



# Delegate Report – Area Committee, July 15, 2017

## Panel 66, Area 29 Maryland General Service, Inc.

### “SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE”

**The Area Committee:** “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. An active area committee deals with all kinds of service concerns” ...from apathy among trusted servants; area experience being shared among the groups; carrying the message to jails and institutions; news media & professionals; anonymity; communication breakdowns; and the list goes on. (Chapter Five of the A.A. Service Manual)

**Area’s Service Sponsor:** The General Service Conference (GSC) is the Area’s role model or Service Sponsor. Page S60 of the A.A. Service Manual states “without committees, it is doubtful that any Conference would be able to function effectively. The principle work of the Conference is accomplished at the committee level. It was awe inspiring to see how much eight virtual strangers on a committee could accomplish in a minimal time frame when brought together for a common cause.

The Ninth Tradition charges us to be “...directly responsible to those we serve”. Area 29’s structure emulates the GSC, thus our Committees and Districts could easily imitate the GSC process with a result of increased communication. Greater communication yields greater participation. Committees (whether districts or area committees) are essential groups of folks with like interests pursuing similar causes in A.A. toward a common goal of communication through the structure. *WE*, collectively serve as Panel 66 in Area 29.

It is important for the Area Committee to assess the Legacy of Panel 66 as a Team. It is not too late to make adjustments in our course and get back on track. An active District or Committee isn’t great because of the work that is done during Area meetings, it is great because of the work done *between* our Area meetings.

#### Questions Area Committee Members Might Pause and Ask:

- (1) Do we ensure communication up and down the service triangle?
- (2) Is there clear and on-going communication, connectivity and planned initiatives?
- (3) Does the structure encourage each individual in the Fellowship to feel and act as a member of a ‘society of alcoholics in action’?
- (4) Are the services we are providing the ones the Fellowship wants? If not, how can each District and Committee improve and better serve those in Area 29? How do we meet our future needs?
- (5) What are the ever present flaws and gaps in our communications, both at the Area Committee and between the Districts and Committees of the Area?
- (6) Are we following the direction on God’s compass?

In 1960, Bill W. wrote a GV article entitled “A.A. Tomorrow”. Although written 57 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 ... rather, seek out the ever present flaws and gaps in our communication. It is VITAL in order to prepare a place for the alcoholic who hasn’t been born.

#### From the Bottom of the Service Triangle G.S.B., A.A.W.S. and G.S.O.

- G.S.O.’s Website Redesign committee has initiated the redesign process of aa.org.
- Research on developing a new A.A.W.S. app is underway.
- An inmate wrote to G.S.O. on behalf of a blind inmate and the Corrections Desk was allowed to send books on CD.
- P.I. has completed A.A.’s annual mailing to the media.
- A.A.W.S. will donate 5,000 unsold copies of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* to A.A. Grapevine.
- An ad hoc Committee on Self-Support was created.
- A.A.W.S. will purchase Grapevine gift cards totaling \$6,000 to be used by G.S.O. for 12<sup>th</sup> step work, without restriction on print versus digital medium or GV or LV subscriptions.
- CPC Desk soliciting members who may have experience to share relating to professionals in contact with veterans and/or active-duty members of the Armed Services.
- New service piece posted at aa.org on July 11th entitled “Safety Card for A.A. Groups”. I have ordered copies and will have them at the August Area Assembly for distribution. You can make a copy at aa.org under “What’s New?” web button.



#### AA Grapevine, Inc. News

**July Grapevine ~ Annual Prison Issue:** includes a special section entitled “AA in Prison ~ Living Proof” with articles by members staying sober behind the walls and those in the fellowship who do corrections service. You could write a story on “Staying Sober through Adversity” (due Aug. 5) and “Families and A.A.” (due Sept. 5).

**Carry the Message with GV:** Pass on to your groups how easy it is to give the GV magazine to an alcoholic in need. Purchase a subscription Gift Certificate at aagrapevine.org and send it to your Area Delegate. She will then forward to a local service committee.

**4 Seasons of Service:** GV campaign to solicit stories regarding members using the GV in carrying the message. The Northeast Region is in second place with 8 stories submitted. The current topic is: “GV and LV in Committee Work”. For August, September and October, the topic will be “Working With Others Using the GV or LV”.

**Opening on A.A. Grapevine Board for 2018:** Resumes due to AAGV by August 1, 2017 for Non-Trustee Director on the AAGV Board. See your Delegate or [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) for details.

**North and South East Regional News**

- **Hispanic Convention:** Sept 1-3, 2017 – Baltimore Hilton; <http://www.xlvconvencionhispanadeaausaycanada.com>

- **Central Office/Intergroup Seminar:** Oct.5-8, 2017 – Herndon, VA, Hyatt Regency Hotel

- **NERAASA 2018:** Feb 23-25, 2018 – Area 11 Cromwell, CT

**Timely Topics in and around Area 29**

- The 1st Quarter 2017 Area Contribution Reports from G.S.O. were recently sent to all DCM/Alts. Total Group Contributions were \$23,990 from 19.8% of the 986 groups currently listed with Fellowship New Vision (FNV) in Area 29, which is slightly higher than the same period last year. FNV has 827 active and 159 inactive groups listed in Area 29. Share these reports with your GSRs. It will give them a great opportunity to explain to their Home Group why the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is so important in A.A. as a whole. Bob S., Finance Director at G.S.O. advised me that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Reports will be out next week, and I will forward them along the service structure when received.

- CARCs 3 and 4 recently reconvened to review the results from the 67<sup>th</sup> GSC. In addition, they had discussions on potential Agenda items for the 2018 GSC as well as possible projects for Area 29. Thank you all for your time and commitment to the year round Conference process to prepare your Delegate. CARC 2 will meet August 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Rotation is a treasured A.A. 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.

**Area Delegate “Action Plan”**

- Continue the momentum travelling across Area 29 to keep folks updated on how to stay involved in the year round

Conference process. Report Back visits have been scheduled in all active Districts and Intergroups.

- Since the May Report Back Assembly, I have visited and provided a brief report back from Conference to 12 District and 2 Intergroup meetings, as well as the Maryland State Convention. In addition, I have participated in several Workshops and had the honor of making a financial presentation at the North East Regional Forum.
- Continue to solicit sharing from other Conference Delegates and G.S.O. on a variety of topics as requested by the Fellowship and report back.
- Schedule a DCM training, following elections to assist new trusted servants with tools for working in their Districts.
- Assist with upcoming District Elections when requested.
- In the works: Stay Tuned for a Delegate Monthly electronic Newsletter to keep members updated in real time on what’s going on in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Contact me anytime, by phone or email, to let me know how I can best serve you. Please also keep me posted on upcoming events around the Area.

**In Love and Service,**

**Linda J., Delegate  
Panel 66, Area 29  
[delegate@marylandaa.org](mailto:delegate@marylandaa.org)**



**Delegate’s 2017 Calendar through September...**

7/15	Area Committee	Eldersburg
7/19	District 28	Belair
7/22	District 35 Workshop	Waldorf
7/29	District 19	Baltimore
8/1	District 31	Severna Park
8/2	District 41	New Market
8/5	District 33	Cockeysville
8/8	N.E. Md Intergroup	Aberdeen
8/9	Midshore Intergroup	Easton
8/10	District 4	Towson
8/12	Area Assembly	Severna Park
8/13	District 39	Dundalk
8/15	CARC 2	Owensville
8/18	WMIG & District 17	Oakland (?)
8/19	District 40	Frederick
9/1-9/3	Hispanic Convention	Baltimore
9/5	District 32	Ocean City
9/5	Ocean City Intergroup	Ocean City
9/14	Lower Shore Intergroup	Salisbury
9/19	District 9	Westminster
9/23	Area Committee	St. Mary’s
9/24	Hagerstown Intergroup	Hagerstown
9/27	West Central Intergroup	Frederick