

**Cooperation With the Elder Community  
2011 PRAASA, Honolulu, Hawaii, Area 17**

Notes taken during the **Outreach to Seniors Roundtable** moderated by Barbaradee F.  
note taker Michael M.

Held at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2009

22 People in attendance

Discussed Seniors in AA and how to meet their needs

One participant reported they were taking AA information to staff in Fresno at a Retirement community and were told by the staff that, "...we don't have any drinking problems here!" Two other participants agreed and shared they had experienced similar biases.

A gentlemen from Arizona said he had no problem and utilized his Accessibility Chair in his Area.

Where do seniors have fun. Attract seniors where they have fun.

Identify accessibility needs in the senior effort and pass that along to Assessibilitites Committee.

A participant from Reno, Nevada suggested that if someone calls for help each individual should identify the need before going to the facility or individual.

Another participant indicated that their CPC was going to give a presentation to the Council on Aging and there is a Senior Center in their area that sends out a Newsletter. The Senior Center is willing to include information about how to contact A.A. in their Newsletter.

A participant from Arizona suggested that a SIS (Seniors in Sobriety) meeting be set up "

"Keep trying" was the recurrent theme at this Roundtable.

A discussion about the difference between Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) and Seniors In Sobriety Meetings was held and the difficulties some expressed in having a standing area community for CEC approved.

Another participant suggested that Funeral Directors and Grief Groups were good contacts for carrying the message to the still suffering Elder.

Others agreed that CPC, PI and Accessibilities [and CEC] work together .

One participant indicated that they developed a flyer to be distributed in their area...Seniors having difficulty with Alcohol.

Discussed the different elder challenges, such as limited in driving, limited in sight, etc.

Area 05 CEC District chair reported that Central Office, Intergroup are cooperating with CEC.

**Further notes of other comments made at the Round Table and what's new in CEC that we need to share, as requested by AA members not in attendance:**

We emphasize using the word “elder” rather than the word “elderly.”

We are reminded that this is a grassroots movement. We need to keep GSO NY informed. Call them. Send them emails.

Area 17 shared that CEC and SIS co-founder Marian referred to herself as ‘Chronologically Gifted.’

Area 05 and Area 17 will be sharing their experiences thusfar.

Develop a Vision for CEC was suggested by past delegate Jim W., Area 05. One person shared their vision as being: Let people know AA is available as a Resource.

Area 09 shared that 60% of Orange County elders are Alcoholics.

CEC committees require approval at district or area levels. CEC committees have a budget and committee members and area approved by a vote. Ad hoc committees can be formed, based on the Guidelines of the District and/or Area to explore the needs.

SIS (Seniors in Sobriety meetings) can be started by any AA member. The meetings can also be listed in the Central Office directory or Intergroup meeting list. Ask for for a meeting designation. Senior Friendly seems to be a useful and inclusive designation (Sr.F), as presented by former Area 05 CEC chairman Chris S at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual SIS Conf.

A few Areas have websites and email addresses. Go to the Resource List found on Area 05 website at [www.aascaa.org](http://www.aascaa.org) (AA Southern California Area Assembly).

Publications into the prisons must be sent by the publisher and have no staples GSO will send items such as Big Book. Grapevine has a staple free magazine in English.

6<sup>th</sup> Annual SIS Int'l Conference will be held 13-15 May 2011 on Long Island.

See website for details: [www.seniorsinsobriety.org](http://www.seniorsinsobriety.org)

The Senior outreach demands CEC committee effort to coordinate and do Area-wide events and cooperation with other Area and District committees, as Senior meeting efforts.

How do we avoid committee overlap. Requires cooperation among committees, especially CEC, PI, CPC, and Special Needs/Accessibilities.

Offered Stan's Area 17 letter to the Round Table, including documentation for the proposed CEC Workbook Revision, presented by Area 17 for a final vote of approval that we need so much as the Greater AA CEC so that we all don't “reinvent” the same ideas and projects. The proposed CEC Workbook and information would also offer less work for GSO NY when we improve the initial draft “Collective Sharings—Cooperation with the Elder Community” that was created at the GSO “desk” when Valerie, of GSO, was in that position two years ago.

Outside statistics have been taken out of the Area 17 PowerPoint Presentations and posted website documentations

The Collective Sharings used to be on the [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website but have been taken off “for reformatting to be in the style of the other workbooks” (per Gail), but have not been replaced in two years.\*

For more information and referrals, to be on a CEC mailing list, SIS mailing list, or Arizona meeting email and informational list, please send note to

<removed personal email address to comply with Area 17 web policy>

\*Note: from a later conversation with Rod B, the new Regional Trustee 3/7/2011, it was suggested that many people call GSO NY office to request that the Collective Sharings be reposted to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website for our use and that our efforts resume being documented. When a number of people contact the GSO they do take action. It is understandable that they do not respond with any major change with the call of one representative individual. We need to all call GSO to make our requests as we see them. We also need to encourage the next revision to the Collective Sharings. And, we need to be activated under an appropriate “desk” at GSO. We were last noted to be under Special Needs/Accessibilities.