



## Delegate's Report – March 21, 2009

### General Service Board News & Highlights

Our Trustees of the General Service Board held their quarterly meeting on January 29 – February 1, 2009.

In summary, the trustees committees met and agreed to forward to the corresponding 2009 Conference Committees several items which have appeared on the list of Final Conference Agenda Items for the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. These items appear on the list of Agenda Items we have available today.

A General Sharing Session was held on the topic, "A.A. Unity – Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code." Our beloved Northeast Regional trustee John K. opened the sharing session, and presentations were given by West Central Regional trustee Ken B. and A.A.W.S. Director Roberta L.

My Conference Committee Chair Michalene R. from southern Indiana was in attendance at the General Service Board weekend. As the Conference Committee Co Chair, I continually pray for Michalene's health.

### A.A. World Services, Inc. News

#### 2010 International Convention

We received correspondence from Rick W. of our General Service Office, who is serving as the 2010 International Convention Coordinator. Rick reminds us that the 2010 International Convention will be held in San Antonio, Texas from July 1 – 4, 2010. Rick's letter reminds us: of the suggestion that the area/state/provincial committees be made aware that experience has shown that planning a local A.A. event such as a convention, too near the dates of an International Convention may result in a smaller attendance at the local event; this notice to be sent out annually starting three years prior to each International Convention.

Rick also requested suggestions of names for non – A.A. speakers to be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention. The 2008 General Service Conference recommended that up to 21 non – A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention at A.A.'s expense. Suggestions are due by May 15, 2009. If you have any suggestions for names of non-A.A. speakers, please send them to me along with their contact information, and I will forward them on to Rick.

### Publications

Total distribution of all books through December 2008 was 2,113,574, up .03% from the same period in 2007. Total A.A. purchases amounted to 81%, while non A.A.'s accounted for 19%. During this period, 1,111,906 Big Books were sold, compared to 1,127,310 in 2007. Actual gross sales came in at \$12,879,821 or 1.42% over budget.

### Financial

Net sales of \$12,429,952 for the year 2008 were approximately \$79,952 (.65%) more than budgeted.

Gross margin from literature was calculated as \$8,811,035, approximately \$313,035 (3.68%) over budget and \$158,133 greater than at December 31, 2007.

Contributions received of \$6,437,409 were \$237,591 (3.56%) less than budgeted and \$86,593 (1.36%) less than the total for 2007.

Resulting total revenue (gross profit from literature sales, contributions and interest earned) was \$13,391,517. Total revenue was about \$115,983 less than budgeted and \$180,533 less than in 2007.

Net loss for the year 2008 of \$304,877 compares with a budgeted profit of \$180,796 and was \$1,323,455 less than the \$1,018,578 profit reported for the year 2007.

## A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

In 2008, average monthly circulation of the Grapevine in print was 104,993; based on a reported pass-along rate of four, average monthly readership was an estimated 525,000. Average monthly circulation of the AudioGrapevine was 1,595, and average bimonthly circulation for La Viña was 10,404. The Grapevine distributed 125,097 books, CDs, and other items.

As of March 2009, all 12 issues of the Grapevine will be staple-free and in full color.

For the year ended December 31, 2008, the A.A. Grapevine Corporation realized a loss of \$94,686 in comparison to a budgeted net income \$3,204. The monthly circulation of 104,983 was 2,007 lower than budget and 1,044 lower than 2007.

Magazine income for La Vina was \$94,631 which was under budget by \$7,520. Bimonthly circulation (6 issues) averaged 10,404 for the year. Gross profit on the magazine was \$22,615 which was \$12,243 below budget and \$12,616 behind the same period in 2007.

## 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference

Doug R., Conference Coordinator at the General Service Office sent me a loving invitation to serve as a workshop moderator during the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. I graciously accepted the invitation. The workshop theme at this year's Conference is, "Language of the Heart – Keeping it Simple." The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday morning from 9:00 – 11:00 am.



## There are places I remember...

### 2009 NERAASA

On Thursday, February 19 through Sunday, February 22 I attended the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, or NERAASA in Portland, Maine. With nearly 700 in attendance, this year's NERAASA was hosted by Area 28. Area 29 was well represented, even by

Thursday evening. I had the opportunity to participate in the Delegate/Alternate Delegate roundtables on Friday and Saturday nights, and was honored to carry the Maryland state flag during the Saturday night flag ceremony. Thanks to Area 28 delegate Kathi D. and the NERAASA committee for extending a warm welcome to us.

On Saturday, we enjoyed the fellowship of a Delegate's luncheon. As a follow up to our experience with the faux crab cakes we were served in New Jersey last year, this year's luncheon was marginally better with a not-so-better than average cold cut tray. The culinary review in fact for the hotel was not extraordinary.

The 2010 NERAASA will be hosted by Area 50 Western New York, in Niagara Falls.

## District 21 Workshop

On Saturday, February 28 I attended a workshop hosted by District 21 in Delmar. The theme of the workshop was the first Three Steps. We were treated to a feast of pizza followed by a panel of speakers who shared their experience, strength and hope. Steps 1, 2 and 3 were broken down and laid out as they were written in our literature. Each presenter followed their sharing with interaction from the attendees. Thanks to District 21 and their G.S.R.s for putting on an informative workshop.

## 2009 Northeast Regional Delegate's Conference

On Friday, March 13 through Sunday, March 15 I attended the Northeast Regional Delegate's conference, or NERD in Pittsburgh, or more accurately Moon Township PA. The NERD serves as a reunion for past and current delegates, and a fellowship and sharing weekend for current first and second year delegates. I travelled to PA on Friday morning, accompanied by our alternate delegate Nancy B. We arrived at the conference's hotel at noon, in time for lunch and a leisurely afternoon awaiting the evening dinner and meeting. During the Friday and Saturday evening and Sunday morning meetings, the Panel 58 delegates shared their experience, strength and hope and service experience.

Saturday morning featured our NERD business meeting. We then piled into a charter bus and rode to Akron, Ohio to visit Dr. Bob's home. Following our visit to Dr. Bob's, we only had time for a driving tour of significant A.A. sites in Akron before returning to our hotel. I enjoyed a

succulent dinner of tender breaded chicken breast, crisp asparagus, hearty mashed potatoes, and capped off with blueberry cheesecake. Followed our evening meeting we ended the night with an ice cream social.

### **Out and About Area 29**

Since our Area Committee meeting in February, I have attended the District meeting in District 42, and the Annapolis Area Intergroup Council meeting.

I am continually updating a list of district meetings, with where and when the districts meet. Also included are the District Committee Members (DCM's) with their contact information. 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. I am always available to attend any of our Intergroup meetings as well.

### **And Things to Come...**

#### **Northeast Regional Forum**

The Northeast Regional Forum or NERF will be held June 26 – 28, 2009 in Somerset, New Jersey. Registration forms are available here today, and the form is on our Area 29 web site. Registration can also be done online on the G.S.O. web site at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

Our beloved Northeast Regional Trustee John K. extended a loving invitation to me to participate at the NERF, to either give a brief presentation or serve as a moderator. I responded indicating I would be honored to share on the topic, "The G.S.R. – Staying in touch with A.A. as a whole."

The Forum is open to all A.A. members, and is an opportunity to meet our General Service Board trustees, G.S.O. staff, Grapevine staff and directors. From the registration flyer, "Forums provide a meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic. This Forum provides unique opportunities for A.A. members throughout the Northeast Region to share their experience, strength and hope."

### **Area 29 Regional Panels, Mini Conference**

I am looking forward to attending the remaining dates for our Area 29 Regional Panels from today until our Area 29 Mini Conference on April 3 – 5. Thanks to our Regional Panel Leaders, secretaries, our Mini Conference Chair and Co Chair for their work and dedication in making this process of becoming informed possible. I am continuing to pore over the background material and listening to the discussions in our Regional Panels. Through our Regional Panels and through our Mini Conference, all of our A.A. members have the opportunity to become informed on the Conference Agenda Items for the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.

The Mini Conference proved an invaluable sharing of information, which I carried with me to the General Service Conference last year. What I experienced was an Area well informed, and I then heard many of the same thoughts and opinions from other delegates, trustees and directors at the Conference. Our process facilitates an informed group conscience.

Please pass on to our groups that the Regional Panels and Mini Conference are open to *all A.A. members*.

Our Northeast Regional trustee John K. will be attending the Area 29 Mini Conference as my guest. The Mini Conference committee has invited as you know a member of our General Service Office staff to attend, and Gail S. R. will be in attendance for the weekend.



### **Area 12 Delaware State Convention.**

I have registered to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Area 12 Delaware State Convention, to be held May 15 17, 2009 in Rehoboth Beach. I'm looking forward to a weekend with our friends to the east.

## **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 and group functions.

You can contact me by email at:  
[delegate@marylandaa.org](mailto:delegate@marylandaa.org).

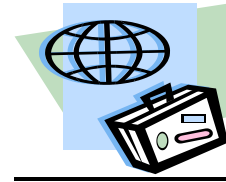
*And a parting thought(s)*

"As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Concept III

**Yours in Service,**

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



## **Delegate's Wanderings**

- Sunday, March 22 – Regional Panel 2 meeting, Tracey's Landing
- Tuesday, March 24 – Regional Panel 4 meeting, Frederick
- Wednesday, March 25 – Regional Panel 1 meeting, Salisbury
- Saturday, March 28 – Regional Panel 6 meeting, Elkridge
- Sunday, March 29 – Regional Panel 3 meeting, Kingsville
- Friday, April 3 – Sunday, April 5 – Area 29 Mini Conference, Columbia/Jessup
- Saturday, April 18 – District 42 Workshop, TBD
- Sunday, April 19 – MD State Convention committee meeting, Columbia
- Saturday, April 25 – Saturday, May 2 – General Service Conference, NY
- Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17 – Area 12 Delaware State Convention, Rehoboth Beach
- Saturday, May 23 – District 31 Workshop, TBD
- Saturday, May 30 – Area Assembly meeting, Baltimore (District 34)
- Sunday, May 31 – Annapolis Buffet Breakfast, Annapolis