



Delegate Report – Area Assembly, December 3, 2016

Panel 66, Area 29

Maryland General Service, Inc.

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

This is the last Area Assembly for 2016. Observing so many groups, districts, and intergroups across Area 29 utilizing the Conference Theme this year for open discussions, workshops, and general sharing has been gratifying.

I am delighted that this year, over 600 members attended the Delegate Report Back visits and had an opportunity to walk through the Final Conference Report together. There are a few copies available today along with the Index developed to assist in navigating to an item of particular interest in six different categories.

A Few Highlights From the Bottom of the Service Triangle

General Service Board News:

Terry Bedient (Class A) current Chairman of the General Service Board sent a personal letter to members expressing gratitude from the GSB of Alcoholics Anonymous for our participation in the Seventh Tradition contributions made in the spirit of love and service.

Michele Grinberg, JD (Class A) was elected to serve as chairperson of the General Service Board following the 67th General Service Conference in 2017.

A.A. World Service, Inc. News:

Corrections: “A New Freedom” video is available for purchase with nearly 470,000 online views since July in all three languages. The 1st Nat’l Corrections Conference to be held in Eastern Missouri in November, 2017.

Public Information: (1)One year tracking for PSA “Doors” shows it was aired in the US and Canada over 80,000 times, with 588 million audience impressions. (2) Planning is under way for the 2017 AA Membership Survey to be conducted by Areas on a random basis. More to follow.

Literature: LAST CALL!! The trustees’ literature committee is seeking stories from young people in AA. The deadline for submission is December 30, 2016.

Technology/Communication: The committee is proceeding with a complete redesign of the AA website, reviewed progress on service material about safety in AA, and approved Guidelines for posting Conference approved PSAs on AA websites.

Seeking Two Appointed Committee Members (ACM):

The trustees committees on CPC and PI are currently seeking qualified applicants to serve as non-trustee Appointed Committee Members. Please contact me for more information. Deadline for resumes: March, 2017.

A.A.W.S. Finance Summary:

AAWS Online Store: Total web sales for September 2016 were \$701,595, which accounts for about 58% of total sales for the fellowship.

Digital books: Total eBook gross sales for nine months ending September 2016 stand at \$168,007, with 42,937 units distributed.

Financials (unaudited) through September 2016:

Revenues were approximately \$772,000 (6.75%) greater than budgeted, and total operating expenses were \$690,000 under budget. For the nine month period, contributions were approximately \$620,000 (12.8%) greater than budgeted. Net profit for the period was \$800,145 as compared with a budgeted loss of \$662,000.

With respect to the nearly 13% increase (\$620,000) in 7th Tradition self-support contributions, nearly \$400,000 was due to 1,250 more groups contributing in 2016 than in 2015. The average amount contributed by groups was essentially flat at about \$200 per group. There was also a 12% increase in individual member as well as special contributions.



A large portion of the increase from individual members was due to the much greater utilization of the **Recurring Online Contributions** system. A huge **Thank You** to all those in Area 29 who have thus far “clicked on the basket” in the upper right hand corner at aa.org and made a recurring contribution.

General Service Office:

GSO Staffing Updates: Mary Clare L. retired as G.S.O. staff on November 28, 2016. Albin Z. joined G.S.O. staff on October 28th as Director of Administration and Services.

Literature Gift Set: New gift set available for \$30.00 (a \$43 value) which includes the commemorative edition of the “AA Big Book”, “Pass It On”, “Dr. Bob & the Good Old Timers”, and “AA Comes of Age”. (available from 10/1-1/31/17)

Quarterly Area Contributions to GSO: The quarterly report has been requested by your Delegate and will be forwarded along to DCMs as soon as it is made available.

**67th General Service Conference Theme:
“Supporting Our Future”**

The 67th General Service Conference will be held April 22-29th in Rye, New York. Serving as Delegate Chair of the Conference Finance Committee, I will attend the General Service Board weekend meeting in New York City from January 27-30, 2017.

The Conference Agenda items will likely cover such topics as safety in AA, CPC pamphlets, updates on LinkedIn and Twitter implementation as platforms which AA information can be brought to professionals who come in contact with alcoholics.



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News:

FREE SHIPPING on all Grapevine orders through December 31st. Order online today at aagrapevine.org.

Grapevine Financial Report: For the period ended September, 2016, A.A. Grapevine is operating ahead of projections. Combined average circulation (Print, Online and the new App) for the first nine months of 2016 was 77,900, compared with the budget of 75,500 copies. Magazine income was \$12,751 greater than budgeted with direct costs \$49,655 less than budgeted.



Around Area 29:

**Where are “WE” in the
Year Round Conference Process?**

Three of the four CARCs reconvened and generated several potential Agenda items. They were vetted at the Area Committee and will be discussed and voted on today at the Area Assembly. All Motions passing at the Assembly level will be submitted by the Delegate, with background information, to the Conference Coordinator by December 15th for possible inclusion on the 2017 General Service Conference Agenda.

Today during lunch, the year round Conference process will continue as the Alt. Delegate and I meet with the CARC Leaders and Recorders to begin the planning for the 67th General Service Conference Delegate preparation.

Stay tuned to learn how YOU can participate in communicating to your Home Group what’s going on in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

~ Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events ~

DCM/Alts, Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs: Leadership Training with your Delegate & Area Chair, January 21st, 9:00-12:00pm.

Area 29 Job Fair: January 21st, 1:00-3:00 pM (both being held at Severna Park UMC) see flyer on website.

NERAASA 2017 ~ Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly: Feb 24-25th in Framingham, Mass. ~ Purple flyers available today. NERAASA is an opportunity to learn how to perform service and committee work at all levels in A.A. as well as connect with other trusted servants in the Northeast Region.

NERF 2017 ~ Northeast Regional Forum: June 2-4th in Mars, PA ~ A Forum is a moveable feast; our best opportunity for face to face sharing with Trustees and GSO/GV staff!

Delegate's 2016 Reflections and Thank You's:

- 1) Thank you to all who participated in the Gratitude Month Challenge -- whether you contributed or passed along Birthday Plan Envelopes, it made a big difference. The Seventh Tradition and self-support are much more than just contributing money. It's also about being a part of the Fellowship in Motion.
- 2) Thank you to all the Districts, Groups, and Intergroups who have so warmly welcomed my Delegate visits to provide the two-way communication "link" between the Conference and the Fellowship in the Area. What a special and unique privilege that has been for me.
- 3) As I stated on behalf of Area 29 at the General Service Conference, "Our goal in Area 29 is ongoing communication to attract and keep A.A. members active in the Legacy of Service, both in our districts and the Area, in order to promote a more informed group conscience". (p 62 of 2016 Final Conference Report)

In an attempt to meet that goal, I travelled nearly 7,000 miles in 2016 across this vast state. By the end of this year, I will have visited all of the active districts and intergroups in Area 29. I have attended CARCs, a variety of groups, and committee meetings to better prepare myself to represent the conscience of the Area at the Conference. I even have a new Sponsee who has agreed to be my Spanish interpreter. What a privilege!!

What's the "Action Plan" 2017:

- 1) Travelling around the Area this year, I heard loud and clear from so many DCMs and Alternates the need to learn how to better serve their Districts and G.S.Rs. These questions will be addressed at the **Leadership Training on January 21st**. Please mark your calendar to attend. My main goal of the training is for each of you to become more comfortable and effective in your District and Area service. In Bill's essay on "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need", he states that good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service."
- 2) I will continue travelling across Area 29 to update folks on what is going on in A.A. as a whole, and how to stay involved in this ongoing, year round Conference process.

As always, it is my honor and privilege to serve as your Area Delegate. Please contact me anytime at (443)875-2723 or by email at delegate@marylandaa.org.

In Love and Service,

**Linda J., Delegate
Panel 66, Area 29 ~ Maryland
Chair, Conf Finance Committee**



*In This
Holiday Season
Of Gratitude
and Spiritual Renewal,
We Wish You & Your Family
Peace and Serenity
in the Coming Year.*



Linda and Morgan