



Delegate Report – February 19, 2011

Most of the report from the January 29th General Service Board weekend is contained in the Final Conference Agenda which we will discuss shortly. Other reports and items of interest from other communications received are:

- Steps and Twelve Traditions in English, French and Spanish in the 2nd half of 2011.
- The AAWS Board requested that GSO conduct a feasibility study regarding future online sales of AA Literature.

AAWS, Inc.

Services

- GSO will be hiring an additional A.A. staff member in 2011. A notice will be included in the upcoming issue of Box 4-5-9 announcing the opening
- The GSO Records Dept. achieved cost savings with the processing of return mail by working to clean up the FNV database resulting in considerably reducing the number of mailings executed and the amount of paper, envelopes, labels and man hours needed to process a mailing.
- Archives worked throughout the year to create a single cohesive inventory of the entire archives collection
- The 3-ring binder of the Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit was priced at \$12.00 and will be mailed to SN Area Chairs.
- GSO put together an ad hoc committee to begin looking at a possible redesign of GSO's A.A. website.
- The A.A.W.S. Board has approved recommendations from its Ad Hoc Committee on E-Technology allowing GSO to proceed with plans to create and distribute A.A.W.S. publications in digital form, pending budget approval by the trustees' Finance and Budgetary committee. GSO will develop the necessary technology infrastructure to convert AAWS publications into eBook format and make them available online for members to purchase and download. The current project timeline calls for availability of the Big Book and Twelve

Publishing

- The Publications Director reported that total distribution of all books for the eleven months ending November 30, 2010 was 1,568,493 units, down 24.2% from the same period in 2009. The eleven month total of AA purchases was 1,330,606 units. Non-AA purchases accounted for 237,887 units or 15% of total units distributed through the end of November 2010. In 2009, non-AA purchases represented 30.6% of total units distributed as the result of large non-AA orders received prior to the July 2009 price increase. In both 2007 and 2008, non-AA purchases represented 19% of total units distributed. Through November, 816,006 units of all editions of the Big Book were distributed compared to 1,152,781 units in the same period in 2009.
- Gross sales for October and November were \$1,196,653 and \$761,026 respectively. Gross sales for the 11 month period ending November, unaudited, came in at \$11,487,557 which is 13% under budget. In the same period in 2009, gross sales amounted to \$12,808,211.
- In October and November 8,896 and 1,599 pay orders and 607 and 488 complimentary orders respectively were processed. There were also 231 October and 149 November online large-purchase orders.

61st General Service Conference Final Agenda

The Trustees' Committees, GSO Staff, Grapevine Staff, and the chairs of the Conference Committees met the weekend of January 29 to finalize the agenda for the 61st General Service Conference.

I received the Final Conference Agenda Saturday, February 12 and have made copies available today on the handout table. CDs of the Agenda plus all background material have been made for each officer, past delegate, Regional Panel Leader and Archives. To everyone who receives a copy of the background material, I would like to stress the fact that much of this information contains confidential A.A. documents. Distribution is limited to A.A. members, since they contain members' full names and addresses. Placement of these materials in a location accessible to the public, such as web sites and Bulletin Boards would breach the confidentiality of the materials and the anonymity of A.A. members. I trust that you and your committees will treat the materials which are entrusted to you with all due care and respect.

Linda J., our Alternate Delegate, will hand out the CDs and background material to the Regional Panel Leaders personally and will be providing additional information regarding the Regional Panels during her report today. Please see the area website www.marylandaa.org for the Regional Panel calendar including date, time and location of meetings.

Here are just a few of the items on the Agenda to hopefully peak your interest:

Cooperation with the Professional Community

- Discuss the concept of a compilation DVD of C.P.C. literature

Corrections

- Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities," including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.

Finance

- Consider two alternative suggestions of ways to revise the pamphlet F-3 "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" forwarded from the trustees' Finance Committee. ***(This item contains a***

suggestion by Regional Panel 2 on the Pie Charts)

- Consider a request "that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook, a draft of which is to be made available for the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition." ***(This agenda item and the next one were submitted by Area 29 at the request of Regional Panel 2.)***
- Consider a request "that the trustees' Finance Committee convert Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Finance Kit."

Grapevine

- Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies such as, but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-reader, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products.
- Consider permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund.

Literature

- Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support or "green card" to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool.
- Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that "the trustees' literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous."
- Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book.

Policy/Admissions

- Discuss request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference Agenda Items.

- Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself.

Public Information

- Consider that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.
- Consider revisions to "Understanding Anonymity" which include text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?"

Report and Charter

- Consider request to change the phrase "new kid on the block" to "a first year delegate" on page S52 [of the A.A. Service Manual] under Personal Experience in section "Preparing for the Conference."
- Consider suggestion to revise the text on "inactive service workers" on page S37 [of the A.A. Service Manual] in Chapter Four to reflect that the appropriate local entity is responsible for addressing inactive G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s and add similar text to Chapters One and Three.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

- Review draft recovery pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs.
- Discuss report from the trustees' Committee regarding changing "Treatment Facilities" Committee to "Treatment" Committee in committee titles and in A.A. literature.

Trustees

I am happy to report that the resume of our own Nancy K. has been accepted, making her a candidate for North East Regional Trustee. The election will take place on May 4 during the 61st General Service Conference in New York City.

There will be 36 voters participating in the Third Legacy Procedure election including the 18 delegates from the North East Region, 9 members of the Trustees' Nominating Committee and 9 members of the Conference Committee on Trustees. Since two North East Regional Delegates are on the Conference Committee on Trustees, two

other delegates have been selected randomly to serve as voters in this election.

* Regional Panels and Mini Conference *

I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to attend as many Regional Panel meetings as possible to participate, and provide input, on each of the Conference Agenda items. Your input at the Regional Panel meetings, and the Mini Conference on April 16, is very valuable to provide the conscience of Area 29.



News from AA Grapevine, Inc.

A.A. Grapevine offers many choices:

- The A.A. Grapevine digital subscription is now available and a bargain at \$19.97 for a one year subscription. Subscribers will receive their digital magazine 2 weeks earlier than the print edition. Subscribe at www.aagrapevine.org
- You can also convert your print subscription to a digital subscription
- For Grapevine subscribers who prefer to receive the print edition, it is still available at \$26.97 per year.
- For \$19.97 per year you can receive AudioGrapevine, the magazine in audio format.
- Subscribe to the Digital Archive (\$26.97 per year). Every article, letter, editorial, special feature, joke and cartoon published in the Grapevine magazine since 1944 can be accessed. Updated every 3 months – subscribe at www.aagrapevine.org
- There are many new and old AA Grapevine products available online. To order them, visit www.aagrapevine.org and click on "Catalog", or call 800-631-6025.

As always, if I can assist you, your district, group, Intergroup or committee, please contact me at 301-797-1964 or e-mail me at delegate@marylandaa.org.

**Yours in Service,
Nancy B.
Panel 60 Delegate - Area 29**



North East Region Events

2011 NERAASA **February 25-27, 2011**



I have registered for the 2011 Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, (**NERAASA**) to be held February 25–27, in Tarrytown, New York. The deadline to register for meals was February 2, but if you have a room, you can still register for the assembly on-site. If you are not able to attend this year, we hope you will make plans to attend next year.

NERD 2011

(North East Regional Delegates Reunion)

March 11-13, 2011

The Flanders Hotel
Ocean City, New Jersey

NERF 2011

(North East Regional Forum)

May 20-22, 2011

Sturbridge Hotel and Conference Center
Sturbridge, Mass.

This event takes place every two years in the North East Region. All AA members are encouraged to attend. GSO staff and Trustees from the General Service Board will attend to answer any questions you may have. There will also be presentations from Delegates, GSO Staff and others, plus workshops and discussions on timely topics of interest to the Fellowship.

Flyers are available today.