



Delegate Report – Area Committee, September 17, 2016

Panel 66, Area 29 Maryland General Service, Inc.

~ A Fellowship in Motion ~ AA's Legacy of Service

Looking Toward & Supporting Our Future

I am SO pleased to present you with the **2016 Final Report from the 66th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous!!** The report is presented to us this year in a rose color with white and grey lettering. I developed an "Index" to assist in navigating to an item of particular interest in six different categories.

In addition to the Floor Actions, Advisory Actions, Additional Committee Considerations, and Recommendations which did not result in Advisory Actions; there are presentations which were given on timely topics, reports from the General Service Board, Grapevine Corporate Board and AAWS, Inc. Board; lists of the amounts of all literature distributed in 2015; delegate highlights; Conference members; Financial Reports and much, much more. I received a palate of 1,500 reports and encourage all of you to take as many as possible to your groups and districts. There is also a box in Spanish available today. Get the word out!!!

From the Bottom of the Service Triangle

Quarterly Meeting of General Service Board of AA-- A Few Highlights from the Minutes - August 1, 2016:

Report from the Subcommittee on Feasibility Study was presented with recommendations to the General Service Board (GSB) for exploring in greater detail the following: (1) feasibility of a media and communications audit; and how to better utilize FNV data base for distribution of information and resources to the Fellowship; (2) explore new sources of GV/LV sale and revenue streams; (3) expenses for the GSC; and (4) structurally explore the potential cost savings of combining back office functions, such as finance and Information Technology. The name was changed to Subcommittee on our Future Sustainability.

Trustees' Committees are continuing the review and determining the next step for Conference Advisory Actions from the 66th General Service Conference. They are also discussing potential Agenda items for the 67th General Service Conference. There are also a lot of deliberations concerning ideas to enhance and improve the communication and flow of information through the Conference structure.

Report of General Sharing Session Theme of "Communication"

GSO Staff member, Rick W. presented on the subtopic, "Vehicles for Communication in AA" and Trustee-at-large Canada, Scott H. presented on the subtopic, "What Do We Communicate in AA? Does More Information Mean Improved Communication?" I would be happy to provide the full presentations upon request.

A few of their key points on Communication were:

- (a) how do we get through the online noise in carrying the message;
- (b) just providing information doesn't necessarily reduce the need for direct communication;
- (c) a description of the confusion and paralysis that can arise from too much information;
- (d) does more information mean improved communication;
- (e) true transparency is not so much about more information;
- (g) true transparency is about complete, relevant information that is the product of a unified group conscience."

A.A. World Service, Inc. News:

International: Currently 42 countries have expressed interest in attending the 24th World Service Meeting in October.

Public Information: The Annual Anonymity Letter was distributed to over 29,000 media professionals.

Name That Theme: Submit your idea for the Theme of the 2020 International Convention to be held in Detroit. Deadline for submission is October 3rd.

A.A.W.S. Finance Summary:

AAWS Online Store: Total web sales for June 2016 were \$644,936, which accounts for about 63% of total sales for the company.

Financials through June: Net literature sales were 5.4% greater than budget; contributions were 8% greater than budget; and total operating expenses were 7% less than budget. It is noteworthy that sales were reported as declining in July, while contributions have continued on a positive track.

International Licensing and Translations: After more than 5 years' painstaking process of diligent translation, review and final pagination, the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous: Rarotongan* (Cook Islands/located in the South Pacific near Australia) is printed and ready for distribution.

There is a continued surge in international-language reviews and licenses. January –June, 2016 saw an 81% increase, which represents a 45% increase in reviews compared to the same period in 2015.

Other: 2017 Conference dashboard is in the testing phase with a projected whole new look. The IT team is in the process of reviewing proposals to upgrade email service to increase archival storage while saving money.

G.S.O. Staff Opening: Applications being sought for a new GSO Staff member. Anyone interested should submit a Resume by November 15th. Please contact your Delegate or staffcoord@aa.org for an Application.

The Board approved the recommendation to apply for trademark and copyright registration for the "Blue People" logo.



Contribution Financial Summary for Area 29:

The Quarterly Contribution Report listing contributions to GSO from Area 29 through June 30, 2016 were sent to DCMs. These should be provided to GSRs to share with their group, giving them an opportunity to be sure their group contributions are recorded and discuss the spiritual and financial importance of the 7th Tradition. Area 29 Group contributions as of June 30, 2016 were \$45,352. Only 30% of groups contributed to GSO thus far in 2016, as compared to 31.3% for the same period in 2015. Of the 840 active groups listed, only 302 groups contributed to AA as a whole between Jan and June, 2016.

Reminder....we can make **Recurring Contributions** to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous through the A.A. Contributions Online system at aa.org.

67th General Service Conference:

The 67th General Service Conference will be held April 22-29, 2017 in Rye Brook, NY. The Conference Theme is "Supporting Our Future".

"Young People and AA" pamphlet: The trustees' literature committee is seeking current sharing from young people in A.A. which will be forwarded to the 67th GSC Literature Committee. Stories should reflect in a general way a person's recovery story. The deadline for submission is December 30, 2016. I am more than happy to assist with drafting and/or editing.

Regional Forums

September 30-October 2, 2016
December 2-4, 2016
June 2-4, 2017

Pacific (Winnipeg)
Southeast (Orlando, FL)
Northeast (Mars, PA)



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

Grapevine Web Report: Web Traffic is averaging 40,000 unique visitors and 194,000+ page views per month.

Support our Grapevine: Another way to support the GV is the "Grow Your Grapevine" initiative. Go to aagrapevine.org for more information. I have requested a progress report on this initiative from the GV Trustee, and he will provide updated information following this weekends' GV Board meeting.

New GV Literature: A new GV book entitled "The Twelve Traditions" is now available for \$10.99. It is a collection of stories from AAGV members regarding the core principles of the Twelve Traditions.

GV Financial Report: June YTD Sales are ahead of projections. Print and digital subscriptions projected to decline yet remain in budget range for now. Grapevine realized net income of \$245,204 in comparison to a budgeted net loss of \$14,615 (\$259,819 ahead of budget).

Northeast Region News:

Area 59/Eastern PA: 59th Annual Conv & Assembly, November 4-6th in Gettysburg, PA (area59aa.org).

NERAASA 2017: Feb.24-26th in Framingham, Mass. ~ Registration Flyers are available today and have been mailed to everyone on their mailing list. NERAASA is an opportunity to learn how to perform service and committee work at all levels in A.A. and connect with other trusted servants in the Northeast Region.

Northeast Regional Forum (NERF): June 2- 4, 2017, in Mars, PA. A Forum is an opportunity for AA members to meet and talk with Trustee, Directors, GSO, and Grapevine staffs.

WAGSA/Area13: Gratitude Breakfast, November 20th in Hyattsville, MD.

Around Area 29:

Area Inventory: On October 15th, we have an opportunity and responsibility to participate in the Area 29 Inventory. The Goal is to ensure the health and welfare of the Fellowship, Committee work, Officers, services and overall general well-being of our Area. You are all vital to the process. Let **YOUR** voice be heard on what “is” or “is not” working and be a part of developing solutions to most effectively carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, both today and into the future.

MGS Fall Convention: Register today for the Fall Convention to be held October 21-23, 2016 at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Hunt Valley.

ICYPAA Bid Committee: A letter was drafted from Area 29 to provide our support for their efforts to bring the ICYPAA Convention to Maryland.

Delegate Comments:

Thank you to the Finance and Website committees for their amazing work setting up the Online Contributions on our Area 29 Website.

Thank you to all the Districts and Intergroups who have so warmly welcomed my Delegate visits to provide the two-way communication link between the Conference and the Fellowship in Area 29.

Serving the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is, as always, a pleasure, an honor and a privilege. Feel free to contact me at any time. The Conference Report Back and monthly Delegate Reports are available on the MGS website at marylandaa.org.



In Love and Service,

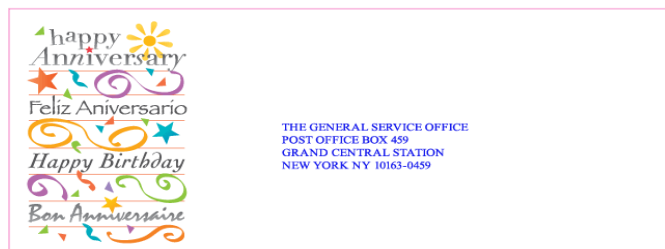
**Linda J., Delegate
Panel 66 Area 29**

~ Gratitude Month Challenge ~

I personally challenge each member in Area 29 to participate in the Gratitude Month initiative. While November is often thought of as Gratitude Month, it will take time to communicate the challenge to all group members across the Area. Pick up “Birthday Plan Envelopes” on the back table. Please take as many as you need and pass them along so everyone has an opportunity to participate in supporting the Fellowship that saved our lives. Perhaps this is one of the ways we could be part of the solution to help “catch up” on the current shortfall between costs of services and contributions to facilitate 12th step work.

Some ideas on using the Birthday Plan envelopes are:

- (1) a penny for every day sober;
 - (2) a dollar for every year sober;
 - (3) \$\$ in the envelope rather than a planned gift to a Sponsor or Sponsee;
 - (4) pass an envelope at your Home Group, and the list goes on.
- You can use the envelope to make a contribution or contribute on line at aa.org



Delegate Travel Log...

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
9/24	CARC 2	Lothian
9/25	H.A.I.G.	Hagerstown
9/26	I.G.L.C.	Conf Call
9/28	WCIG Inventory	Frederick
10/1	District 10	Parkville
10/4	District 32	Ocean City
10/4	O.C.I.G.	Ocean City
10/10	B.I.G.C.	Baltimore
10/11	District 36	Hollywood
10/12	District 30	Baltimore
10/13	District 7	Columbia
10/15	Area Inventory	Severna Park
10/21 - 10/23	Fall Convention	Hunt Valley
11/2	District 11	Northeast
11/4 - 11/6	Area 59 Convention	Gettysburg
11/8	N.E.I.G.(?)	Aberdeen
11/10	District 4	Towson
11/12	D 9--Workshop	Westminster
11/18	W.M.I.G.	Oakland
11/19	Area Committee	Smithsburg
11/20	Area 13 Gratitude Breakfast	Hyattsville
12/3	Area Assembly	Severna Park
12/3	S.E.R.F.	Orlando
12/10	S.M.I.A.	Prince Frederick