Area 57 Newsletter

"The Spirit of Rotation"

This is a CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT - for A.A. members ONLY. Please guard everyone's anonymity.

Area Delegate

When I first started in AA service, one of the most baffling things about all of it was rotation. In real life, you get a job and set out to keep improving, getting better every day, working hard so you can keep that job. In a competitive work world, if you don't improve in your chosen skill set, you will be passed over, or, even worse, removed. Not the case in the Fellowship. In AA, no matter how good or, for that matter, how bad, you do a job, at the end of 2 years, you are out.

The 2 years usually goes something like this: You get assigned, or appointed, or voted in, or drawn from the hat, a job. Usually a job you've never done before and know nothing about. You dive in to learn all about your new job. Sometimes the person who had the job before you will help. Sometimes the person before you has disappeared or is still around, but did a terrible job and is no help to you. No matter the circumstances or the obstacles, you are determined to get your arms around this job and after a while it seems to make some sense. As you gather steam, the job becomes easier, more pleasant and gives you great satisfaction. That's when your 2 years is up. Now that you know what to do, when to do it, how to do it and you've finally got your stuff organized, it's time to give it to somebody else. Really????

My first Service Sponsor explained it like this: Two things keep AA continually fresh—Whiskey and Rotation.

So, when that next opening comes around and you wonder if you should volunteer for it. Jump in. How bad can it be?? You can do about anything for a couple of years.

Ben B.

Area Delegate delegate@aaoklahoma.org

Area 57 (Oklahoma) Quarterly Area Committee Meeting

Sunday June 11, 2017

NEW LOCATION

Crowne Plaza
Oklahoma Ballroom
2945 Northwest Expy
OKC, OK 73112

9:00AM......Registration 9:30AM.....Area Meeting District Meeting Schedule...Page 5 Area Meeting Agenda...Page 6,7

Area Chair

The natural way of life, but a hard concept to grasp as we go through the journey of life...

My mind is always trying to keep things the same, no changes, no loss, no pain...No Growth...Just this it, good enough for me...Right?

Nope.

That is not a realistic point of view. Si I have to realize everything is changing all of the time no matter what my mind is trying to tell me.

So for AA's founders to understand that for the fellowship to survive, we all have to move through the beginning, middle and end of service. And to have a process that helped no only the servant, but the fellowship.

So as we go through the journey we meet people on the road of rotation. Some just starting and some finishing the journey...

AA is the most valuable thing in my life because without it I cannot survive. So for a short time I get a chance to do something for the thing that saved my life...

CONTACT INFORMATION

OK STATE AA COMMITTEE OFFICE (Area 57 Office)

Phone......(405) 842-1200 Hours...Wednesday: 9am-11am Friday: 9am-1pm Email..secretary@aaoklahoma.org Website......www.aaoklahoma.org Physical Address:

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:

24-Hour Hotline...(918) 627-2224
Office......(918) 627-2224
Email.....necs@aaneok.org
Website.....www.aaneok.org
Address.....4853 S. Sheridan
Suite 600, Tulsa, OK 74145
Office Hours...M-Fri 8:30AM-5PM

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

And for that, I am grateful!!!

Hope to see you all at the June meeting.

Your Servant,

Steve S.

Area Chair chair@aaoklahoma.org

Alternate Delegate

OK. Rotation. Short story.

In my first home group, I found that participating in the actions that took care of the Group's "chores" helped me feel like I earned my seat (regardless of how little action I had taken in the Steps). In less than a year, I 'owned' those jobs (setup, coffee making, etc.). I don't remember that I had been asked or elected to do any of this work; taking the responsibility seemed to ensure I felt I belonged. Also, as these jobs required that I show up early and do some work, no one else seemed eager to contest with me for the jobs – plus, I knew, in my heart, no one else would do the jobs in a manner that would satisfy my standards!

Overtime, however, I began to resent that I was the only one showing up to do the jobs (in hindsight, why should they when I was so willing and consistent, and (I think they knew) none of them could do the jobs to my perfecting standards!)). Further, it didn't seem anyone appreciated the consistent and high level of my performance as coffee boy / set up person / details expeditor, or any other made up job title I had assumed upon myself.

If you've ever been down this road, you know the day of burn out came. I laid down these self-appointed burdens for someone else to take up. There was some small amount of disruption (I wasn't very graceful – the best I could do at that time was keep my mouth shut and not make it worse – no big announcements or attempts to create guilt or excess self-pity – silent scorn, I suppose).

Anyway, a strange thing happened. Some of the duties were taken up – the ones the other members of the group actually thought were important and agreeable, like making the coffee.

The other, 'little,' things, that I had so prided in, but were much less important to the work of the Group were discarded.

Here are my lessons from this: Rotation not only means someone else shares the burdens of our Fellowship, it means we get a change of view and change of style. There may be things I think are vitally important, but about which I haven't sought the advice or consent of the Fellowship I serve – this may be an oversight or a larger manifestation of my ego – either way, the practice of our 'Spirit of Rotation,' will minimize any such flights of my ego, and ensure the Fellowship is better served.

Jamie R.

Alternate Delegate alt-delegate@aaoklahoma.org

Area Secretary

"AA is spiritual kindergarten," I recall some telling me. Or my personal favorite, "AA is school for grown-ups." While I believe these to remain true to me today; I most definitely see where this concept rings true for my [still under-going] development over the years while sitting in the rooms. It is from the wisdom of the long-timers, the lessons of those who have excelled in leadership through service, and my own "recovery bloopers" that I see where our traditions are so valid to not only our groups, but applicable to our own individual recov-



ery as well.

I remember when it came to free time in kindergarten; there were certain activities that were more desirable to participate in than others. We could not do the same activity in the same week more than once. Therefore, we all got a chance to learn each activity or game. If you can picture your kindergarten self in the rooms with your fellow AA members at the same age, it is quite laughable. Each person fighting over who gets to play in the kitchen or use the building blocks to construct their dream castle. Learning how to form a single file line, how to share your crayons, and gather around the magic carpet to hear a good story being some of the more demanding responsibilities during school time. How is this different than some of our meetings?!? I mean, look at how we attempt to circle up at the end of each meeting to form a human prayer chain! We all fumble around trying to see where we each fit and who we think would be willing to hold our hands. It's good stuff!

The same is true for our traditionbased custom of keeping the spirit of rotation within AA. Our groups, certain committees, and Area 57 give members a chance to perhaps learn new skills, develop new ways of thinking, or refine an already God-given talent. While keeping with the spirit of rotation, we are not only in less danger or AA becoming a dictatorship, but we are also privy to crosstrain in all chairs and positions throughout AA. As we open ourselves up to learn each new position, we become more fluid and our skills are broadened. These are both ideals that are wonderful concepts for every individual to acquire and pass to the newcomer as our next generation of AA servants.

While the unique position I hold as Area 57 secretary does not hold a time limit in office, I still love there are so many people in the program who are currently in a chair/office who can show me the ropes as they line up with the time honored traditions. It is those who have previously held these positions and so humbly passed down who hold quite a wealth of knowledge. Therefore, both former

Area 57 Committee Chair Reports

chairs and current chairs have knowledge to pass around to those who assume new positions and responsibilities. We all learn that we can "share those desired free time toys/activities" graciously with one another. I am continually humbled as I learn the role of your secretary. Our former Area 57 Secretary Kathy H. continues to show me the many ropes of the office and I am beyond grateful for her knowledge and love for AA that allows me to find my way around. I find it a great privilege to serve the fellowship in this capacity. I have a lot yet to learn as there are many moving parts of the job; but am beyond excited to be such part of incredible organization....AKA Spiritual Kindergarten. I hope that I always remain "just another bozo on the bus" attending meetings and AA events to continue to learn a more spiritually grown up way to participate in my own recovery as well as learn to be of service to others recovery in a deep and meaningful way.

Laura K..

Area Secretary secretary@aaoklahoma.org

Bridge The Gap

Traditionally, Rotation keeps AA members from becoming frozen in office. It also ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in AA, are passed around for all to share...to step out of an AA office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it is especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth-a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity...rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no AA "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praisewe have complete freedom to serve as we are needed".

AA Grapevine, September 1992
I have held several positions in AA,
I finally understand the importance of rotation. In 2016 when asked to chair the

sate conference I had little knowledge of the position. Only near the end of the State Conference

did i feel as if knew what i was doing lol. This was an awesome lesson in humility, not only in asking for help, but in turning it over to a Higher Power larger than the position itself. It was the hardest position I ever held

but in turn the one I loved the most. Saying goodbye to it was hard ,but knowing Sharon was taking over made it easier . With her the Best Is Yet To Come! As for the 2018 conference Ryan will absolutely

rock the house! . I look forward to being in a new service position as your 2018 state conference entertainment chair . How blessed am I

In Love and Service

Marci M.

Bridge The Gap Chair btg@aaoklahoma.org

CPC

Cooperation with The Professional Community

When I was the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) chair for District 10, I was honored to be asked to assist another district in their CPC presentation to the staff of a local hospital. Our joint presentation went well until I decided my fellow AAs weren't doing it right and angrily snatched a piece of paper out of my AA friend's hand. Although the hospital staff recovered from my alarming outburst, my friendship with my fellow AA suffered. She graciously accepted my amends but it was obvious to both of us I was more tyrant than trusted servant.

Which is why Bill W said, "And we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership



of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere." (Language of the Heart, page 78)

Recently, I texted my AA friend to tell her that I'm Area CPC chair now and that I hug to my heart the lesson I learned (at her expense, unfortunately). That said, in the spirit of rotation, I will work hard these next two years to be a truly trusted servant, and then move on and find some other way to help out my fellow AAs and stay sober.

Ruth C.

CPC Chair cpc@aaoklahoma.org

Technology

"To fully accept and act on the principal of rotation requires faith in my higher power. I must have faith that God is putting me where I may be of maximum service to Alcoholics Anonymous, even if it is unfamiliar territory for me. Then, after a while when I finally feel knowledgeable and comfortable in my service to AA, I must have faith that it is the right time for me to step away from this service, and into the next unknown journey. By rotating in when I might not want to and rotating out when I finally feel comfortable with my role in AA, I am reaffirming Step 3 that is in control of things, and I am accepting of the spirit of rotation.

A HUGE shoutout to our Area Webmaster Stewart for demoing the new Area website at the last Area meeting. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. I am very much looking forward to spending time talking about Technology at the State Conference in May (GO CONFERENCE!!!), especially at the Service Fair. Come by and say hi! I I also look forward to visiting the Districts in the future to showcase the new website and talk about how technology can be a valuable tool to reach the next suffering alcoholic. See you all soon!"

Bryon T.

TechnologyChair technology@aaoklahoma.org

Area 57 Chair Reports

District 30

Greetings from District 30 a.k.a The Spiritual Epicenter of the Universe. I am happy to report that all is well up here in the corner of the ever-spacious Area 57. District 30 continues to seek and service the still suffering alcoholic with passion and enthusiasm using the Twelve Steps contained in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am excited to be a part of a District that lives by the Three Legacies and embraces this new way of life with incredible zeal. That being said District 30 is excited about the upcoming State Conference and will be co-hosting a hospitality room with District 40 as well as supporting the booth at the Tulsa State Fair in October. Attendance has been high at our recent district meetings and we are currently enjoying a full staff of committee chairs to help direct our service efforts. We have continued to donate conference approved literature to local treatment and correctional facilities as well as taking meetings into those facilities. I am really grateful to be part of such an incredible fellowship.

I am also grateful for the spirit of rotation we have here in Alcoholics Anonymous. I have only been involved with the service structure for a short period but I have been around long enough to "rotate out" of a position or two. Just about the time I really start to understand the job description on some resemblance of a spiritual level...BAM! Rotate! On a more serious note the Spirit of Rotation is vital to our culture because it keeps me right sized. I perform the





runctions of my position to the best of my ability and then hand it off to the next person so they can "have the journey" just like I did. Alt GSR, GSR, DCM and District Chair have been the best "jobs" I have ever had the privilege of having but I also want everyone in Alcoholics Anonymous to have the same experience and opportunity. The Spirit of Rotation enables new people to join the fold and serve their group, district, area and so on.

Matt L.

District 30 Chair district_30@aaoklahoma.org

District 50

Happy Day to each and every one of you in AAland!! The Spirit of Rotation is important to all of us. I have seen people take personal ownership of a meeting or a group when there is no rotation. For example: Deb chairs a Saturday night meeting for four years. People start calling that Deb's meeting when it is not, (and, ultimately Deb burns out). In our old Freedom Group we let a certain person chair for a year because he did such a good job - he got burnt out and no longer comes to meetings. I could have stepped up, but did not (hmm, lazy? / procrastination?). I feel that if a group cannot get other members to step up to chair then that meeting (or group) is not self-supporting.

1 I know that I feel uncomfortable when I rotate into each new position, but isn't that what rotation is all about – get-



ting us out of ourselves and our comfort zone so we may grow. My sponsor tells me that Service Work is where our ugliness comes out and where we have the most opportunity to grow. I believe that The Spirit of Rotation gives me the opportunity to grow and shine (and also be ugly sometimes) in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Now, about District 50. Lamont Original Group had its' First Anniversary Saturday, May 6th. Over sixty people attended and an excellent message was served (together with much nummy food). Go Andy Go!

We are hosting a Big Book Study by Cliff and Jimmy Jack July 21, 22, and 23rd in Stillwater. This is an intense BB Study of the first 164 pp. There is no registration fee. We hope to see you there! A flyer is on aaoklahoma.org – AA Members \ Event Flyers.

We are also gearing up for the District 50 Conference which is in Ponca City this year: October 27, 28 and 29th. We hope to see you there too! Flyers are in the works.

Next District 50 meeting is June 4th in Woodward at 9:00 a.m.

In Love and Service,

Deb G.

District 50 Chair district_50@aaoklahoma.org



Print and bring this Agenda to the Area Meeting Recall our Group Conscience to bring our own agenda

المُثنيَّة District Meeting Schedules						
East Central - Dist. 10	Sun-June 4	1:30 pm Fellowship / 2:00 pm - Meeting Kelley Club, NE 22nd St & Kelly Ave	Oklahoma City			
West Central - Dist. 20	Sun-June 4	12:00 pm Fellowship & sign-in / 12:30 pm meeting. Western Club, 5207 N. Western Ave.	Oklahoma City			
East / NE - Dist. 30	Sun-June 4	9:00am Fellowship, Meeting at 9:30am Old Central Building, 109 North Birth, Owasso, OK	Owasso			
West / NE - Dist. 40	Sat-June 3	10:30am, Unanimity Club 8749 S. Lewis, Tulsa	Tulsa			
Northwest - Dist. 50	Sun-June 4	9:00am	Woodward			
Southeast - Dist. 60	Sun-June 4	9:30 am Fellowship, 10 am Meeting Cherokee Club, 100 North "A" St. McAlester, OK 74501	McAlester			
Southwest - Dist. 70						
So. Central - Dist. 80	Sun-June 4	1:00pm, The Way Out Group (Pizza Provided)	Lawton			

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 the Newsletter

In the June 2015 Area meeting it was decided to revise our policy for distribution of hard copies of the Area 57 Newsletter. The Newsletter will be sent in hard copy to the following people:

- 1 Trusted Servants who do not have an email address. Trusted Servants are the registered GSR's, Alt GSR's, DCM's, District Chairs, Area Committee Chairs, etc., etc. including Ex-Officio's.
- 2 Others who have specifically requested the newsletter by filling out the Area 57 Newsletter Subscription Form. The form is available online at http://aaoklahoma.org/PDF's/Area-57-NewsletterSubForm.pdf and at the Area Office, Intergroup in OKC and Central Services in Tulsa. These requests must be renewed every 2 years in even numbered years.

The mailing list will be updated every 2 years between the September and December Area Meetings to coincide with the election of new Trusted Servants. As always the Area 57 Newsletter is available online at http://aaoklahoma.org/newsletter.html.

Print and bring this Agenda to the Area Meeting Recall our Group Conscience to bring our own agenda

AGENDA

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Oklahoma Ballroom - Crowne Plaza - 2945 Northwest Expressway, OKC Sunday, June 11, 2017

8:00 am Advisory and Budget Committee Meeting 9:00 am Registration				
9:30 am Meeting called to Order				
Roll Call (Pass basket) Area Secretary (10 min.) – Laura Kanaly Area Chair's Report				
Alt. Chair's Rep (5 minutes) – Terry Jameson Delegate Report (10 minutes) – Ben Buckland				
Area Treasurer's Report				
10:30 am * * * * BREAK * * * *				
10:45 am Reports Continued				
2017 State Conference Chair Report (5 min.) – Sharon Stewart 2018 State Conference Chair Report (5 min.) - Ryan Fitzpatrick				
Fun in the Fellowship Report(5 min.) – Ken Ewer OKC Intergroup - Cooperation Report(2.5 min.) Intergroup Liaison Tulsa's Central Office Cooperation Report(2.5 min.) NECS Staff				
11:00 am SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS - AREA 57 BUDGET (60 min. total):				
Area 57's 2017-18 Budget and Discussion Treasurer - Heather Steele				
1) Explanation of Budget Process Today				
2) Area Chair will entertain a motion (by a DCM) to accept the preliminary proposed budget, as modified by the Budget Committee this morning, in order to bring the budget "to the floor" so that it can be discussed line-by-line. When the line item is read, if you wish to comment, please go to the microphone.				
Once the motion is seconded, discussion begins. (Anyone can participate in the discussion)				
A motion (inside the main motion) needs to be made to "amend" any				
line item.				
After all discussion on all items, then we go back to the "main				
motion" to adopt the preliminary proposed budget, as amended. Once approved, it becomes the "Proposed Budget" that goes back to				
the groups and will be voted on by the GSRs and Alternate GSRs at				
the September Area General Assembly.				
12:00 pm LUNCH				
1:15 pm Reconvene Area Committee Meeting Area Chair – Steve Shuffield				
1:15 pm AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS (45 Minutes total) Pick one of the following Area Service Committees – to sit in on their				
break-out session. Each Area Service Committee Chair will hold up a sign showing you				
where their committee is meeting.				
2:00 pm AREA SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS (2-3 min. each — 30 minutes total)Area Chair-Steve Shuffield				
Area Grapevine Chair				

2:30 am DISTRICT & DCM Reports: (3-4 min. each district - 40 min. total) Area Chair – Steve Shuffield

District 60	Dawn Tucker	(District	Chair) &	DCMs
District 40	Ryan Fitzpatrick	(District	Chair) &	DCMs
District 80	Doug Cole	(District	Chair) &	DCMs
District 10	Phil Smith	(District	Chair) &	DCMs
	Ron Brooks			
District 20	James Broadie	(District	Chair) &	DCMs
	Spanish			
	Denise Rogers			
	Matt Lane			

3:10 pm * * * * BREAK * * * *

3:30 pm <u>UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS</u> Area Chair – Steve Shuffield

- A) Voting Eligibility Amendment
 - A motion was proposed to allow only the GSR of a group to vote in the Area Assembly in September ("One group-One Vote")
 - 2) The motion was seconded and discussion began.
 - 3) There was general disagreement on whether or not the motion had a "Fellowship Review" as required by the Area P&P Manual. It was pointed out that the item had first been presented to the Area at the September 2016 meeting.
 - 4) Much discussion ensued. A motion was made to table the vote until the next Area meeting in June to allow the Fellowship further time to discuss the matter and give their input to their DCMs. The second motion (to table the vote on the first motion) passed.
 - 5) The motion to table carried.
- B) District 10 Proposed P&P Change
 - A motion was made to allow Alternate DCMs to vote in place of their associated DCM in the event that a DCM became unable to vote in an Area Meeting. The motion was seconded and discussion was opened.
 Since it was the first time the motion had been presented to the
 - Since it was the first time the motion had been presented to the Fellowship, it was immediately recommended that the motion be tabled.
 - tabled.
 Further discussion ensued. The vote was called. This was then ruled out of order. A motion was made to table the vote until the next Area Meeting, allowing the Fellowship the chance to review the proposal. The Secretary was asked to send the wording of the motion out to the Fellowship via email.
 4) The P&P Manual was consulted and it was determined that there was
 - 4) The P&P Manual was consulted and it was determined that there was no need to take a vote on the motion to table the discussion until the next Area Meeting. The motion will be presented in Old Business on the next Agenda.
- C) Update on the Audit (Heather)

NOTE: Just a reminder — during Unfinished Business & New Business — According to the current Policies and Procedures, B-1 Voting Members: ONLY DCMs are allowed to vote. Bona fide substitutes for a DCM are not permitted to vote. Anyone can participate in discussions.

NEW BUSINESS Area Chair - Steve Shuffield

- 1) OPEN MICROPHONE
- 2) Any new P&P proposals?
- 3) Any other new business that a DCM proposes

Followed by - Announcements

(If you have an A.A. event coming up, please feel free to make an announcement about it.)

4:30 pm Adjourn Meeting Area Chair – Steve Shuffield

NOTE: UPCOMING MEETING DATES -

September 9, 2017 Fun-in-the-Fellowship – Crown Plaza, Oklahoma City, OK

September 10, 2017 Area Committee Meeting & Area Assembly – Crown Plaza, Oklahoma City, OK

December 3, 2017 Area Committee Meeting Crown Plaza, Oklahoma City, OK



PO Box 18415 Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0415

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June 2017

Please Share with your groups!

