



## Delegate Report – August 13, 2011

Although the General Service Board met at the end of July, I have not as yet received the minutes or the A.A.W.S. Highlights to share with you. Following is a synopsis of the reports I have received since the July Area Committee:

### AA World Services, Inc.

#### Staff

A copy of the G.S.O. Staff Assignments effective July 2011 is available. A new staff member, M. Tracey O., has been hired and will serve on the Corrections assignment for the next two years beginning August 15. Professionally, Tracey has a journalism background. Active in Area 49, Southeast New York, Tracey's A.A. involvement includes serving as the Area newsletter editor and chairing the Agenda Committee. Watch for more about Tracey in a future Box 4-5-9 article.

#### Conference

- Final Reports of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference in English and Spanish were received on August 1 and are available today. I received 30 boxes of 50, so please feel free to take as many as you need for your home group or district.
- Just a reminder that the deadline to submit agenda items for the 2012 General Service Conference is January 15, 2012. Items to be forwarded to the Conference Coordinator can be brought to the Area for discussion and possible approval in September, November or December. Recommendations must be approved by the Assembly in December to be forwarded.

#### Treatment

At the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference, the name of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities was changed to the Conference Committee on

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities. Changes to the committee's service material will include changing titles to "Treatment Committee Workbook," and "Treatment Committee Kit."

Look also for the A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Committees instead of the A.A. Guidelines on Treatment Facilities Committees, and eventually the pamphlet, "A.A. in Treatment Settings," instead of "A.A. in Treatment Facilities."

Alternative ways to package and ship all of the material currently contained in the Treatment Committee Kit are being considered to eliminate tearing of the current plastic pockets.

As of June 1, the price on all service kits, including the Treatment Committee Kit, went up to \$18.00 to more nearly reflect costs. A complimentary kit will still be sent to new Area-level committee chairs and a complimentary Workbook to all new District-level chairs when your contact information is sent to GSO.

#### Archives

The G.S.O. Archivist is requesting sharing and experience about the successes of archives collections to update the "Archives Committee Activities-Shared Experiences" section of the Archives Workbook. I will pass the formal request on to our Archives Chair, Mike M.

#### Special Needs-Accessibilities

Since 2009 when the Special Needs Committee was given a seat at the Conference with the then Treatment Facilities Committee, the committee was asked to review the service material and literature for Special Needs in the Fellowship. This resulted in some pretty big changes in a relatively short period of time such as:

- The new recovery pamphlet – "**A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs**" (P-83) – to be available this fall at a cost of \$.40

- **Special Needs/Accessibility Kit Binders** – were available beginning in the fall of 2010.
- As of June 1, 2011, the prices of the American Sign Language (ASL) Big Book (DV-11) and the ASL 12X12 (DV-12) were reduced to the equivalent cost of the hard cover versions of those publications (Big Book \$8.00, 12x12 \$7.40). This is a significant savings.

This assignment continues to look for informal sharing from area committees, districts, or groups on experiences with Special Needs. Sharing can be added to the Workbook, to an article in Box 4-5-9, etc. For example, the Area 20, Northern Illinois Special Needs Committee chair sent in a “Brief Accessibility Checklist for Meetings” to help groups determine if their meeting is really handicap accessible.

### 2011 Membership Survey

After I received the information from GSO on conducting the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey, I started contacting the individuals whose names and phone numbers were provided as being on file in the GSO database. Out of the 12 groups randomly chosen, I was able to make contact with three of the individuals. Most of the phone numbers were no longer valid, or the individuals no longer attended that group. Unfortunately, two of the individuals had recently passed away.

I have a new respect for the job done by our Area Registrar. It is of the utmost importance to keep our records updated when there is a change to the GSR or Mail Contact in a home group. Please provide the Area 29 Registrar, or the Records Dept. at the General Service Office, any changes to the contact information for your group.

I solicited the help of several DCMs and the Area Officers to locate valid contacts and help conduct the surveys between August 1 and August 14. I want to thank the officers and everyone who helped. Most participants were very happy to be of service and many said they felt a sense of being “part of”. All of the completed surveys will be forwarded to the General Service Office within the next week.

At the GSC there was a discussion during the Grapevine Board reports that they were thinking of having the ability to link to Facebook and Twitter from the aagrapevine.org website. During the discussion there were questions and concerns expressed about security and anonymity. In mid-July the Grapevine Board met and approved by a vote of 5-2 to add Facebook and Twitter links to the aagrapevine.org website.

The Chair of the Conference Committee on Grapevine discovered that when she clicked on the Facebook icon, a definition of AA Grapevine.org as “the online multimedia magazine journal of Alcoholics Anonymous...” was posted to her Facebook wall. She immediately sent a message to the Chair of the AA Grapevine Board and the links were removed from the website.

According to our new North East Regional Trustee, J. Gary L.; the chair of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing (Class A, non-alcoholic), is appointing an *ad hoc* committee of the Board to study more closely the issue of social networking/media as it relates to AA’s principles.

More will be forthcoming on this issue once the minutes from the July Board weekend are received.

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Grapevine is seeking members with editorial or other related content expertise, including digital, as volunteers for the purpose of participating on the Editorial Advisory Board to grapple with creative and/or technical issues via conference call bi-annually. If you are interested, please e-mail the Executive Editor/Publisher, Ami B., at [eep@aagrapevine.org](mailto:eep@aagrapevine.org)

### **Available in August:**

- Updated 2011 Grapevine Catalog
- PayPal as a payment option online

### **Coming in September:**

- Two new books – “Step by Step” and “Emotional Sobriety II”
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**2011 Final Report of the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the General Service Conference of  
Alcoholics Anonymous**

The final report of the General Service Conference made available to you today is a *confidential* A.A. document, for members only. It contains full names and addresses of A.A. members. This report is used to facilitate communication within the fellowship as approved by the 1975 Conference. Such confidential use respects our Tradition of anonymity in *public* communications and with the media (press, radio, TV, etc.).

The report provides a complete record of reports, discussions, presentations, workshops and actions of the General Service Conference. It begins with an overview of the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference on pages 3 and 4 followed by a greeting from the Delegate Chairperson and the Keynote address from the Southwest regional trustee.

Next are the Conference Advisory Actions on pages 6 thru 10.

A 2010 Conference Advisory Action recommended that the Conference conduct a thorough inventory of itself and that a Conference Inventory Planning Committee be established to develop a comprehensive inventory plan. That plan was approved at the 2011 Conference and appears in the final report on pages 11-13.

Presentations and reports given during the week begin on page 14 and include the "21<sup>st</sup> World Service Meeting Report", four topics chosen in 2010 with 3 sub-topics each, the Finance Report given by Terrance M. Bedient (Class A, non-alcoholic), GSB Treasurer, and reports from the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. Board and Grapevine Corporate Board.

On page 29 begins the list of all English, Spanish and French Literature distributed in 2010. The English distribution ranges in number from 9 Living Sober cassette albums, to 414,459 hard bound "Big Books".

On page 34 is a list of all A.A. Grapevine Literature distributed in 2010. This page also includes a geographical breakdown by state, of Grapevine Subscriptions as of April 2010 and April 2011. According to this breakdown, Area 29-Maryland increased its number of Grapevine subscriptions by 43. The net result for all states was a negative 1,887 subscriptions.

The next 18 pages cover the Trustees' Committees and G.S.O. and Grapevine Reports. There is an Estimate of Groups and Members as of January 1, 2011 on page 43 showing a grand total of 107,976 groups in the world and a grand total of 2,057,672 members worldwide.

Next is a summary of each of three General Sharing Sessions held by the General Service Board since the 2010 Conference. The topics are "The A.A. Membership Survey", G.S.O.'s A.A. Website" and "The A.A. Service Structure". In depth sharing and points of view on these topics were presented by GSO Staff, trustees, and AAWS directors.

Each first-year delegate gives Area Service Highlights which are reported in their entirety beginning on page 53.

Advisory Action 40 of the 1990 General Service Conference states that "Items discussed, but no action taken or recommendation made, as well as committee recommendations which are not adopted, be included in a separate section of the Final Report." All of these actions, listed by committee, appear beginning on page 64.

Near the back are the financial reports including reports of the independent Auditor. You will find all income and expense statements as well as budgets. A detailed report of the 2010 Contributions from Groups, Individuals, Specials and Special Meetings by Delegate Area will be found on pages 78-79. Here are some details from that report:

Cost of services per person	\$6.29
MD Contributions per person	\$5.35
# of groups in U.S. & Canada	62,873
% of Total Groups Contributing	43.9%
# of groups in MD	1,053
% of MD Groups Contributing	38.6%

And finally, all Conference Committees and their members, the Committee Chairs and Alternates, and all Conference members are listed with full names and addresses. Please remember that this report is confidential and not to be shared outside of A.A.

Please feel free to take as many of the final reports with you as you may need to distribute at your districts and home groups.

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**If you have any questions, contact your  
Area 29 Delegate, Nancy B.**



## North East Region News

If you are travelling to the Hudson, Mohawk, Berkshire area of New York in November, check out the **HMB 2011 Convention** which will be held November 4-6 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Fishkill, New York. Hotel reservations must be secured by October 4. See me for a flyer.

Although not in the North East Region, but a little closer to home; check out the first Southern States A.A. Service Assembly – **SSAASA**. It will also be held November 4 – 6. The room rate at the Fair Oaks Marriott in Fairfax, VA is \$79 per night. See me for a flyer.

I look forward to the discussions at the upcoming Regional Panel meetings today. Any items brought to the Assembly today for discussion, if approved, will be sent to the General Service Board in time for their quarterly weekend board meeting at the end of October. As mentioned before, the deadline to send proposed Agenda Items to New York is January 15, 2012.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you, your districts, and your groups!

Nancy B.  
Panel 60, Area 29 Delegate  
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## Area 29



## News

### IGLC/Website Workshop

On Saturday, July 23, I attended the IGLC Website Workshop in Crofton. About 20 webmasters and interested individuals from the area and the local intergroups attended this workshop to share their experience and knowledge. Area web servant, Ray T., did an awesome job of leading the discussion prompted by his Power Point topics and questions.

The knowledge level ranged from website experts to servants with no experience attempting to start a new website. The sharing of information was invaluable and interesting.

### District 41 Workshop

I was invited to participate in a workshop on the *Home Group and AA Service Structure* on July 16 in District 41, Frederick. DCM Jim M. and I shared our experiences and service material. The attendance was low, but we shared the information we had prepared and were happy to be of service.

### Conference Reports to Districts and Intergroups

Since the July committee meeting, I was able to share my experiences from the 2011 General Service Conference with Districts 9, 20, 22, 40, and the Baltimore Intergroup.

### Key to Terms

- AAWS – A.A. World Services, Inc.
- CPC – Cooperation with the Professional Community
- DCM – District Committee Member
- GSB – General Service Board
- GSC – General Service Conference
- GSO – General Service Office
- GSR – General Service Representative
- IGLC – Intergroup Liaison Committee
- NERAASA – North East Regional AA Service Assembly
- NERD – North East Regional Delegate
- NERF – North East Regional Forum
- NERT – North East Regional Trustee
- PI – Public Information
- SN – Special Needs/Accessibilities
- SSAASA – Southern States AA Service Assembly