



Delegate’s Report – August 22, 2009

AA World Service, Inc. News

The A.A.W.S. Board met on July 30, 2009 and approved the cancellation action to remove the Fourth Edition Big Book from the **Kindle** web site. The contract takes thirty calendar days to remove and action was requested sooner if possible. The reasons for cancellation are as follows:

1. The contract did not allow (A.A.W.S.) to have control over consistent pricing of our product.
2. The advertising surrounding the completion of a purchase gave the impression that we were affiliated with other titles and authors, advertisements and referrals.
3. The functionality built into the Kindle website did not allow for any adjustments to meet our requirements.

It was noted that A.A.W.S. is taking no further action at this time.

Over one hundred applications were received for the **A.A. Staff position**. An ad-hoc committee performed the initial screening and final candidates will be interviewed the first weeks of August with A.A. Staff participating in the process.

The summer issue of **“Markings”** was the first electronic-only version of our newsletter. As of July 2009, there were 2,454 subscribers. This will result in a huge savings as the approximate cost to produce and distribute Markings in hard copy annually is \$20,000.00.

Work continues on developing the **Online Contributions** project. A.A.W.S. Directors were given a preliminary demonstration at their meeting. As work progresses, they will have another demonstration at their September meeting with future demonstrations of the project planned for the full General Service Board and 2010 Conference.

A.A.W.S. Finance Summary:

	<u>2009</u> <u>(through June)</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>(same period)</u>
Net sales:	\$8,410,300	\$6,487,000
Gross profit from literature:	\$5,099,410	\$3,682,983
Contributions:	\$2,883,440	\$3,086,704
Total revenue (gross profit from literature plus contributions):	\$7,983,534	\$6,774,027
Net income:	\$1,313,209	\$43,456

Book Distribution:

	<u>2009</u> <u>(through June)</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>(same period)</u>
Total distribution of all books:	1,495,764	1,089,218
	(large purchases were made prior to the July 1 price increase)	
Gross sales:	\$4,088,007	\$2,120,073
Total A.A. purchases:	72%	
Total non-A.A. purchases:	28% (accounted for by a very large Hazelden order)	

2nd Quarterly Contributions Statement

We received the 2nd Quarterly Contributions Report for Area 29 from our General Service Office. The percentage of groups in Area 29 contributing to G.S.O. for the six months ending June 30, 2009 is 28.75%, down from 28.95% for the same period last year. Copies are available today for each D.C.M. to carry back to their Districts.

Corrections Activity Update

In the first six months of 2009, 414 male inmates and 200 female inmates were linked to an outside volunteer. A Corrections Activity update was mailed to Correctional Facilities, H & I, and Bridging the Gap Chairs from Gayle S.R., Corrections coordinator at our General Service Office, prior to her rotation to another assignment at G.S.O. in July.

Gayle reports that in September of this year when the A.A. Guidelines are reprinted, the A.A. Guidelines on Corrections will have an entire section that has been changed. The left side of the second page which is currently called “Sponsorship” will be changed to a new section called “PRERELEASE/BRIDGING THE GAP/TEMPORARY CONTACTS/ETC” to reflect more accurately how inmates are linked up with A.A. members on the outside to help them to transition from A.A. on the inside to A.A. in the outside community.

Gayle also reports that in July, G.S.O. was in the enviable position of having *no* English speaking inmates on their waiting list for the Corrections Correspondence service. However, every week brings in new requests from inmates for someone to write about their experience with alcohol and recovery through the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.



Gayle reports she does have about two dozen Spanish speaking male inmates on the waiting list since every member of a Spanish speaking A.A. meeting in a California prison wrote in at once for correspondents. Please contact corrections@aa.org for more information.

Organizational Changes at G.S.O.

Phyllis H., General Manager at our General Service Office reports that as of Monday, August 10, 2009, Chris C. and the General Service Office ended a relationship of more than six years in an amicable fashion. Valerie O'N. has been appointed Publications Director effective Monday, August 17, 2009.

Valerie has been with G.S.O. since September 1990 working in a number of staff assignments with her most recent, International. She brings to the position solid management, budgeting and film production experience from her "pre - G.S.O." life, as well as her experience and knowledge from her years working on the staff.

AA Grapevine, Inc. News



The A.A. Grapevine reports hearing from several hundred readers who love the color and the fact that the magazine is staple-free. An overwhelming majority said they missed seeing the A.A. Preamble at the front of the magazine and having the Steps and Traditions easy to find. In the August issue, the Preamble was returned to a prominent place at the beginning of the magazine and the Steps and Traditions are on the inside back cover. The Preamble and Declaration of Unity are also on the subscription cards so they can be torn out and carried in your wallet.

The **2010 wall calendar** and **pocket planner** are available in English, Spanish and French. The calendar is anonymity protected and can be hung anywhere or given as a gift.

The Grapevine welcomes your articles on every aspect of recovery, but especially need stories on Steps, Traditions and the Home Group and this upcoming special section:

- **Dealing with Adversity: Financial Insecurity**
Submission deadline: October 20

To submit your articles, visit www.aagrapevine.org for writer's guidelines.

Grapevine Statistics – end of June, 2009

Average monthly circulation: 104,571 (103,211 print, 1,360 audio), down from last year

Grapevine subs. in **Maryland** in March 2009: 1,315

in March 2008: 1,456

down 141, or 9.68%

Average monthly web site visits: 43,000

YTD book distribution: 62,039 books, CD's, and other items, up 13.5% over last year (owing to interest in two new items, *Beginner's Book* and *Voices of Long Term Sobriety*)

La Vina Statistics – end of June, 2009

Average monthly circulation: 9,620, down 1,022 from last year

YTD book distribution: 2,833 books, CD's, and other items

A.A. Grapevine Financial Report – end of June, 2009

Total income: \$920,835 (\$100,539 ahead of budget)

Total expenses: \$947,973 (\$35,351 below budget)

La Vina Financial: Report – end of June, 2009

Magazine income: \$46,877 (\$880 under budget)

Direct costs: \$34,015 (\$3,294 under budget)

Gross profit on magazine: \$12,862 (\$2,404 ahead of budget)

Other publishing income: \$14,137 (\$867 behind budget)

Gross profit on related items: \$11,162 (\$23 ahead of budget)

Net loss for the year: \$22,124 (ahead of budgeted loss of \$52,380 by \$30,256)

Cost and expenses: \$46,148 (\$27,828 below budget)

General Service Board News

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous met on August 1 – 3, 2009. Highlights of the A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Corporate Reports are included in this delegate's report.

Reports were presented by the trustee's Committees, and approved by the trustees.

A General Sharing Session was held on "Full Face Videos." Conley B., Southwest Regional trustee, opened the sharing session. The first presenter, Vic P., Western Canada Regional trustee shared on "Full Face Videos: Does Our Practice Match Our Principles." The second presenter, Dorothy H., General Service trustee and Grapevine Corporate Board Chair shared on "Full Face Videos: Is Anonymity Still Relevant Today?" In the subsequent sharing, there was a strong sense expressed by most that the topic of using full faces of actors pretending to be A.A. members in A.A. videos should get wider Fellowship input and possibly be a topic discussed at the next General Service Conference.

In the trustee's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities report, it was reported, "The committee reviewed and discussed sharing from the Fellowship and the August 1, 2009 Board Sharing Session on the use of full faces in video projects produced by A.A. World Services Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and agreed to reflect further on this issue in preparation for creation, at their November 1, 2009 meeting, of an agenda item for the 2010 General Service Conference." The trustee's Committee on the General Service Conference agreed to table the request "to develop a policy concerning the use of full face videos in our 12th Step work" until their 2009 Fall Quarterly meeting as this is currently an agenda item on the trustee's C.P.C./Treatment Facilities Committee.

Conference Advisory Action on Finance

An Advisory Action resulting from the 59th General Service Conference was that:

"The trustee's Finance Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance:

- a) If we continue to use literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit?
- b) If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?

(The committee requests that the statement of policy "Self Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous" be distributed as background.)"

While I have not to date received a request, along with background material from the trustee's Finance Committee for input on these questions, I am passing the request on to our Fellowship to discuss in their groups and districts and bring back sharing to me at our December Area Assembly. The collected sharing will be forwarded to the Conference Coordinator at the General Service Office to pass on to the trustee's Finance Committee.



There are places I remember...

District Meetings and Intergroup Meetings

Since our last Area Committee meeting in July, I have attended the district meeting in District 1 in Prince Frederick. If I have not attended your district's meeting, please let me know where and when you meet. I will be happy to come out and visit if you wish.

Since the July Area Committee meeting, I have attended Intergroup meetings at the Annapolis Area Intergroup in Annapolis, the Hagerstown Intergroup in Hagerstown, the West Central Intergroup in Frederick, and the Western Maryland Intergroup in Frostburg.

The purpose of my Intergroup visits has been to give a brief report on the 59th General Service Conference and answer questions whenever possible.

Area 29 Regional Panels

I attended the Regional Panel 6 meeting held on July 25 at 10:00 am at Steve and Nancy K.'s home in Elkridge. The Regional Panel reviewed Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations resulting from the 59th General Service Conference, relating to the topics of Archives and Literature.

On Saturday, August 1 I attended the Regional Panel 4 meeting at "the Club" in Frederick. The Regional Panel reviewed Conference Advisory Actions and Additional

Considerations pertaining to the topics of Policy/Admissions and Grapevine.

On Sunday, August 9, I attended the Regional Panel 2 meeting held at Jeanine W.'s home in Waldorf. The Regional Panel reviewed Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations pertaining to the topics of Finance and Report & Charter.

We heard great discussion on Literature, Grapevine, self support, and our other agenda topics. Much thanks to all who attended and participated. Our participation and discussion is invaluable to me as will be to our next delegate.



I look forward to attending other meetings which have been scheduled, and as they are planned throughout 2009.

District 41 Picnic

On Saturday, July 25 I attended the 3rd Annual District 41 Picnic in Mt. Airy. There were burgers and hot dogs aplenty, good fellowship, and we heard the sharing of experience, strength and hope from Luther W. in a speaker's meeting. Thanks to D.C.M. Brian S. and the G.S.R.'s for another fantastic picnic in the rolling hills of western Maryland.

More Will Be Revealed Dept.

2010 International Convention

The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held on July 1 – 4, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels.

Rick W., 2010 International Convention Coordinator at our General Service Office reports Registration Brochures are at the printer and will be mailed from there. The registration brochures should arrive to groups and other trusted servants by September 1 at the latest. The Registration Brochure **is now posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. web site** at www.aa.org and registration will open on September 1, 2009. On September 1, G.S.O. will post a link from their web site to the online registration site.

Frequently Asked Questions about the 2010 International Convention, registration, housing, and San Antonio can be found on the G.S.O. web site at www.aa.org.



I have a limited number of copies today of the Registration Brochure and Frequently Asked Questions, as copied from the G.S.O. web site, available for anyone without Internet access.

2009 Area 29 Fall Conference



I have registered to attend the 25th Annual Area 29 Fall Conference, to be held October 29 – November 1, 2009 at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleu in Ocean City. The theme of this year's Fall Conference is, "Experience, Strength and Hope."

I am looking forward to another great Area 29 Fall Conference!



2010 NERAASA

If you *really like to plan ahead*, then registration forms are available today for the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, or NERAASA 2010. The NERAASA will be held February 26 – 28, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls, New York, and hosted by our friends in Area 50 Western New York. The theme of the NERAASA will be the theme of the 60th General Service Conference, "Practicing A.A.'s Principles – The Pathway to Unity."

Please take copies of the registration forms back to your districts and groups. ALL A.A. members are welcome and encouraged to attend the NERAASSA.

The deadline for hotel registration is January 25, 2009. for event and meal registration is January 12, 2010. Registration is available on site. I have noted that the 2010 NERAASA registration form is not posted on the www.neraasa.org web site at this time. I have found that the form is posted in pdf format on the Area 29 web site at www.marylandaa.org.

Save the Date! Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion 2010

The Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion 2010, or NERD will be held March 12 – 14, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in Albany, New York.

Save the Date! 2011 Northeast Regional Forum

The next Northeast Regional Forum, or NERF to be held on May 20 – 22, 2011 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on Cedar Lake, in Sturbridge Massachusetts.

Don't drink, go to meetings...

Please help fill up my calendar! I am available and willing to attend and support regional and area events,

your district meetings and events, committee activities, group functions, and Intergroup meetings. You can contact me at delegate@marylandaa.org.

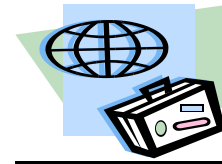
And a parting thought(s)

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for."

Long Form of Tradition Eight

Yours in Service,

**Tom R.
Panel 58 Area 29 Delegate**



Delegate's Wanderings

- Saturday, August 29 – Finance Committee budget meeting, Severna Park
- Saturday, August 29 – District 9 Picnic, Taneytown
- Saturday, September 5 – Area 29 Intergroup Liaison Committee "Soberfest 2009" Day of Sharing, Crownsville
- Saturday, September 19 – Area Committee meeting, District 36
- Saturday, September 26 – District 36 Workshop, Lexington Park
- Saturday, September 26 – District 13 (Area 12) Workshop, DE
- Sunday, September 27 – Annapolis Buffet Breakfast, Annapolis
- Sunday, October 4 – District 31 Fall Picnic, Annapolis
- Saturday, October 10 – Ocean City Intergroup Workshop, Berlin
- Saturday, October 17 – Area 29 Elections, Severna Park (District 31)
- Saturday, October 24 – Regional Panel 4 meeting, Frederick
- Thursday, October 29 to Sunday, November 1 – Area 29 Fall Conference, Ocean City
- Saturday, November 28 – District 7 4th Annual Gratitude Breakfast, TBD
- Sunday, December 6 – Annapolis Buffet Breakfast, Annapolis
- Saturday, December 12 – Area Assembly meeting, Frederick (District 40)