity.

Marbet B also has done work at health fairs in District 50. We now have Richard S who has started doing PI work in the Lawton area. He has started putting literature in libraries, police stations and even got police officers carrying hot line cards.

There is much to be done to let the public know what we do and how to find us if they or a loved one ever want our help.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Betty M.

PI Chair
pi@aaoklahoma.org

Technology

Our real purpose in AA, of course, is to be of service to the next suffering alcoholic. That's it, we have no other purpose as a Fellowship. We exist to help other alcoholics. The three sides of the triangle reinforce this singleness of purpose. We must have UNITY in our single vision, we must place RECOVERY from alcoholism at the front of everything we do, and through SERVICE to Alcoholics Anonymous do we organize to be of maximum effectiveness in our common goal.

How then do we measure the effectiveness of technology in serving our primary purpose and the three sides of the triangle? Does the technology unite us as a fellowship? If it doesn't, we're doing it wrong.

I think of group, district and area websites that bring the local fellowships together (UNITY) to enable them to work together to carry the message. Being connected to each other and the rest of the outside AA world through the internet unites us when traditional means of communication might make it more difficult.

I recall listening to speakers in "AA in Remote Places" at the International Conference two years ago in Atlanta. They have areas that span more than 500 miles. They use video conferencing to keep their fellowship together.

By focusing on the one thing we're good at (RECOVERY), we look at everything we do that uses technology and make sure that we are staying single-minded. If it isn't focused on recovery from alcoholism, it may be superfluous. When we unite on recovery, we are putting ourselves in a position to be of maximum SERVICE to God and those around us. By doing simple things like making the job of AA foot soldiers easier to perform through organization and facilitation of information, technology makes it easier than ever serve.

Bryan T.

Technology Chair
technology@aaoklahoma.org

Treatment

Our real purpose in AA is to stay sober and to help others. Every member probably knows this, and I am not sure that I can add anything to this idea. Every service job is important since all jobs--that I am aware of--helps other sober alcoholics. Whatever level--group, district, area--you are anointed to service, then serve. I need you. We need you.

Phil H.

Treatment Chair
treatment@aaoklahoma.org



Area 57 Committee Chair Reports

District 30

Greetings from District 30! As Summer turns to Fall that can only mean one thing... Football, I mean district elections and committee appointments! I am Happy to say that District 30 is once again enjoying a full complement of DCM's and Alternate DCM's to represent our clusters at Area 57. I would like to publicly thank outgoing committee chairs, DCM's and Alt DCM's Barbara L, Atoka B, John H, Wayne L, Larry S, Traye G and Phil M for their monumental efforts in making District 30 a thriving hotbed of conference approved love and service! A very special thank you to Tony A for staying on as Alt Chair. We are also hosting Committee Chairs for all but one of our eleven committees. We are currently seeking a willing buckaroo to head up our Language Services committee. If you know someone in District 30 that wants to be of service please have them contact me (districtchair@district30aa.com) to join in the fun! District 30 is enjoying robust attendance of 50-60 enthusiastic recovering alcoholics at our quarterly meetings and constantly directing that enthusiasm at locating, helping and delivering a message of hope to the next sufferer. Come join us at our next District Meeting on Sunday November 19th in Muskogee at the Honor Heights Park indoor pavilion located at 1400 Honor Heights Drive and hosted by the Donut Hole, Happy Hour and It's in the Book groups. You don't want to miss it!

"Our real purpose" is this week's submission topic and after careful prayer and meditation I sat down to write what I thought was our real purpose... It was a very long, profound, over managed, drawn out alcoholic explanation when it occurred to me that our real purpose, my real purpose is simple; Love and serve one another. That's it. That is my real purpose. When I love and serve you I do not have time to be resentful, remorseful, depressed, angry, ungrateful, coveting, ashamed, fearful, jealous, untruthful, undependable or any of the other "things" I was when I got here. Some people are born with a mechanism

that naturally disposes them to love and serve. I, on the other hand, was not equipped from the factory with said mechanism. It took a lot of pain and suffering to get to a place where I was willing to accept the gift of Alcoholics Anonymous. That gift power washes away all the "things" blocking me from the sunlight of the Spirit and opens my mind to loving and serving my fellows with God in my heart. Each day I ask God to keep me sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety but I don't have to limit my love and service to just alcoholics. It turns out God put me here to love and serve everyone. Obviously. Period.

Matt L.

District 30 Chair
district_30@aaoklahoma.org

District 40

When thinking about "Our Real Purpose", the first thing that comes to mind is our primary purpose in AA, to carry the message to the still suffering Alcoholic. In the world as a whole, you could state our purpose more generally: to help or be of service to others in need. How each one of us carries this out is how we fulfill our real purpose.

In my experience, I am fulfilling my real purpose, when I do one of two things. The first is working one on one with another alcoholic. There is no substitute for sitting down with another alcoholic and sharing your experience, strength and hope. The second is being of service to AA as a whole. The general service structure is a way to help the still suffering alcoholic from a larger viewpoint. In service, I view our real purpose is keeping the message of AA alive and available to those who need it. How we accomplish this purpose is different for every AA member, but service lies at the heart of carrying the message.

In Service,

Darin K.

District 40 Chair
district_40@aaoklahoma.org

District 50

Happy Day to each and every one of you in AAland!!

Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us....

At first I thought this was a play on words (real for primary). After writing my article, it was brought to my attention that I wrote on wrong subject. You tricky AAs!

First and foremost, I am willing to get on my knees. I pray every morning for God's Direction and every night for His Enlightenment. I scrutinize my actions and practice to become the finest example of Alcoholics Anonymous I can be. While practicing, I also try not to become the AA Police! (Big Thanks to My Sponsor!)

I sponsor ladies, accept service opportunities that come my way, do the steps, get out of self and pay attention to others. Service Work saved my bacon! I find that I can never give back what has been so freely given to me. Using the words of one of those who have gone before us I ask: "Is there anything can I do for you today?"

Deb G.

District 50 Chair
district_50@aaoklahoma.org



MONTHLY Joint Service Meetings

These meetings are to help you learn more about the Traditions, Concepts and other service related topics, as well as to meet other people involved in service work. All GSRs, Alternate GSRs, DCMs, Alternate DCMs, District Chairs and District Service Committee Chairs are urged to attend. Of course, everyone is welcome. Please bring your AA Service Manual!

OKC - 1st Tuesday of each Month

Meridian Club - 4407 NW 50th St.

7:15 pm - No Dumb Questions Session for any new
GSRs, Alt GSRs or new service people
7:30 pm Fellowship / 8:00 pm Meeting

Tulsa - 2nd Thursday of each Month

Unanimity Club - 8749 South Lewis
6:30 pm Fellowship / 7:00 pm Meeting

Please remember that there is a meeting in progress at
6:30pm. Thank you!

Important Note: Distribution of Newsletter

A viewable and printable version of The Newsletter is currently available on The Area 57 website, aaoklahoma.org. To view our current newsletter go to committees, newsletter. Our current subscription list will be updated after every Quarterly Area Meeting. If you are currently on the mailing list and want to continue receiving the Quarterly Area 57 Newsletter you must contact us to remain on the mailing list. Contact us at 405-842-1200 or email us newsletter@aaoklahoma.org, secretary@aaoklahoma.org.



R. H. SMITH, M. D.

2ND NATIONAL BLDG.

AKRON, OHIO

TELEPHONE: HE-8523

REG. NO. _____

R

FOR alcoholics

ADDRESS _____ DATE Feb 1937

Always remember it

1. Trust God
2. Clean house
3. Help others

M. D.

NR	1	2	3	INF.
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Mark Your Calendars, Announce at Your Home Groups... Visit Your Area Website at aaoklahoma.org for updates!!!

OKC Joint Service Meeting
December 5 @ 7:30pm
4407 NW 50th, OKC, OK 73112

Norman Beginner Group 3rd Anniversary
December 9 @ 8am - 5 pm

Tulsa Big Meeting
December 9 @ 8pm
4502 E 41st, Tulsa, OK 74135

Tulsa Joint Service Meeting
December 14 @ 7pm
8749 S Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74137

State Conference Committee Meeting
December 17 @ 3pm
8749 S Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74137

OKC Intergroup Board Meeting
December 21 @ 630pm
2701 N Portland, OKC, OK 73107

OKC Intergroup Rep Meeting
December 21 @ 7pm
2701 N Portland, OKC, OK 73107



OKC Citywide Speaker Meeting
December 30 @ 7pm
4400 NW Expressway, OKC, OK 73116

NECS Delegate Meeting
January 13 @ 10am

State Conference Committee Meeting
January 28 @ 3pm
8749 S Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74137

Into Action 19th Anniversary
February 10 @ 630pm

Sunlight of the Spirit
February 16-18

State Conference Committee Meeting
February 25 @ 3pm
8749 S Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74137

Area 57 Quarterly Committee Meeting
March 18 @ 8am
June 10 @ 8am
September 9 @ 8am
Wyandam Garden Hotel
2101 S Meridian, OKC, OK 73108



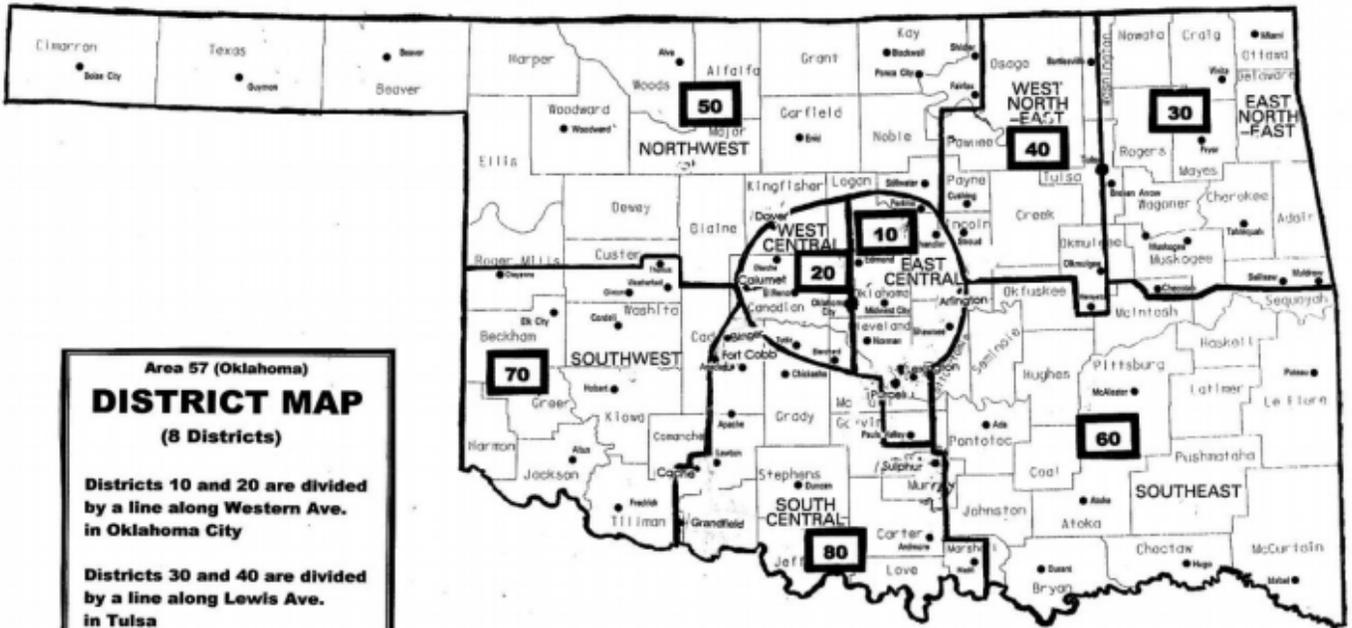
**PO Box 18415
Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0415**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 18, 2017

Please Share with your groups!

AREA 57 (OKLAHOMA) DISTRICT MAP



**Area 57 (Oklahoma)
DISTRICT MAP
(8 Districts)**

Districts 10 and 20 are divided by a line along Western Ave. in Oklahoma City

Districts 30 and 40 are divided by a line along Lewis Ave. in Tulsa

Revised 2/16/2011