

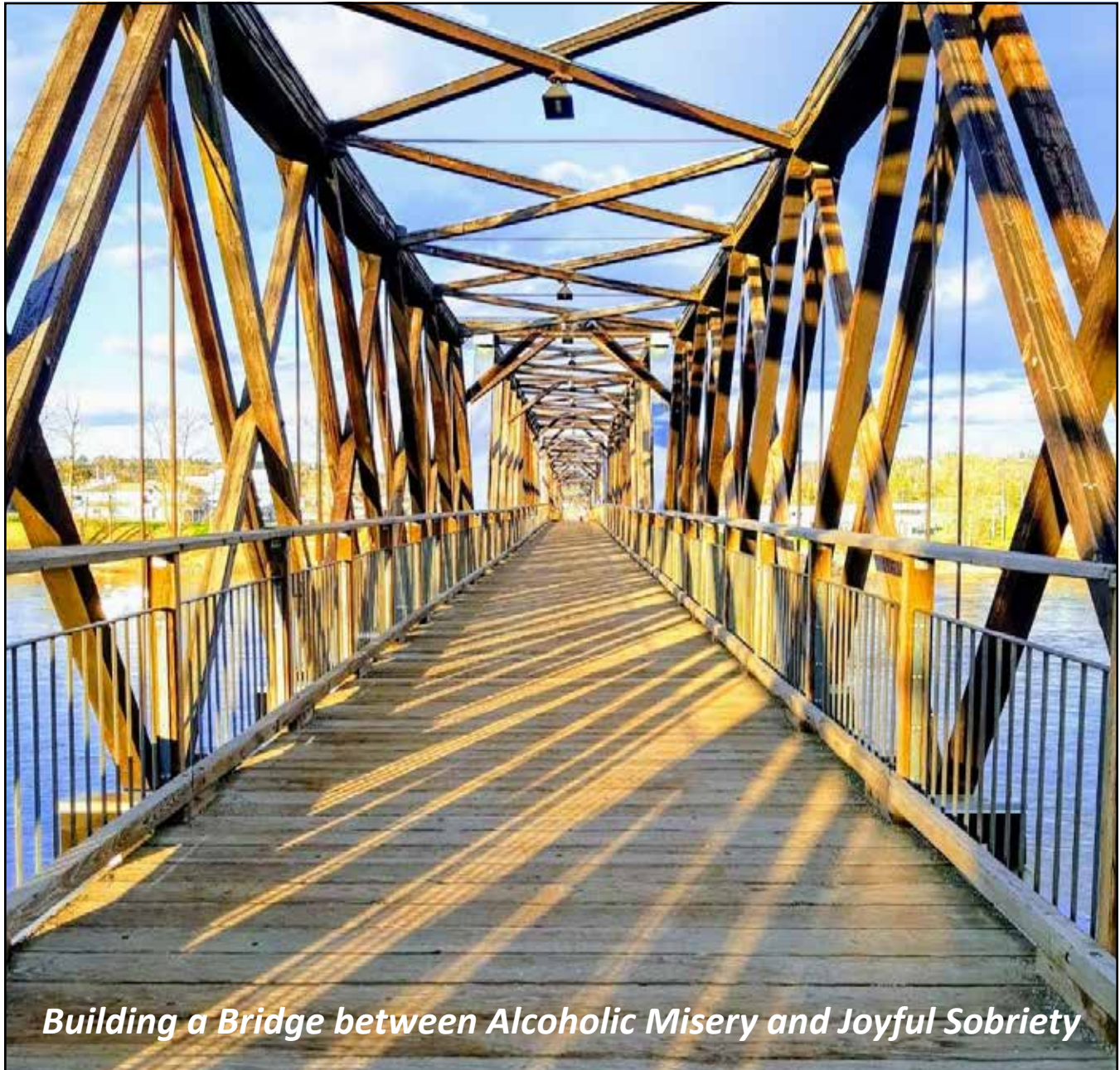
# Grassroots Forum *Highlights*



January 2024

The Voice of BC/Yukon Area 79

Volume 44 No. 1



*Building a Bridge between Alcoholic Misery and Joyful Sobriety*

Photo courtesy Amy M., District 56

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**PLEASE SHARE THIS COPY WITH YOUR GROUP**

# HIGHLIGHTS from January 2024 GRASSROOTS FORUM

## Area Service Committee Reports

For full reports, see January 2024  
*Grassroots Forum*, pages 10-23

**Chair – Monica M.**

**chair@bcyukonaa.org**

Since September, a significant amount of my time has been spent working on the agenda, venue and audiovisual needs for this Quarterly and the contracts for our other 2024 venues. I'm looking forward to the bids for our 2025 events that we will be considering at the April Pre-Conference. I hope every district is considering hosting an event. I'd love to work with each of you on developing a bid.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community –**

**Dean G.**

**cpc@bcyukonaa.org**

The South Central Mini-Assembly in Oliver, District 68, this past November was an impressive display of them carrying the message. The attendance by the other districts in this particular area of Area 79 is a great example of service in action. There was about 50 people in attendance, many with long-term sobriety. A couple former Area Committee chairs and others doing service beyond the district level attended this Mini-Assembly. The assembly, hospitality, and fellowship were a great experience of doing service. I have never seen a group of people come to agreement in such a joyous manner at a business meeting. District 68 did not have a DCM at the time of this Mini-Assembly. They now have a DCM, Sven S., who is assigned to CPC. District 68 also filled three other service positions after this Mini-Assembly.

**Website – Sheryl D.**

**website@bcyukonaa.org**

We are looking for two web team volunteers. These volunteers are my life-savers. They post everything we receive to the web site. If you are interested in being of service, please come and talk to me or send me a service résumé to [website@bcyukonaa.org](mailto:website@bcyukonaa.org). You do not have to be computer savvy; you just need to be willing to be of service and we will teach you the rest. I have a few posters in the back on the website table – please pick one up or hand it to a member who you think would be perfect for this position.

## Committee Report-backs

See *Grassroots*, pages 36-44,  
to read all about the work  
you did on Tuesday, January 2

## District Committee Member Reports

For full DCM reports, see January 2024  
*Grassroots Forum*, pages 46-61

### District 8

**Chemainus, Cobble Hill, Cowichan Bay, Crofton,  
Duncan, Honeymoon Bay, Lake Cowichan,  
Maple Bay, Mill Bay, Penelakut Island,  
Thetis Island, Youbou**

Our district is very active, meetings are well attended and our members work hard in their roles to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. We currently have three positions open and are confident we will fill them soon. "New" to our Public Information, our chair is currently working on a display table to be set up at community events providing information on Alcoholics Anonymous, and also having members carry the message in schools, colleges and universities. We are currently working to set up a "Code of Conduct" reading to start our district meetings chaired by Robbie R., GSR and an "In Reach Committee" chair (to be announced).

Yours in Service,  
Sally R.

### District 24

**Vancouver – West of Arbutus from Fraser River  
South to Kitsilano Point, Downtown, West Cambie  
Bridge and Cambie St. to the Water**

District 24 continues to meet virtually on the fourth Sunday of every month. The fourth quarter of 2023 was quiet, but we still found ways to keep busy. In October, District 24 joined forces with District 26 to put on a workshop entitled "How to Chair a Business Meeting", facilitated by our lovely Alternate Chair, Carol. We talked about how to chair a business meeting, and everything else, too! It was a great time – fun, interactive and informative. Thank you so much, Carol! Also, in October, I had the honour of facilitating a group inventory for the Kitsilano Group, with the help

of my Alternate DCM, Steve. It was my first time doing this and I really enjoyed it, so thank you to Elton, who is also our district Treasurer, for the invitation!

Trudgily yours,  
Wendy S.

### District 42

#### North Delta, Surrey

The active committees are very active. Our corrections committee continues to bring panel meetings into the Canadian Border Services detention centre,

and they continue to be well received. They constantly need literature in languages other than English and of members who speak other languages. If you can help, please see me or email me. Our chair also works with Vancouver Intergroup to bring two weekly meetings into Surrey pre-trial. Clearance is straightforward for this institution; if you feel called to Corrections, this would be a great place to start. I want to thank Bob D. for his tireless efforts to bring the message of A.A. into these institutions.

Jason C.

## Ask-it Basket

Read all the January 2024 Ask-it Basket questions & answers... *Grassroots Forum*, pages 62-66

**#2. If I buy Big Books for my home group and they cost \$12.00 and I do not sell them all, and when I restock inventory the price goes up to \$13.00 – should I reprice my back inventory up to the new?**

Answered By: Kristina P., Public Information Chair

I think it's important to start by saying that each group/committee/district is autonomous.

Some background: There was a gap of approximately 4-5 years before the most recent price increase at your General Service Office.

When there is a price increase in literature, Area 79 will update the prices to reflect the increase and exchange rate. One of the reasons we do this is to keep the prices streamlined.

You may find it helpful to have a group discussion about your question and form a group conscience.

**#5. What does Panel 73 mean?**

Answered By: Sandi P., Archives Chair

Thank you for your good question.

Panel 73 means the Panel of Delegates elected for the "odd"-year term for the General Service Conference.

When the General Service Conference began in 1951, the first one was considered Panel 1 (odd-numbered year) it was structured so that half of the delegates would serve their two-year term in odd-numbered years and the other half would serve in the even-numbered years. In 1952 the second Panel started (even year). So, each two-year panel a new delegate and service committee are elected and appointed.

**#18. A.A. has always had a singleness of purpose and we pride ourselves at being inclusive never exclusive. How should designated identity groups (i.e. men only etc.) deal with visitors who don't meet the group's identity criteria?**

Answered By: Sha-nnon H., Remote Communities/Grassroots Chair

Thank you so much for the question. As every group is autonomous, I believe the wisdom of Tradition 4 guides us here. Each group will find its own way, hopefully with an informed group conscience, if not a predetermined, agreed-upon solution for handling such instances. I also personally know of a couple of people who found themselves at meetings, in their early recovery, where they didn't meet the "identity criteria" per se, but they were not turned away because those meetings were Tradition 5 meetings, where the still suffering alcoholic was welcomed and offered support, regardless of who they were.

#### **SAFETY CARD FOR A.A. GROUPS**

*The General Service Office has made this optional card available as an A.A. service piece for in-person/online groups that wish to use it. Please feel free to utilize, choose a section(s) or adapt the text to your group's needs.*

**Tradition Five states:** Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Any person seeking help with a drinking problem is welcome at this group. No A.A. entity determines an individual's membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. It is this group's conscience that if any person endangers another individual or disrupts the group's efforts to carry A.A.'s message, the group may ask that person to leave the meeting.

This group strives to safeguard the anonymity of A.A. members and attendees; however, keep in mind that anonymity in A.A. is not a cloak for unsafe and illegal behavior. Addressing such behavior and/or contacting the proper authorities when appropriate, does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is meant to ensure the safety of all in attendance.

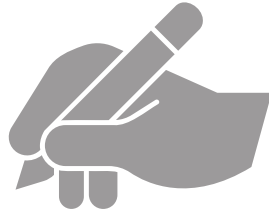
The short form of Tradition One states: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity." Recognizing the importance of group unity, our group strives to create a safe meeting environment in which alcoholics can focus on achieving sobriety.

Service Material from the General Service Office

**Check out the full issue of Grassroots for much, much more!**

Online at [bcyukonaa.org](http://bcyukonaa.org) > News... hard copy available by subscription

# Letter from the Editor



Hello, my name is Sha-nnon and I'm an alcoholic. It continues to be an honour and a privilege to serve as your BC/Yukon Area 79 Remote Communities and Grassroots Chair. This issue would not be possible without my incredible proofreading team, Spencer, Sue, Joanne, Joanna, Wendy, Bob, Cyndi, Marion, Brian, and newest member, Maggie! Thank you! A big, loving thank you to Lori W. for her inexhaustible willingness to format, proof, and organize the sometimes chaos of the Grassroots Forum. You are a gift to me and our beloved fellowship.

Our January Quarterly found me reflecting on the last year of service with you each. The trials, the struggles, the tears, the laughter, the deep-reaching and asking for help, and the spiritual growth of receiving from some of the most incredible people I've ever known and have the blessing to serve with. I am so moved and inspired by your relentless passion for A.A., your gentle, steady momentum, and your palpable love of service. Without you, I am lost, but with you, I'm the best version of myself that I have ever been.

In peace and loving service,  
Sha-nnon H.

## Statement of Purpose

The Grassroots Forum is a newsletter by and for the members of Alcoholics Anonymous in BC/Yukon Area 79. It is compiled and edited by the Grassroots Chairperson with the assistance and input of the Grassroots Committee. This newsletter is a vehicle for communication within Area 79 with the aim of strengthening unity and participation. Grassroots is also the means of distribution of the minutes, financial statements and all reports from our Area Quarterlies and Assemblies. It is the aim of the Grassroots Forum to fulfill its purpose with the greatest possible consideration of fiscal prudence and to practise A.A. principles in all of its affairs.



## Celebrating A.A.'s 90th Anniversary

See special Ask-it Basket section in January 2024 Grassroots Forum, page 67



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*Thank you for supporting Grassroots Forum!*

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Canadian Publications Sales Agreement #40014567