

Secretaries Report on Neraasa 2014

18 Areas were represented at Neraasa 2010, 10 areas sent their Secretary's to attend. My focus in this report is on the Roundtables even though I sat in on all the presentations, it was the Round Table sessions that held the most information of my weekend.

Secretary's roundtable:

27 in attendance, Ten Areas had secretaries attend the round table, 8 of the ten had an alternate Secretary also attend. The Icyppaa event secretary and a few local Group secretaries also attended. We are not the only area that records the business meetings which secretaries compile their minutes from, some areas destroy the cd's after going to paper, because of space for storage in archives. Their minutes are the official document of AA history at the Area level. At the Group level the group Secretary keeps minutes of Group conscience business meetings and they become the group's history. The districts keep same record keeping reasoning all way to Area Level. The Conference minutes is in the final report and the Book published by AAWS containing Conference recommendations by commit from 1951 all the way to present. The secretaries are the glue that holds committees together. Some areas have standing Committee secretaries as well as the Chair of a standing committee. (We don't, generally chair does it all)

Every area uses a set of detailed guidelines; some call it a hand book, some just guidelines. It contains a full and complete description of duties expected to be performed with each job. An active Guideline committee keeps on top of the updates and headed up by a "recording or Alternate Secretary. These descriptions are what is needed, not how to do it that's left up to right of decision and perception concepts to figure that out.

Minutes: we spent 1/2 of each session discussion the content of minutes. Two areas allow email after assembly to be sent to sect, but only if the contents were read in to record. Other Areas showed us a form template to be used for reports. Motions were written out before hand, presented to body then sent off to the commit to fine tune them. Some areas all motions went to area committee which met off assembly times to format the upcoming assembly for business actions on motions. All motions are considered in DRAFT until passed. Minutes had first names, or no names, never full names. The minutes are not a newsletter; if you're a 501c corporation the minutes are the legal documents. A newsletter might contain a little bit of minutes contents just to spread information. North Florida area prints 754 and emails to 1250. Some areas do not mail or email, pick them up at next assembly or Committee meetings day. Most Areas; the content of the minutes is spelled out in the guidelines(ours are not). A hand book committee keeps on top of all this.

Ask-it-basket: The Trustee fielded a basket contained 21 questions one was a racial slur and was handled beautifully by the trustee, no place in AA. Another answer, to a question of why was Concept 12 wording changed.. the answer was that the charter is the real legal document and not the concepts which are only Bill W's essays. What matters, is what part of the concepts is printed in the charter. Had me thinking on this one. Had to do with the "listed groups by directory" vs old wording "AA groups know worldwide", and who made and when were these changes made? The delegate on the conference charter committee said this will be looked into.

One question asked: how do you keep voting members straight from non-voting members. Have a sign in sheet registrar and hand out a Painted paint stick, green yes, red tip no, only voting member may hold up during a vote count. The sticks are numbered and collected after assemblies or business. These two questions caught my eye because we at our area we can't seem to keep whose voting and when as people come late and leave early the vote count changes. Most areas have a sign in sheet, we don't.

The trustees report was nice to hear the Grapevine revenues are running equal with the expenses and the next 5 year projections look ok. AAWS seemed that the birthday plans envelopes have made a difference and the same financial report is look good as well.

Respectfully submitted
Bill S- Area 47 Secretary