



Delegate's Report – September 19, 2009

AA World Service, Inc. News

New G.S.O. Staff Members

Doug R., Staff Coordinator at our General Service Office reports two new Staff members have joined the General Service Office family. **Jim M.** began work at G.S.O. on September 1, 2009 on the Corrections Desk. Jim's past A.A. service includes serving as P.I. Chair for Area 58, HMB.

Mary S. C. will begin work on October 5, 2009 on the Cooperation with the Professional Community Desk. Mary served as a Panel 56 delegate from Area 56, Southwest Ohio.

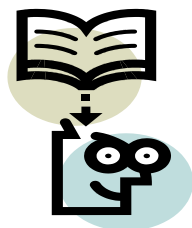
Both Jim and Mary have teaching backgrounds. Doug asks that we join the G.S.O. Staff in welcoming their "newcomers."

Request for Stories From the Fellowship

Gayle S. R., on the Treatment Facilities/Special Needs assignment at our General Service Office is **soliciting stories from members with various special needs**, for example members who are deaf, blind, wheelchair bound, etc. In follow up the Advisory action of the 59th General Service Conference, a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members is being developed.

The categories mentioned in the Advisory Action need not be limiting and stories will also be considered from A.A. members who have autism, brain damage, learning disabilities, and other challenges that we may not have even thought of. The stories should describe "In a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now." If you know of such members, please let them know of this project or work through our District Special Needs Chairs or Area 29 Special Needs Chair to reach out to members with Special Needs.

The suggested deadline for receipt of stories is **December 15, 2009**. For more information, please see our **Special Needs Chairs** or contact Gayle at tf@aa.org.



AA Grapevine, Inc. News



The A.A. Grapevine reports that a new book of cartoons and jokes from the Grapevine will be published this fall.

The Grapevine welcomes your articles on every aspect of recovery. But they 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 account of coming into A.A., or your experience, strength, and hope on one or more of the Steps and Traditions, visit www.aagrapevine.org for writer's guidelines.

The September/October issue of La Vina is dedicated to women in recovery. For future issues, **La Viña needs stories on Sponsorship and Loners in A.A.**

60th General Service Conference

Request for Conference Agenda Item from Area 29

In follow up to the Area Assembly action on August 22, 2009, a request for a Conference Agenda Item for the 60th General Service Conference was mailed to Adrienne B., Conference Coordinator at our General Service Office.

The letter states Area 29 is requesting the following be considered as an Agenda Item for the 60th General Service Conference: "That on page 22 in the pamphlet, "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A." in the section titled, "**What is a closed meeting?**", the first sentence be changed from, "A closed meeting is limited to members of the local A.A. group, or visiting members from other groups" to "A closed meeting is limited to members of A.A." Background material is included in the letter, including the discussion in District 21, and the supporting vote from Area 29 to forward this item.

Conference Advisory Action on Finance

In my report on August 22, 2009, I passed on a request to our Fellowship to discuss in their groups and districts the following Advisory Action from the 59th General Service Conference:

"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.)"

I have recently received the **background material statement of policy on self support** referenced in the Advisory Action. Copies are available today. Please carry this background material back to your districts and groups to use in your discussions. The sharing in our districts, committees, and groups will help prepare us for a sharing session at the December 12 Area Assembly. A report on the sharing session in December will be sent to the Conference Coordinator at G.S.O. to include as background for the 60th General Service Conference.

There are places I remember...

District Meetings and Intergroup Meetings

Since our last Area Assembly meeting in August, I have attended the district meeting in District 42 in Crofton. 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 our last Area Assembly, I have attended Intergroup meetings at the Southern Maryland Intergroup, Lower Shore Intergroup, Baltimore Intergroup, and Western Maryland Intergroup. The purpose of my Intergroup visits has been to deliver Final Conference Reports. I plan to visit the remaining Intergroups in Area 29 by the end of October.

Finance Committee Meeting

On Saturday, August 29 I attended the Finance Committee's budget meeting in Severna Park, with Area 29 Finance Chair Bob C. diligently crunching numbers in preparation for today's Area Committee meeting. Bob fed us all pizza which made the process all the more palatable, for this alcoholic at least.



In follow up to Bob's request, a budget was submitted to the Finance Committee for the Delegate for 2010. The submitted budget would provide financial support for the next elected Delegate to attend Northeast Regional and Area 29 conferences, Area Assembly meetings, Area Committee meetings, all active District

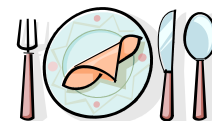
meetings, all Intergroup meetings, and administrative costs to perform their duties.

A budget was submitted for the Immediate Past Delegate for 2010. The Immediate Past Delegate's budget was trimmed down to cover expenses to attend the Area Assembly meetings, Area Committee meetings, and the Northeast Regional Delegate's reunion (NERD.)

Home Group Business Meeting

Following the Finance Committee meeting on August 29, I travelled to the Living in the Solution Group in Baltimore. I was invited to give a brief report on the General Service Conference and G.S.O. news at the group's business meeting. The Living in the Solution Group is approaching their five year group anniversary, and is a vibrant group of A.A.'s with a fervid enthusiasm for our Three Legacies of recovery, unity, and service.

DELEGATESSEN



Soberfest 2009

On Saturday, September 5 I attended the Area 29 Intergroup Liaison Committee's Soberfest 2009 at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds in Crownsville. The Day of Sharing was facilitated by our Intergroup Liaison Committee Chair Dan M.

The skies were azure, with a gentle breeze wafting through the pavilion atop the hill where the morning workshop was held. The event began at 9:00 am with sharing by representatives from the Northern Virginia Intergroup and the Annapolis Area Intergroup. After a brief break, sharing was heard from Denise S., Area 29 Secretary; Jeff McM., Area 29 Treatment Facilities Chair; Dawn H., D.C.M. for District 42; myself; Jane G., Special Needs Chair for District 42; Ed H. Area 29 Special Needs Chair; and John H., G.S.R., all sharing on our respective duties and how our General Service structure works.

Lunch was served up by a small army of volunteers enlisted by Dan. A queue began to form of hungry A.A.'s who were served juicy hamburgers, tasty hot dogs, condiments, potato salad, chips, and cold drinks.

As live bands began to perform in the amphitheater in the early afternoon, A.A.'s and friends poured in to the fairgrounds by the hundreds. Several bands performed a variety of musical genre, from rock to bluegrass, and I thought I even heard Irish Folk. An A.A. speaker took to the amphitheater stage at 5:00 pm, followed by a dinner of tender spice encrusted grilled chicken breast, fresh corn on the cob, and creamy Caesar Salad. Live bands continued to perform into the night.

Thanks to Dan M., and the many volunteers who made this awesome event possible.

More Will Be Revealed Dept.

2010 International Convention

July 1 – 4, 2010

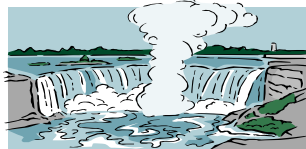
The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held on July 1 – 4, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday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

Online registration is now available on G.S.O.'s A.A. web site at www.aa.org. Online registration began at 10:00 am on Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Rick W., International Convention Coordinator at our General Service Office reports by Friday morning, September 4, over 9,500 people had registered.

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.

2010 NERAASA February 26 – 28, 2010



I have registered for the 2010 Northeast Regional Alcoholics Service Assembly, or NERAASA to 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.

Registration forms are available today. 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. **Please note that the NERAASA room rate of \$109 per night is still available at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.** The room block at the NERAASA rate has been extended.

The deadline for event and meal registration is January 12, 2010. **Registration for NERAASA is now available online at www.neraasa.org and on the event site. The hotel reservation site is linked to the NERAASA web site.** The NERAASA registration form is also posted in pdf format on the Area 29 web site at www.marylandaa.org.

2009 East Central Regional Forum November 13 – 15, 2009

The 2009 East Central Regional Forum will be held on November 13 – 15, 2009 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I have a copy of the registration flyer today, if you are interested in more information on this Regional Forum. Registration is also available online at the G.S.O. web site at www.aa.org.

This Forum is put on by the A.A. General Service Board and is "open" to A.A. members or to anyone interested in A.A. Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of the late Chairman of the General Service Board of Trustees, Dr. Jack Norris.

Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation among A.A. members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine. 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.

Save the Date! Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion 2010 March 12 – 14, 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. The 2010 NERD is being hosted by Area 48, Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire.

The NERD serves as a get-together for current delegates, alternate delegates, past delegates and trustees. The agenda typically includes current delegates and alternate delegates meetings, a NERD business meeting, A.A. meetings, and social time. This event has helped prepare me as a first year delegate for the General Service Conference, and pass on to new delegates our experience, strength and hope.

Registration forms are expected to arrive in January.

25th Annual Delegate's Reunion June 29 – 30, 2010

The 25th Annual Delegate's Reunion will be held on June 29 – 30, 2010, at the El Tropicano Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas just prior to the International Convention.

This delegate's reunion is open to all past and present members of the General Service Conference, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors, General Service Office Staff world wide, and World Service delegates. I have copies of the registration form and hotel information today.

Save the Date! 2011 Northeast Regional Forum
May 20 – 22, 2011

The next Northeast Regional Forum or NERF will be held on May 20 – 22, 2011 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on Cedar Lake, in Sturbridge Massachusetts. For more information, go to www.aa.org.

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)

Our Area 29 elections for Panel 60 will be held on October 17, 2009. I am hoping that all who are eligible will consider standing and making yourselves available for Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Please review the A.A. Service Manual and study the duties and qualifications for each of these positions. Our Area 29 Handbook helps define those service responsibilities.

In the past several years, I have served Area 29 in all of these positions except Chairperson. Every position has been rewarding and greatly enhanced my recovery. In my first few months as Area Treasurer, Karen L., wife of our beloved past delegate Victor L. asked me, "How do you like being Treasurer?"

I replied, "When I was Secretary, I learned how to write. Now that I am Treasurer, I am learning how to count."

Karen advised me, "If you get to be Delegate, you will learn how to talk."

I am very grateful that professional qualifications are not required for these positions. I served as Area Secretary for two years, and can not type. That was not a requirement. I served as Treasurer for two years, and am not an accountant. That was not a requirement. I have served as Alternate Delegate and Delegate and am not a politician. Political experience is not a requirement and not a part of A.A. I have always believed that half of service work is showing up. The other half is doing the best we can. Willingness has always come before ability in my own experience. Service was no more an afflatus than an element of our Three Legacies that was ingrained in me. And in the end, as I have come to learn what it is I am doing at this particular time in A.A. service, it becomes time to rotate on and give someone else the opportunity to serve and grow in sobriety.

Yours in Service,

Tom R.
Panel 58 Area 29 Delegate



Delegate's Wanderings

- Sunday, September 20 – Regional Panel 5 meeting, Baltimore
- Saturday, September 26 – District 36 Workshop, Lexington Park
- Saturday, September 26 – (Another Fellowship) Spring Convention Committee meeting, Columbia
- Sunday, September 27 – Annapolis Buffet Breakfast, Annapolis
- Sunday, September 27 – Regional Panel 3 meeting, Bel Air
- Wednesday, September 30 – District 22 Elections, Annapolis
- Saturday, October 3 – District 7 Workshop, Columbia
- Sunday, October 4 – District 31 Fall Picnic, Annapolis
- Tuesday, October 6 – District 31 meeting, Arnold
- Thursday, October 8 – District 7 Elections, Elkridge
- Saturday, October 10 – Ocean City Intergroup Workshop, Berlin
- Tuesday, October 13 – Northeast Maryland Intergroup meeting, Abingdon
- Wednesday, October 14 – Midshore Intergroup meeting, Kennedyville
- Saturday, October 17 – Area 29 Elections, Severna Park (District 31)
- Monday, October 19 – District 40 meeting, Frederick
- Tuesday, October 20 – Annapolis Area Intergroup meeting, Annapolis
- Saturday, October 24 – Regional Panel 4 meeting, Frederick
- Sunday, October 25 – Hagerstown Intergroup meeting, Hagerstown
- Wednesday, October 28 – West Central Intergroup meeting, Frederick
- Thursday, October 29 to Sunday, November 1 – Area 29 Fall Conference, Ocean City
- Saturday, November 7 – District 31 Workshop, TBD
- Sunday, November 22 – Baltimore Intergroup Bull and Oyster Roast, Baltimore
- Saturday, November 28 – District 7 4th Annual Gratitude Breakfast, TBD
- Saturday, December 5 – (Another Fellowship) Spring Convention Committee meeting, Columbia
- Sunday, December 6 – Annapolis Buffet Breakfast, Annapolis
- Saturday, December 12 – Area Assembly meeting, Frederick (District 40)