

**ALABAMA/NORTHWEST FLORIDA AREA ASSEMBLY**  
**ASK-IT-BASKET SESSION**  
Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>,2021

Chaired by Area One Panel 69 past delegate Kevin H and a panel of past delegates including: Panel 59 Lisa W, Panel 63 Craig M, Panel 67 Linda W, and Panel 65 Jim S.

- Q. This is my first Area Assembly. I am the Alt. GSR. What, in your opinion, is the most important thing I need to know?
- A. **Lisa W mentioned how important it is for us to “get out of ourselves” and help someone else. Craig M said it is important for us to remember the purpose of Area Assembly: to choose a delegate to represent us at General Service Conference. If we can wrap our minds around that, everything will work out. Linda W mentioned SSAASA and how you learn so much information.**
- Q. Can you briefly explain the service structure?
- A. **Craig M said he highly encourages whoever asked the question to attend the Orientation workshop which is on Friday evenings at the Assembly. The orientation workshop is a great resource to get additional information on this question. The Service Manual Page S-18 has a chart that briefly reviews the service structure. The GSR represents the groups. The GSR goes to District and at District, the GSRs elect the DCM. The DCM, GSRs and groups attend Area Assembly. At Area Assembly, we elect a Delegate who represents us at the General Service Conference.**
- Q. Was Tradition 4 written to be a license to ignore the other 11 Traditions?
- A. **Kevin-The short answer is “no”. It is important to accept the group conscience. Craig said the Twelve Traditions are for the groups. We have the right to be wrong. When I veer from the steps, I get sick. When the group veers from the Traditions, they get sick, and will eventually die or begin following the Traditions again.**
- Q. Why did the Grapevine change the Preamble?
- A. **Kevin: The Grapevine has editorial freedom.**
- Q. What do you do with an inactive trusted servant?
- A. **Lisa said her group has an outline they follow for this situation. The secretary will call the inactive trusted servant to see if anything is wrong. If everything is ok, but the trusted servant doesn’t show up, they can be replaced after a few missed service responsibilities. District is similar. Refer to your guidelines or created guidelines as a group.**
- Q. What can the districts do about a sexual predator if the group is doing nothing and a member of the fellowship has reached out to the District for help?
- A. **Lisa-My personal experience-A gentleman, years ago, went over to a lady’s house, he broke a window, but didn’t hurt her. Lisa says she handled the situation wrong by going over to his apartment and “beat him up”. That was not the correct approach. What you can do: it’s up to home groups and members to stand up for one another. The group members can read the safety card at meetings, step up, and step in when necessary. Remember that predators can be female as well as male. No one should be afraid to walk into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. Jim: this falls on the group. Someone must speak up. Sometimes it isn’t the newcomer who is the predator, but the old-timer. The party who is guilty of perpetuating these acts is not above the victim. It isn’t easy to call the police but sometimes it must be done. Talk to the individual and tell them this cannot be tolerated any longer. Craig added that districts cannot interfere in group business. If the group cannot handle the situation “call the law”.**
- Q. Is there a certain service order before becoming Delegate?
- A. **Kevin-No there is not. Kevin went from Structures and Procedures Chair to Area Chair. When voting occurred, Kevin left his name up and left it in God’s hands. Kevin and Linda’s names went to the hat and Kevin’s name came up. Kevin added you need to be willing and able and have been a DCM, Committee Chair, or Area Officer. We also take floor nominations with the nominee’s service history. There is no certain order that is required. Lisa- came into the rooms in 1992. Lisa was never a GSR or DCM. In 2008, she was elected as Area Secretary after being heavily involved in service since 1992. Linda- When I came into service I started at the bottom and worked up. I let God guide me. I got a service sponsor who helped me to feel confident and comfortable. I did all kinds of positions until I was polished and ready to be**

**delegate. Craig-started as CPC chair for District 8. Then he became Alt DCM, DCM, Finance Committee Chair, Area Treasurer, Area chair, and then Delegate. I have to decide if I'm willing and able. If I'm not willing, I have to be honest and if I'm not able, I have to be humble enough to say that. Every Area does it differently.**

Q. What's the best way to force the spirit of rotation if it is being resisted?

**A. Linda-As a past delegate, I really got hammered with the spirit of rotation and how important it is to let others grow. To have a healthy group, everyone should have the opportunity to serve in all the roles in the group. It can be hard to handle the rebuttal of a resistant trusted servant, but when it happened in my group, I knew in my heart, asking her to rotate off was the right thing. Craig-If someone will not step down, then the group has given that servant way to much authority. In the absence of the group conscience, that trusted servant can do anything they want. On their last day say we are replacing you. Kevin- If that don't work, Change the locks!**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,  
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