



2022

November

Pass It On



Ogden Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

An Atheist Asks

From the August 2011 AA Grapevine

Is our primary purpose to stay sober—or to find faith in a Higher Power?

I am an atheist.

I am also a sober member of AA, and have been for over four years.

The first AA meeting I attended, in Buffalo, N.Y., was one of the most unique and powerful experiences of my life. I have no interest in either promoting or condemning AA. I have seen a good number of people find help in AA. I have also seen a good many people come to AA in desperation, only to walk away frustrated that they could not find the help they needed.

As the years go by, and as I continue attending meetings regularly, I have become aware of certain prevailing attitudes which I believe do considerable harm to AA's main purpose. I feel compelled to oppose such harmful ideas and pronouncements which, I believe, stand in the way of an honest, open and healing dialogue.

I've been able to find help in AA because I was raised with an understanding of many concepts which AA takes for granted. The use of the word God, for instance. The book Alcoholics Anonymous goes to great lengths to appear accepting and inclusive of all who suffer from alcohol addiction. However, the book is clearly written in a moral tone, more Christian than anything, and its very language seems more welcoming to those of a Christian background. Furthermore, while every individual is promised the freedom to choose his or her own idea of a Higher Power, the frequent use, and capitalization, of the word "God" and the wording of the suggested prayers, does not seem inclusive of any non-Christian concept. There are almost no references in the AA literature to any spiritual practices, outside of Christian beliefs.

Looking into our basic text, we are assured at the beginning of the chapter titled "We Agnostics" that many of our Fellowship's founding members were either atheist or

agnostic, but the chapter crescendos in a coercive pitch that casts atheism as a flaw which must be corrected if one hopes to stay sober.

This polemic raises a very important question, one which is argued about either overtly or covertly at many AA meetings: Is our primary purpose to stay sober—or to find faith in a Higher Power?

The literature, in a very circular logic, suggests that these two issues are solved together through the taking of the Steps. This leaves the atheist or agnostic with a huge problem when he comes to the Second or Third Step. His fellows in the program may try to cheer him on the concept of a Higher Power, telling him he's totally free to choose his own idea of God. What if his choice is to believe in no God?

We may hear in the words of many well-meaning believers that we are free to choose the group, the meeting, or the “whatever” as our Higher Power. The insinuation is ever present that those who choose not to believe in God are somehow inadequate.

We hear in meetings how God is doing for our fellows what they could never do for themselves. Someone gets a job, car, a house, or recovers from an illness—and this is somehow proof of God's involvement in their personal lives. We all know that non-Christians, even atheists, have experiences both exceptional and mundane every day, all over the world. We know that many people refrain from drinking for many reasons, other than a belief in God. Of course, many people in the world drink as part of a religious or spiritual tradition.

I think it's long past time to start asking why there is so much fear and prejudice, specifically toward atheists and agnostics—even in an organization like AA, which (on the surface, at least) claims to have no religious affiliation.

If a person at a meeting is going through a tough time and happens to be a believer, the mood of the meeting tends to be encouraging. However, if a person is going through a tough time and admits he's a nonbeliever, the mood becomes one of blame, as if he's met some form of punishment.

I think it's time to start calling this accepted prejudice against nonbelievers by its true name: Bigotry.

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I've heard the cliché many times that AA is a “spiritual program, not a religious one,” but if AA literature and attending over 2,000 meetings in western New York have proven one thing to me, it's that AA tends to have a strong Christian influence.

I've heard many an AA member give his or her testament of love and appreciation for a Christian God (sometimes, even Jesus specifically), often times to the rapture and applause of fellow members. I have also witnessed the outright castigation of those who speak about their uncertainty, doubt, skepticism, or non-belief in matters religious or spiritual.

I have seen the same members, who trumpet their own “right” to speak about their personal understanding of spiritual matters, become hostile toward those who share a non-Christian or atheist view.

As a member of AA, I believe that this is a “we” program. “We” have a problem. “We” can't claim to love and include everyone who wants to stop drinking—and then make that love conditional on the acceptance of spiritual beliefs, especially when the only spiritual choice presented in our literature is nothing but a thinly veiled Christian idiom.

You can't really love something you don't understand. Quite honestly, that's my reason for not believing in God. I've read and listened to many passionate and erudite believers, and I've yet to come across an explanation of a divine, supernatural being that makes sense to me.

Don't get me wrong, though. I definitely agree that, in times of pain or desperation, it helps to visualize an image of strength, love or beauty in the mind's eye. Different people may call that image by different names. I simply believe that our visualizations emanate from within the human psyche, an obscure dimension but not a supernatural one.

I love a number of people who are Christian. Because of my upbringing, I understand the basis of their beliefs and I am respectful of their opinions ... to the exact extent they are respectful of mine.

Conversely, it's easy for a person to become frightened, or even hostile, toward that which is unknown. Whether you were raised a believer or not, try asking yourself this question: Does my faith (or, lack thereof) afford me the courage to put aside my fears for the opportunity of understanding something different?

BY: ANONYMOUS



Ogden Inter Group Central Office

**CLOSED – Sunday &
Monday**

➤ **Central Office hours:**
Tuesday thru Friday
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Saturday 11:00a - 3:00p

➤ **Ogden Central Office (801) 393-4728**
email: igrcentraloffice@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.northernutahaa.org>

➤ The **Inter Group Rep** meeting is
held at Central Office on the
3rd Tuesday of each month
@6:00pm
(unless otherwise posted in this newsletter)

VETERANS DAY



Inter Group Representative Meeting Attendance

- Four (4) District One groups sent IGR's to the October 18th meeting.
- Groups represented were: Meat & Potatoes; Wed. Nite Stag; 11:59 Group; Tues. Morgan Group.
- The **NEXT** scheduled **IGR Meeting** will be held at Central Office **Tuesday, November 15th** at 6:00 pm.

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AA Giggle

Strange that so many people who took
their whiskey straight seem to want
their AA very much diluted.

From the September 1960 Grapevine magazine.

AA CENTRAL OFFICE – OGDEN - 3480 WASHINGTON BLVD. SUITE 108

Office Hours: **Tuesday thru Friday 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm / Saturday 11:00 am-3:00 pm** //// **"CLOSED" Sunday & Monday**

Phone: (801)393-4728 igrcentraloffice@gmail.com



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Ogden Intergroup Central Office Newsletter

IGR Meeting Minutes Tuesday October 18, 2022 Ogden Intergroup Central Office

Attendees: IGR's attending: Jon C., Sue C., Steve H., Mike L.

Office Mgr.: Randy C.

Area 69 representative: Mike F.

Visitor: Ken C.

- Randy opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.
- Mike F. read the Intergroup Service preamble
- Steve H. read the Twelve Traditions

Randy gave the September Central Office report:

September Summary:

Sales Summary:

- Books: 82 (net \$ 146)
- Chips: 220 (net \$ 107)

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| ○ Aluminum | 177 (\$ 25 net) |
| ○ Brass | 39 (\$ 76 net) |
| ○ Tri-Plate | 4 (\$ 8 net) |

Donations: **\$ 2,492**

- Groups: 15 groups \$ 2,052
- District Donation(s) \$ 280
- Individual Donation(s) \$ 160

Office Activity: Hours: 106

- Emails: 120
- Calls/Msags: 55
- Office Visits: 79 (avg. weekly walk-ins = 16)

There is no Knowing
If everything is Known.
Bob M. - 2014

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Savings Account Statement Bal: (ending) {Goal=\$8,500\\ \$1,700 per mo. x 5 mos. operating expenses}

August: \$ 7,105

September: \$ 7,156 (.7 % increase)

Checking Account Statement Balance: (ending) **September \$ 2,791.82**

Website Activity: September Visitors: 708 Views: 2,077

Google Business Listing Activity: September Searches: 967 Views: 1,874

This is the best job I've ever had, honestly. **Thank YOU** for the opportunity. -Randy

<<<<<<<<< NEW BUSINESS >>>>>>>>

- Review 90-day projected financial outlook. Outlook very good.
- ALL 6 Steering Committee positions still open. Handed out position descriptions as well as the Central Office By-Laws for the mandatory 5-year review. Proposed changes to by-laws will be presented at the November Meeting.
- The annual post-Holiday Central Office open house is planned for January 14, 2023.
 - Closed meeting with the Responsibility statement at 6:45. pm

AA Ogden Central Office		Donations	
2022 Year-to-Date		09/30/22	YTD
Group Name	September		Total
11:59 Group			162.21
Admitted We Were Powerless			100.00
Babes of Anonymity	480.00		480.00
Beyond the Horizon			179.00
BYOB Group			40.00
Clearfield Group			165.00
Courage to Change Group	81.00		243.00
Davis Group			100.00
Friday Night Recovery			258.00
Grupo Primer Paso de Ogden (SP)	15.00		165.00
Happy Group			561.00
Higher Ground Group-Fruit Hghts			400.00
In the Solution Group	100.00		900.00
Keep it Simple			154.63
Meat & Potatoes			543.65
Meeting in the Mountain (Valley Camp)			367.00
Morgan Group	300.00		300.00
New Comer Group	100.00		200.00
Pavilion Posse Group			101.00
Primary Purpose Group (Layton)			300.00
Recovery Together Group (5)			250.00
Sat Men's Brotherhood			481.00
Sat Night Alumni - ORMC	75.00		355.00
Serenity Happy Hour Grp (Wed.)	400.00		400.00
Serenity Happy Hour (Sunday)			513.50
Serenity Sisters	53.44		554.80
Sisters in Sobriety			300.00
Social Distancing Group (Texas)			109.00
South Davis #1	25.00		50.00
Stone of Sisyphus	125.00		250.00
Sunday Night Unity			494.50
Tremonton Group			700.00
Tuesday Morgan Group			200.00
Tyler Ave Group	100.00		600.00
Wed Night Stag	70.29		263.29
Wed. Night Alumni - ORMC	100.00		460.75
Women's Circle of Hope	27.50		424.00
Womens Retreat House			330.00
Groups Sub-Total	2,052.23		12,455.33

Suggested Contributions

(from pg. 13 of AAWS Pamphlet F-3)

50% - Intergroup Central Office

3480 Washington Blvd #108
Ogden, Utah 84401

- District One

P.O. Box 953
Brigham City, Ut 84302

-OR-

- District 11

P.O. Box 788
Roy, Ut 84067

10%

10% - Area 69

P.O. Box 601
Springville, Utah 84663

30% - GSO

(New address)

PO Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407



District 11	100.00	1,300.00
District One	180.00	720.00
Individual Donation(s)	160.00	3,622.00
TOTAL Donations	\$2,492.23	\$18,097.33

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District One Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2022

①OPENING:

Paul H. called the meeting to order at 7:07 with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Jennie read the GSR Preamble and Matt read the Twelve Traditions. There were two new GSRs – Sharon from Unity Group and Matt from Meeting Makers. There were no interested AA's. There was one visitor – Mike F. Area 69 Secretary. Those in attendance: The DCMC, 1 DCM, 1 DCM excused, 1 Alt DCM, 11 GSRs with one excused, Secretary, Treasurer excused, Grapevine present, Intergroup Ogden excused, PI present. Sue called the roll. The minutes were read from the September District One Meeting. They were approved with a motion from Dan and Elliot 2nd.

②REPORTS

☛PI – Juan

I do not have any updates. Waiting for district 12 to give follow up and the day we went to go it was a lot of fun. Was able to spend time with an Area chair and also read the promises heading from different people around AA opened my eyes to new aspects of AA.

☛CPC – Mark – Not present

☛Corrections – Willy – Not present

☛Grapevin – Krista

Talked about Grapevine subscriptions in Bridgerland Group. This is great. Other groups need to follow.

☛Treatment – Jon – Not present

☛Literature – Michael - Not present

☛Intergroup Ogden – Randy sent report, read by Paul.

☛Intergroup Logan – Robert – Emailed report

☛Treasurer – Jared – Excused – Report read by Paul.

The District One Finances for October 2022 are as follows: The donations totaled \$205.00. The expenses totaled \$466.25; the total balance of the account this month is \$140.00, minus our \$2000 P/R. The Pink Can Money had \$0.00 in donations, expenses of \$102.50, interest of \$0.03. The total balance is \$730.00. The Treasurer report was approved, with a motion from Dan and Juan 2nd.

③DCM reports – Jennie said there are 3 groups that are not meeting anymore. Mike F. will change Area site for District One meetings. Sue will e-mail Robert about groups not meeting. Mike L. asked about how GSRs are signed up. Its by announcing in meeting that it is needed. Young People Group changed location. Sue will let Randy know.

④OLD BUSINESS

The Budget proposal for 2023 was read by Paul. This needs to be taken back to groups, then voted on in November. Dan was not able to go to the Fall Assembly. Mike F. gave a summary of the Assembly. Mike talked about voting, said it was fun.

Reports from Forum. Juan gave a summary of Forum. He talked about the upside-down triangle. He loves to do service and look into history of AA. Dan filled out a survey about something he was not happy about. The event itself was great. Information was really good. Sue reported this was her first Forum. She thought it would be mostly boring business stuff. But it held her attention and would go back again. Paul ran into some old friends who helped him early in sobriety. He gave a summary of the Forum. He took great notes. Personal contributions are going up for GSO. There are still places there is no established AA. They want to know what you think about podcasts and such at social@aa.org. The oldest past trustee Jan from 1974. Mike F. said the people that serve are the most humblest people ever.

⑤NEW BUSINESS

④OPEN DISCUSSION – GSRS

Mike L. said Morgan Group is working out plans for the Chili cookout in February. They have had visitors from Coleville. Luke from Bridgerland Group said they are having a Party on Halloween, there will be a costume contest.

⑤OPEN POSITIONS

Elections were opened for 5 DCMs, 6 Alt. DCMs.

No one stood.

PLEASE TAKE THIS BACK TO YOUR GROUPS.

⑥COMING SOON

☛Next District Meeting – Boys and Girls Club – Nov 08 @ 07:00 pm.

☛Fall Workshop Nov 5-6 District 7 Cedar City

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➡ Committee Meeting (Pass the Gavel) Dec 3 District 13.

🕒CLOSING

The meeting was closed at 8:07 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

Questions for Secretary Sue C. 801-388-7393 or gbuterfly2@comcast.net.

> **District Meetings Information** <

GSR's need to be present.

➤ **District 11 – 2nd Wednesday 6:30 PM**
Resurrection Episcopal Church
1131 So, Main,
Centerville

➤ **District One – 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 PM**
Boys & Girls Club of No. Utah
550 S. Main St.
Brigham City

DISTRICT 11 GSR Meeting Minutes October 12, 2022

Meeting opened by Kelly C. at 6:30 p.m.

1. Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

- GSR Preamble read by Cory E.
- A.A. Preamble read by Mark S.
- 12 Traditions ready by Mike E.
- Welcomed GSRs & New GSRs –
- Welcomed Visitors – Mike F. Area Secretary
- Roll call was passed around by Kameron K. with a request made for updated information.
- Chad L. read treasurer's report. Motion to accept the report as read made by Caroline A. and seconded by Joe D.
- September minutes read by Kameron K. Motion to accept made by Tracy F. and seconded by Joe D.

2. ELECTIONS – BTG-Ricardo B. was voted in as BTG and all positions at District are filled.

3. New Business – Tracy F. made a motion to accept the corrections to the District 11 Guidelines and was seconded by Josette K. and was approved.

4. GSR Reports

GSR reports were given verbally by groups; Roxanne L., **It's in the Book**, Attendance 30 good meeting speaker meeting first Thursday of the Month awesome speakers.; Sheri C. (Alt.), **Serenity Happy Hour (Sunday)**, 10:00am-11:15 lots of new people from the treatment center.; Joe D., **South Davis Group #1**, Still small but tight.; Leslie B., **Flyin' High Group**, Monday and Friday 20-30 in attendance.; Mark S., **Sunday Night BB Study Group**, 30+ lots of new commers.; Mike E., **Saturday Morning Brotherhood**, Ogden Regional Hospital open discussion.; Caroline A., **Women's Circle of Hope**, Saturday 10am 23-25 people good group.; Josette K., **Layton Big Book Step Study**, 8-12 in attendance still on zoom.; Lili H., **Serenity Sisters**, 30+ in attendance.; Jason G., **Happy Group**, 40+ Sunday 10am good full meeting.; Tyra V. (Alt.), **Serenity Sisters**, New Alt GSR. Ricardo B. (Alt.), **Not a Glum Lot**, 13-20 goes out of the book As Bill Sees it.

Standing Chair Reports

- Kelly C., DCMC – The Fall Assembly was such a great event CPC new position at area.

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- Tracy F., DCM North – Fun time at workshop thanked everyone for there participation. 39 Voters 60 registrations great food and the area was paid back the seed money and no profits from the event. Forum was a little overwhelming but attended most. Area elections 4 times through the voting has new position Communications chair 4 from District 11.
- Sheri C., Corrections – Is in communications with Tyrell hopefully more volunteers 1-14 the plan is to commit to 1 or 2 days a month Angie is helping with books.
- Chad L., Treasurer – Gave Treasurer’s report.
- Ricardo B., PI – Is passing out literature in different business needs a small pamphlet rack.
- Angie C. Grapevine – Is ready to pass off the Grapevine to Joe D. and help.
- Chuy C., BTG – No Report
- Ogden Intergroup – No Report
- Phillip W. SLC Intergroup – Chili cookout flyer is at saltlakeaa.org. Meeting is the second Tuesday of the month. November 8th is board elections. 5th edition of the big book looking for stories go to aa.org all covid restrictions are being removed.

6. **Old Business:** No old business.

7. **DISTRICT 11 Events:** Roxanne L. will be chairing the Pre-conference Assembly.

8. **Coming soon:**

- **Dist. 11 GSR Meeting – Episcopal Church of the Resurrection 1131 S. Main, Centerville, November 9th, 2022, 6:30pm**
- **Nov 5-6 Area Fall Workshop – Ramada Inn 1575 W 200 N, Cedar City, UT**
- **December 3 – Area Pass the Gavel – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sandy, UT**
- **Closed at 7:30pm with the responsibility statement.**

“I am responsible... When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.”

DCMC, Kelly C. 214-952-3782,
 DCM North, Tracy F. 801-452-1427
District 11 Funds P.O. Box 788, Roy, UT 84067

UTAH AREA 69 UPCOMING EVENTS

(As of September 2022)

November 5-6, 2022	Fall Workshop	District 7 Cedar City
December 3, 2022	Committee Meeting (Pass the Gavel)	District 13 Sandy
February 25, 2023	Committee Meeting	District 10 SLC
March 3-5, 2023	PRAASA	Area 05 Los Angeles
April 14-16, 2023	Pre-Conference	District 11 TBD
April 23-29,2023	General Service Conference	Brooklyn New York



AREA 69 / FALL WORKSHOP

November 5 and 6, 2022

Hosted by District 7

RAMADA INN

1575 W 200 N, Cedar City, UT

**2023 General Service Conference Theme:
"General Service – Our Mighty Purpose and Rhythm"**

Workshop Topic

Practicing our Twelve Traditions Across All Group Settings

Presentation Topic

1. "Our Common Perils and Common Solution"
2. "Using AA Literature in Carrying the Message"
3. "Fostering a Thriving Three Legacy Culture"

Saturday, November 5, 2022

Event Registration	8:00 am	
Service Orientation	8:30 am	Zoom Meeting
Area Meeting	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	110 87931983200
Lunch on your own	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Password 109417
Fall Workshop	1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	
Speaker	7:00 pm	

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Round-tables	9:00 am – 10:am GSR's / DCM's / Standing Chair's
Ask It Basket	10:00 am – 11:00 pm
Speaker	11:00 am

<u>Event Location:</u>	Ramada Inn	<u>Rooms:</u>	\$70.00 plus tax	<u>MENTION "FALL WORKSHOP"</u>
	1575 W 200 N		Single/Double	** SO EVENT GETS ROOM CREDIT
	Cedar City, UT		1-435-586-8888	

Registration will be \$15.00 at the door (no pre-registration).
Lunch /Dinner is on your own.

Any questions: Please call Eddi D. (435)690-8466