

Hello everyone, I am an Alcoholic, a member of the Paradise Group on Hamilton mountain, your Panel 64 Delegate, Area 86 Western Ontario, and my name is Jim W. I trust that all of you got to spend time with your families over the holidays. I was introduced to my new grandson during Christmas and we bonded well, spending some quality nap time together. During the month of November I attended 3 roundups in Cambridge, Stratford and Orillia. I must say that the speakers and attendees were top notch at all three events but Cambridge became my favorite when I was piped in for my Area Report. That's hard to top.

In late December I received my Communications Kit for the 2015 General Service Conference April 19<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup>. This year's Conference theme is "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for our Future". My Kit contained a timeline for the Conference fees, forums to be submitted. The Delegate's Fee is \$1600.00 us and is required by March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Total costs including the voluntary contribution are est. at \$7500.00 per Delegate.

A.A.W.S. has rolled out the new eBooks program, available through third-party vendors, beginning in January with the Big Book (Fourth Edition) in English, Spanish and French.

**The newest available eBooks are:**

- Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age (English)
- As Bill Sees it (English)

The other currently available digital titles are:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- Daily Reflections
- Living Sober
- Came to Believe

New titles and the Spanish and French translations of others are in the planning and production stage now. These include Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers; "Pass It On," AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate, and Experience Strength and Hope.

I do encourage you to visit [aa.org](http://aa.org) for easy links to order these digital book titles and please check the website for new titles as they become available.

Last year at this time I emailed all the DCM's some information on Predators in A.A. I did encourage feedback but received none. I know that this problem has not gone away because I have received some inquiries this year on what to do, that's why I am bringing up this subject again. We can't bury our heads in the sand and pretend that the problem

will just fade away. So I encourage again discussing this at your District meetings, and taking it back to your groups will educate and better protect our members. The following information was posted in Australia on <http://dev.aa.org.au/members/documents/predators.pdf>

I do believe our Secretary/Registrar has made this info in a pamphlet form

### **NOT EVERYONE IS LOOKING ONLY FOR SOBRIETY. . .**

As a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, you want to be aware that not all those who attend AA meetings have only sobriety in mind.

Some members may try to take advantage of other members in various ways, such as:

- **sexual harassment**
- **sexual attack**
- **pressuring members to join a particular religious group**
- **borrowing money**
- **selling goods for personal gain**
- **offering investment schemes**
- **theft of group funds**

Should any of these situations arise for you, here are some suggested ways of handling them:

- Talk to other members about it and raise the matter at a group conscience meeting. Take care that you aren't just passing on rumors. Make sure you have well-established facts to work with.
- Discuss the problem with the person suspected of preying on other members. Listen to their side of the matter. Let them know the group disapproves of predatory behavior
- Make sure other members stay with the suspected predator whenever he or she is talking to vulnerable new members.
- Raise your concerns with any of the members you think may be at risk from the predator.

- Don't think the matter ends with your group. The predator may leave your group and move to fresh hunting grounds. You may need to warn members in other groups.
- Barring someone from meetings is an extreme step and should only be taken when other steps have failed.
- In certain situations you may need to notify the police.
- Under no circumstances should members resort to vigilante action and use violence to try to solve the problem. This would be totally against the spirit of the Fellowship and could turn the situation into a worse problem.

To all DCM's I will be discussing this topic again at our Spring Assembly in DCM school as it is on the Agenda for the 2015 General Service Conference under

### **Safety and Respect- Practicing the Principals Begins in Our Home Group**

February 20-22, 2015

Area 83 is excited and proud to host the 2nd bi-yearly event with a focus on the upcoming General Service Conference. The Assembly is geared to Delegates, DCM's and Alternate DCM's, Service Chairs, GSR's and fellow alcoholics who would like to share in this pre-conference service event. This is also the place to hear the fellowships feelings across ten Areas, not only in their individual Areas. It is a forum where we all can examine, debate and learn about issues and agenda items facing the upcoming conference. For more info go to the Area 86 website for a link or go directly [www.ceraasa.org](http://www.ceraasa.org)

We in Area 86 have the privilege of hosting The ODC in Hamilton this year.

### **The Ontario Delegate's Committee Meeting**

On February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

“The aim of this committee is to foster a unified effort, equality of opportunity and participation for all groups in the Ontario Areas of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

“To provide, where required, a blended voice for the four Areas; To serve as an orientation vehicle for Alternate Delegate; To be a discussion platform for Delegates on General Service Conference issues; and to cooperate with the Ontario Archive Committee.”

ODC Guidelines, March 1991

Meeting and accommodations will be at:

Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Centre

150 King Street East

Hamilton, ON, L8N 1B2

Tel. (905) 528-3451

Fax. (905) 528-8638

[www.cphamilton.com](http://www.cphamilton.com)

We have secured a number of rooms at a rate of \$129.00 per night plus taxes and must be reserved on or before January 15, 2015 by calling 1-800-2CROWNE by referencing the ‘Alcoholics Anonymous Group’.

In closing we are here, elected by you to serve you in any way we can, we are a resource for you and the Districts that you represent. In order for us to do our jobs we need you to do yours. We need your commitment and support not only through service but we need your financial support as well. If you need a few sub-Committee Chairs to help you with your Service Days, for workshops, presentations etc. just ask, all inquiries should go through the Chair. Our sub-committee chairs are brimming with info, suggestions and ideas. They are anxious and eager, please use them. If you're requesting that I attend your service function or round up then contact me directly. If I am unavailable to attend then I assure you that I will send a trained professional to fill in.

Yours in Love and Service

Jim W.

Panel 64 Delegate

Area 86 Western Ontario