



Delegate Report – Area Committee, July 16, 2016

Panel 66, Area 29

Maryland General Service, Inc.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Challenge: “Fellowship in Motion” participating in Committee Work at all levels of the Conference

Page S60 of the A.A. Service Manual states “without committees, it is doubtful that any Conference would be able to function effectively. Most questions suggested for the Conference agenda are assigned to a committee, where items can be discussed in a small group before they are forwarded for discussion to the full Conference body.”

The 13 Conference Committees do the principle work of the Conference by meeting a portion of two days to review, discuss and prepare a report. Each report is presented and voted on by the full Conference body. The work that was accomplished by each committee still gives me pause to realize just how much eight virtual strangers on a committee can accomplish in a short period of time when brought together for a common cause. It was an amazing experience to have the feeling that we did what we were called to do according to the 9th Tradition - - “...directly responsible to those they serve”. The committees of Area 29 could be performing in likewise fashion.

The General Service Conference is the Area’s role model or Service Sponsor. How business is conducted for the Conference is what we could emulate here in Area 29. Chapter Five of the A.A. Service Manual entitled “The Area Committee” states “perhaps more than any other group of people in A.A., the area committee is responsible for the health of the Conference structure and thus for growth and harmony in the A.A. Fellowship. If there are difficulties in...some service area, the committee member knows it and can turn to the full area committee for help. An active area committee deals with all kinds of service concerns” ...from area experience being shared among the groups; carrying the message to jails and institutions; news media and professionals; and the list goes on.

These two very short paragraphs regarding the Area Committee are vital, yet are we meeting the mark???

The A.A. GSC Inventory provides enormous insight into utilizing the Concepts to assess our effectiveness as an Area. Just a few thoughts: Concept One – ensuring communication up and down the service triangle. The greater the communication, the greater the participation. Concept Two – clear and on-going communication, connectivity and planned initiatives. “Does the structure encourage each individual in the fellowship to feel and act as a member of a ‘society of alcoholics in action’?

Are the services we are providing the ones the fellowship wants?? If not, how can we improve and better serve those in Area 29? How do we meet our future needs?

Bill W. wrote a GV article entitled “A.A. Tomorrow”, in July 1960. Although written 56 years ago, the basic principles remain the same. Bill said, “Clearly our first duty to A.A.’s future is to maintain in full strength what we now have. Only the most vigilant caretaking can assure this. Never should we be lulled into complacent self-satisfaction...this is the subtle temptation which could stagnate us today, perchance disintegrate us tomorrow” (Language of the Heart, p.308).

Bill goes on to encourage the fellowship in a similar manner as I do today, to “search out the ever present flaws and gaps in our communications”. Since service work has become a Secret, Communication is not only the Key, it’s VITAL to get the word out of the value and rewards of Area service. At the Area Committee level, we need communication between our committees and an increased sense of responsibility to meet the next suffering alcoholic where THEY are, rather than merely waiting for them to stumble towards the doorstep.

Committees at all levels of service are essential groups of folks with like interests pursuing similar causes in A.A. toward a common goal of communication through the structure. I represent Panel 66 at the GSC, however *WE* here today, collectively represent the Legacy of Panel 66, Area 29.

Therefore, if the Area Committee is charged with a portion of the responsibility for the health of the Conference structure (per the Service Manual) possibly we need all begin by evaluating whether we are “Connecting with A.A. as a Whole” and reaching out not only to the next suffering alcoholic, but also through forward thinking in preparing for the next generation of A.A.s (from GSC Presentation topics).

From the Bottom of the Service Triangle

66th General Service Conference Theme: “Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts”

“Young People and AA” pamphlet: In response to the 2016 GSC Advisory Action that the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be revised to “better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today”, the trustees literature committee is seeking current sharing from young people in A.A. Stories should reflect in a general way a person’s recovery story. The deadline for submission is December 30, 2016. I emailed this request to all members of the Area Committee to be forwarded to GSRs with the request to get the word out to all members of Area 29.



HAVE YOU HEARD... you can set up **Recurring Contributions** to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous online through the A.A. Contributions system at aa.org (look for the basket in the upper right hand corner of the aa.org website).



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

Check out the NEW GV subscription app only \$23.99/year (aagrapevine.org for more information).

Editorial Advisory Board for AAGV will have 3 vacancies beginning September 2016. Learn more at aagrapevine.org or contact jbryan@aagrapevine.org. The July GV is the annual prison issue including a special section entitled "AA in Prison" with articles by members about staying sober behind the walls and those in the fellowship who do corrections service. If you are interested in writing an article for an upcoming issue, the GV is currently requesting article submission on "Emotional Sobriety" (due Aug. 1) and "Making Amends" (due Sept. 1).

Carry the Message with GV: Pass on to your groups that they can give a subscription to an alcoholic in need. It's easy to do. Purchase a subscription Gift Certificate on the website and give it to your Area Delegate. It will then be forwarded to a local service committee.

Northeast Region News

Area 59/Eastern Pennsylvania: 59th Annual Convention & Assembly, November 4-6, 2016 in Gettysburg, PA. Registration available by the day or for the entire weekend (area59aa.org)

Around Area 29

Delegate's Report Back to Districts & Intergroups

I am attending Districts and Intergroup meetings to provide the two-way communication link between the Conference and the fellowship in Area 29. Report backs have been scheduled and/or completed in 24 districts and several Intergroups. There are seven districts not meeting currently. **NOTE:** I'm interested in developing a DCM Training. Anyone who would like to assist, please see me today or email me your intention.

Contribution Financial Summary for Area 29

The Quarterly Contribution Reports from GSO for the period 1/1/16 - 5/31/16 were recently sent to all DCMs. Group contributions were \$37,570.83 from 28.3% of the 1,000 groups in Area 29. During this same period in 2015, 27.8% of groups contributed. These reports

should be shared with your GSRs!! It will give them a great opportunity to learn why the 7th Tradition is so important and get the word out. Be sure all the Groups in your District are listed. Also, double check the 15 Unknown groups to see if they are in your District. I'm also seeking Self-Support ideas for an Area wide project.

Conference Agenda Review Committees

The CARC is a process, not an event. David R., Alt. Del. is coordinating the reconvening of the four CARCs for follow-up discussion and consideration of potential Agenda items for the 67th GSC in April 2017. Thank you to Craig T. and Tom H. (Leader/Recorder) for facilitating CARC IV reconvening last month. There are four potential Agenda items coming from that meeting, three of which are Motions today in New Business. If your CARC has not met yet, **REMEMBER** the CARCs are an opportunity for **YOU** to help generate the Area's conscience on a variety of topics on an on-going basis.

Please contact me with questions, concerns or to schedule a visit to your group or district.

In Love and Service,

Linda J., Delegate

Panel 66 Area 29

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Delegate Wanderings....

7/16	Area Committee	Frederick
7/17	District 20	Hagerstown
7/19	District 9	Westminster
7/20	District 28	Bel Air
7/30	District 19	Baltimore
8/2	District 31	Severna Park
8/3	District 34	Brooklyn
8/6	District 10	Parkville
8/9	District 42	Crofton
8/11	District 7	Columbia
8/13	District 40	Frederick
8/15	District 1	Prince Frederick
8/20	Area Assembly	Severna Park
8/27	CARC 3	Baltimore
8/29	Intergroup Liaison Conf Call	Armchair
8/31	WCIG	Frederick
9/5	District 25	Salisbury
9/?	MSIG/D24,37,38,46	Joint Meeting
10/4	District 32	Ocean City
10/5	District 11	Northeast
10/11	District 36	Hollywood
10/12	District 30	Aberdeen
10/13	District 4	Towson
11/4-6	Area 59 Convention	Gettysburg
11/18	WMIG	Oakland