



## Delegate Report – Area Committee, February 18, 2017 Panel 66, Area 29 Maryland General Service, Inc.

### 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Theme: “Supporting Our Future”

#### Conference Presentation & Discussion Topics:

- a) Growth:
  1. Diversity -- Outreach and Attraction
  2. Safety – An Important Consideration
  3. Communication – Today and Tomorrow
- b) Participation:
  1. Fellowship vs. Membership
  2. Leadership: “I am Responsible...”
  3. Is Your Voice Heard?
- c) Contributions:
  1. Spirituality and Money
  2. Fully Self-Supporting Our Obligations
  3. Apathy and Power of the Purse

The Conference Theme, Presentation & Discussion topics are excellent sources for use in leading meetings at the Group level, as well as Workshop topics at the District and Area level.

### A Few Highlights From the Bottom of the Service Triangle

#### **GSB and AAWS Finances**

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. March 1, 2017 is the deadline for resumes. Contact me for more information.

Expression of Gratitude from GSB: A thank you letter went out from the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous “expressing their gratitude for your willingness to participate in the Seventh Tradition. Without the support of members like you, the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous might not reach the suffering alcoholic around the world – or around the block. Yet, your contributions – of time, money, and service – allow the General Service Board and the General Service Office to provide a wide range of services both for alcoholics who are still suffering

and those who are trying to reach them with our message of hope and recovery.” I also heard this message of thanks echoed from all the Trustees during Board weekend.

Financials (unaudited) through 12/31/16: The unaudited financial health of our operating corporations has improved dramatically. AAWS reported a profit of approximately \$1.4 million, against a budgeted loss of \$290,000 largely due to the fellowship answering the call for increased contributions to cover the services that we are requesting. With respect to the nearly 13% increase (\$620,000) in 7<sup>th</sup> 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 and special contributions. A large portion of the increase from individual members was due to the much greater utilization of the **Recurring Online Contributions** system. It is also noteworthy, that GSO has streamlined operations and cut expenses dramatically.

2017 Budget: The A.A.W.S. Finance Committee approved the budget for 2017, which reflects gross sales of \$3,750,000 and a bottom line profit of \$397,798.

Birthday Plan envelopes were a huge success last year. Thank You for helping me saturate Area 29 with Birthday Plan envelopes and explaining to members their use.

2020 International Convention: The 2020 IC will be in Detroit, Michigan and the Theme is: “Love and Tolerance is Our Code”. The General Service Board voted unanimously against selling drunk junk during the IC as it was bordering on affiliation. American Sign Language (ASL) videos will be made available for all ASL presentations during the Convention.

#### **General Service Office**

- Hope PSA due on aa.org website soon.
- Big Book translated into 69 languages; 21 Big Book pending translations (14 new; 7 revisions).

- Audio books are a priority as online platform through apps.
- New service piece posted at aa.org on 1/27/17 entitled "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare" in response to discussions in 2016 and submission of a potential agenda item for the 2017 Conference.
- The Support Services group at our G.S.O. provided tours to 2,500 visitors in 2016. The Group Services assignment is updating the Service Material and A.A. Guidelines. The revised Accessibilities Service Kit will be available this month.
- The Publishing Department will proceed with the audio books program via a three-stage plan. This will include "Alcoholics Anonymous", "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions", and "Living Sober" and be produced in English, French and Spanish.

#### Staff changes:

- Don Meurer, Treasurer & CFO is retiring on 2/28/17 after 36 years of service to A.A. He will be missed as a long time resource. Don, myself, and Bob S., Finance Director, met during Board weekend to review process for the upcoming General Service Conference Finance Committee meetings.



### **AA Grapevine, Inc. News**

Grapevine Financial Report: AA Grapevine realized a profit of \$144,000 for 2016 in comparison to a budgeted loss of (\$146,000). For the first time in years, there was an increase of approx. 2,100 subscriptions. AA Grapevine has an estimated budgeted loss of \$113,000 for 2017. There will be a \$.50 increase in GV book prices effective March 1, 2017. Organization wide support continues to be vital for continued GV printing.

The AAGV website and online stores are going to be updated in 2017.

New Grapevine Initiative: 4 Seasons of Service beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Stay tuned for more details.

### **Board Weekend**

The Delegate chairs of Conference Committees are invited to Board Weekend each January to gain experience in the committee process. This is a learning experience, not an information gathering trip.

- I was beyond grateful to attend as the Delegate Chair of the Conference Finance Committee. "Witnessing in the process" that I have been "trusting in" for years had a profound influence on my perspective.
- I learned a lot about working toward consensus in committee meetings, how to more succinctly present salient information, and how the minority often conforms to the group conscience for the good of A.A.
- Trusting the Committee Process makes trustees' committees very efficient. "Trust" is implicit. Power in A.A. truly flows from the Groups down. I heard over and over in the trustees' committees "what does the Group need or think".
- In response to Delegates' request at the General Service Board Finance Committee meeting, I am spearheading an initiative among the 93 Delegates in the U.S. and Canada to assist the GSO Treasurer in providing a more succinct and user-friendly financial report template to facilitate the fellowship-wide financial message is similar.

### **67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference:**

Preparations for the 67th General Service Conference (G.S.C.) in Rye Town, NY are in full gear. The Final Agenda and 1,277 pages of background material were uploaded on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> to the Delegate dashboard. Background information is only being transmitted electronically to Delegates in the US and Canada. This is the first year of this new process.

I received my G.S.C. Communications Kit at the end of December 2016. All forms have been completed as requested and forwarded to the Conference Coordinator.

As Conference Finance Committee Chair, I have maintained communication with the committee and provided information sent to me by the GSO Treasurer.

A check from Area 29 in the amount of \$3,000, as budgeted, was sent to the Conference Coordinator by the Area Treasurer on January 12, 2017. These funds help defray the expenses associated with sending the Delegate to the G.S.C.

Thank you to the Past Delegates who assisted on the Modified Agenda selection committee this year. It was an enormous undertaking to review and complete in 24 hours! Also, thank you to Morgan J. for the tremendous assistance in preparing CDs and/or thumb drives for each of the four CARCs, DCMs, Area Officers, service committee chairs, and Past Delegates. These are all available later today. Any member may request a CD of the modified or full background material.

You will note that the three Finance Agenda Items proposed by the CARCs and approved by the Assembly were accepted for inclusion on the Final Agenda. The Trustees' asked that I express their appreciation for the succinct and thorough background information submitted with the potential agenda items.

### North East Region

*Mark Your Calendars to Attend the Upcoming Events*

**NERAASA 2017** ~ Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly: Feb 24-26<sup>th</sup> in Framingham, Mass. Purple flyers are available today or you can register online at [www.neraasa2017.org](http://www.neraasa2017.org).

**NERF 2017** ~ Northeast Regional Forum: June 2-4th! The location is the Crowne Plaza Cromwell Hotel, Mars, PA. Register online at: <http://www.aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=106>. A Forum is a moveable feast; our best opportunity for face to face sharing with our Trustees and GSO/GV staff.

### Timely Topics in and around Area 29

- Our Alt. Delegate, David R., will guide us through the next step for the Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) process today during the Area Committee. Dates are set for all 4 CARCs so stay tuned for more information on letting your voice be heard on important topics in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Rotation is a spiritual principle: It is never too early to be proactive! We never plan our next service jobs, but we always need to be working to cultivate our future replacements! *Serve with intentionality and vision.* Make plans, document, and leave a legacy behind for the next trusted servant in your service position.

- Bill really reduced this whole program to two words - - "**Be Useful**". Why wait for a diagnosis of terminal cancer to live each day to the fullest - - let's start today!!!
- Your Area 29 Officers are participating in monthly conference calls to discuss goals and plans. We are here to mentor and advise your districts and committees. We believe the districts, committees and Area as a whole will be better-served by increased communication and participation.

### Area Delegate "**Action Plan**" for 2017!!

- Continue DCM trainings, both at the District and Area levels. We are here to assist with growing leaders in Area 29.
- Pre-Conference Sharing Sessions on important topics such as: Anonymity, Safety in A.A., and Self-Support.
- Continue the momentum travelling across Area 29 to keep folks updated on how to stay involved in the year round Conference process.
- Reigniting the Spirit of less active Districts by providing necessary support and engaging adjoining Districts.

My goals are clear and built on the momentum we created as a Team in 2016!! I commit to continue this momentum in 2017 to help support the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. How about you... are you on board??

Our Area Committee isn't a great group because of what we are doing here today; it's because of the work we do **between** our Area meetings.

Keep me posted on upcoming events, and let me know how I can best serve you. Contact me anytime at [delegate@marylandaa.org](mailto:delegate@marylandaa.org)..

**Yours in Service,**

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



### Delegate's 2017 Calendar....

February 23-26	N.E.R.A.A.S.A.	Framingham, MA
March 4	CARC 1	TBD
March 4	District 22 Movie Night	Annapolis
March 5	CARC 4	Frederick
March 10-12	NERD ~ Northeast Regional Delegates Conference	Greenwich, CT
March 18	Area 29 Assembly	Severna Park
March 19	CARC 3	Aberdeen
March 25	CARC 2	Bowie
March 26	CARC 4	Frederick
April 1	GSR School	Frederick
April 7	Dinner & Host N.E.R.T., Rich P.	Annapolis
April 8	Area 29 Mini-Conference	Severna Park
April 22-29	67 <sup>th</sup> General Service Conference	Rye Town, NY
May 16	Conduct A.A.I.G. Inventory	Annapolis
May 20	Delegate Report Back from General Service Conference	Severna Park

### 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Theme: "Supporting Our Future"

I love to go to Bill's writings for direction. In "The Language of the Heart" from his essay, AA Tomorrow written in July 1960, he says, "Now comes the question: Where do we go from here and what is our responsibility for today and for tomorrow?? Clearly our first duty to AA'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 by the wide acclaim and success that is everywhere ours. This is the subtle temptation which could stagnate us today, perchance disintegrate us tomorrow. We have always rallied to meet and transcend failure and crisis. Problems have been our stimulants. Will we continue to search out the ever present flaws and gaps in our communications? With enough imagination, courage, and dedication, will we resolutely address ourselves to those many tasks of repair and improvement which even now the future is calling upon us to undertake? Still clearer vision and an ever mounting sense of responsibility can be the only answers to these questions. We shall not sit around waiting for the next suffering alcoholic. We know that we are going to open, wider and wider, every conceivable means and channel through which these kinsfolk of ours may be reached." Now today, nearly 57 years later, isn't it amazing how spot on Bill's forward thinking was at that time??