



Delegate's Report – February 20, 2010

It is with much excitement that I write the first of many reports to the Area. I have taken the liberty of using the format utilized by my predecessors since I believe it reads well and may make giving reports to your districts and groups easier. Please do not hesitate to provide feedback and suggestions.

In addition to attending the 60th General Service Conference as the Area 29 delegate, the A.A. Service Manual suggests, among other things, that the delegate "communicate the actions of the Conference", attend all Area meetings, help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O., visit groups and districts whenever possible, cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information regarding the area, work closely with committee members and officers, and keep the Alternate Delegate fully informed. I will do my best to fulfill all of these expectations.

It is also my intention to carry on the tradition of reporting to you on all information received from the General Service Board, AAWS, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the Northeast Region and any other news and events from Area 29 and A. A. as a whole. So, let's get started...

A.A. World Service, Inc. News

On December 11, 2009 at the meeting of the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors, General Manager Phyllis H. reported the end of the GSO construction project, on budget and on time. The staff at GSO is now benefiting from the improved lighting and new ceiling.

Approaching the New Year, much focus at GSO was on planning budgets and projects that would ensure that vital A.A. services continue. One cost saving measure is to hold the 2010 Quarterly Board meetings and 2010 General Service Conference in Rye Brook, NY rather than Manhattan, a savings of approximately \$250,000.

The GSO Corrections desk needs volunteers for the Corrections Correspondence Service. In particular, Spanish-speaking males who live

outside the Pacific Region are needed. Submission of experience, strength and hope are being sought for a revision of the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." Stories can be sent directly to the Corrections desk at GSO. Local Corrections committees are also being asked to share experience with the signing of legally binding documents as part of their cooperation with corrections professionals. Local solutions regarding how to observe facility regulations while staying within our Traditions can also be sent directly to the Corrections desk.

Planning continues for the International convention in June. Speakers are being invited for the over 200 meetings that will take place.

Another clarification was issued regarding the change in name of the GSO staff assignment and the Conference and Trustees' Committees – **both** Treatment Facilities and Special Needs Committees are still separate service entities in the Fellowship, but have a common place at the General Service Office, at the General Service Board Committee meetings, and at the General Service Conference.

A.A.W.S. Finance Summary:

No Contribution or Income information has been received beyond September 30, 2009 which was reported in December.

Publications – Through November 2009
Total distribution of all books – 2,082,399 units up 5.9% from November 2008 distribution of 1,966,203 units. Total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,582,229 units, while non-A.A. purchases accounted for 500,170 units, or 24% of total units distributed to date. In 2008, non-A.A. purchases represented 19% of total units distributed. Big Book Sales (All Editions) – 1,158,883 units were distributed compared to 1,033,924 in 2008. Gross Sales – October and November were budgeted at \$1,993,260. Actual sales, un-audited, came in at \$1,723,120 which is \$270,140 or 11.6% under budget. In 2008, gross sales amounted to \$2,125,589.



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

The new Grapevine Rep (GvR) Handbooks are now available! This little booklet is chock full of information for Grapevine reps like:

- What GvRs do
- FAQs about AA's meeting in print
- Tips for letting your group know how they can use the magazine in meetings and to help others
- How to encourage members to send in stories, photos and art

The February issue of Grapevine features stories about Young People in A.A. The idea for this issue was born at the International Convention of Young People in A.A. (ICYPAA) in Atlanta last summer. The Grapevine editor, Robin B., was impressed by the dedication to service that the host committee and committees from many states demonstrated. The stories of what the committees and YPAAs around the country were doing to carry the message made it clear that YPAAs don't just want to have fun: they want to help other alcoholics. It was also a surprise to Robin how many active YPAA committees there are in the US and Canada, and how quickly they seem to be emerging around the world. This was news the Grapevine wanted to share. So with the help of people at the convention, they put out a call for stories and the response, reflected in the February issue, was amazing.

The February issue also reflects original art from a sober member of A.A. Grapevine is soliciting original art and photos from members as well as stories about how a group or committee is helping alcoholics.

Annual Grapevine Photo Contest

Each year, Grapevine holds a competition for photographs to be featured in the Wall Calendar. Striking photographs featuring the joy of living, serenity and other sober themes should be received at Grapevine by March 1, 2010. They cannot be returned and may be considered for magazine illustrations. Submit digital images on CDs, along with printouts. Include contact information. Digital files must be in high resolution files – 300dpi (minimum) or compressed Picture Viewer documents. Mail entries to: Art Editor, Grapevine, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1040, New York, NY 10115. For more information visit AAGrapevine.org

Since the Grapevine had to raise subscription prices last year to cover rising fixed costs, they are asking for our help. It is more important than ever to consider giving the gift of Grapevine or La Viña to a newcomer, hospital, recovery house, or correctional facility. It could make a huge difference in the life of a suffering alcoholic and help Grapevine at the same time.

Grapevine – Next Issues

March 2010 – Dealing with Adversity: Financial Adversity

April 2010 – Special Report: All Brands of Spirituality

La Viña – Next Issues

May/June 2010 – Our Literature

July/August 2010 – Prison Issue

Grapevine on the Road

Jan A., Associate Editor, will be at NERAASA February 26-28 in Niagara Falls, NY

General Service Board News

Following are highlights from the General Service Board quarterly meeting held November 2, 2009 which are not found on the final agenda of the General Service Conference:

- The Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference agreed to forward a request to the AAWS, Inc. Board to consider developing a "display size" version of the upside down triangle graphic on page S16 in *The A.A. Service Manual*.
- The Trustees' Committee on Corrections agreed to continue to purchase the *American Correctional Association Directory of Adult and Juvenile Correctional Departments, Institutions, Agencies* every two years; the contact information therein will be sent to corrections committee chairs when requested, as a fiscally prudent alternative to the previous automatic biennial mailing. Corrections Committee Chairs will be notified annually of this resource.
- The Board approved the 2009 GSC recommendation that, over the International Convention weekend, unlimited access be provided to an encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet

broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, available through GSO's AA website.

- The Trustees Committee on CPC/TF/SN-Accessibilities approved the CPC contact assessment follow-up postcard and a new informational service piece directed to drug/alcohol court professionals, both items to be included in the CPC Kit.
- Three CPC videos on a single compilation DVD addressed to healthcare, human resources and corrections professionals will be included in CPC Kits as of November 16, 2009.
- The AAWS board approved the addition of "aa.org" to literature racks (M-8) when the current inventory is depleted (there is no additional charge to add "aa.org" to the racks).

2010 NERAASA **February 26-28, 2010**



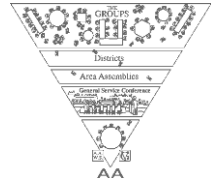
I have registered for the 2010 Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, (NERAASA) to be held February 26–28, in Niagara Falls, New York. The deadline to register for meals was February 12, but if you have a room, you can still register for the assembly on-site. If you were not able to attend this year, we hope you will make plans to attend next year.

Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion 2010 **March 12 – 14, 2010**

The Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion 2010 or **NERD**, hosted by Area 48, Hudson/Mowhawk/Berkshire, will be held March 12 – 14, 2010 at the Holiday Inn in Albany, New York. I have registered and will share a room with our past Panel 56 Delegate, Barbara B.



60th General Service Conference



I received my General Service Conference Communications Kit at the end of December. All forms have been completed as requested and forwarded to the Conference Coordinator.

In addition, I received a letter from Don Meurer (non-alcoholic), secretary of the Conference Committee on Finance, welcoming me to my Conference assignment for the next two years. Don provided the preliminary Finance Agenda, list of all members of this Committee, Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Committee and 27 pages of the Conference Finance Committee History and Highlights of Actions since 1951. I have read all of this information, but will re-read it again in preparation for the General Service Conference.

A check from Area 29 in the amount of \$2,000, as budgeted, was sent and has been acknowledged in a letter received from the Conference Coordinator stating: "We very much appreciate receiving the contribution of \$1,200 and the generous \$800 contribution over and beyond the established amount toward the Maryland Area's delegate expenses as a splendid example of the principles embodied in Tradition Seven. With gratitude and love to you and all in the Maryland Area". Signed Adrienne B.

The Final Conference Agenda and Background Material for the 60th General Service Conference is available today. Since the printed copy of all of the background information is huge, I have created a CD for each of the six Regional Panels. Area Officers, Archives and Past Delegates. Anyone else who would like one of these CDs, please let me know.

Although letters notifying Area 29 of the status of agenda items submitted in December 2009 have not been received as of this date; you will note that the Agenda Item proposed by Regional Panel 6, "Consider request that the video, "Your GSO, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated" was accepted and appears on the Final Agenda.

The proposal from Regional Panel 6 "That the A.A. Grapevine develop a booklet of stories from members of remote communities" was not included on the Final Agenda.

2013 Northeast Regional Forum

At the December 2009 Area Assembly a sense of those present agreed that Area 29 would submit a bid for the 2013 Northeast Regional Forum typically held in June. An ad hoc committee lead by Peggy R. has been appointed to prepare the proposal to be presented on April 21 at the Regional Luncheon during the 2010 General Service Conference.

Delegates from interested Areas present proposals for potential dates, hotel sites, accommodations and rates, and our NERDs select the site by vote at the luncheon.

Around the Area

Since we last met in December 2009 I have attended district meetings in Districts 10 and 20 and braved a snowstorm along with 35 other determined A.A.s to attend and present at a workshop in District 40. Thanks to DCM Walter W., Alt DCM Kris M., Secretary Bridget and Past DCM John V. for an informative workshop and enjoyable evening in spite of the snow.

The MGS officers met last Saturday to discuss goals and plans for 2010. We will make ourselves available to attend district meetings wherever and whenever possible in an effort to mentor and advise new DCMs and newly active districts. We believe the districts and the Area will be better-served by more interaction.

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.

Frequently Asked Questions about the 2010 International Convention and online registration can be found on the G.S.O. web site at www.aa.org. Online registration is available **until May 14, 2010** at a cost of \$95.00. On-site registration will open Wednesday morning, June 30, 2010. Registration cost after May 14 is \$110.00.

Area 29 Hospitality Suite – International Convention

Area 29 has been offered the opportunity to host a hospitality Suite at the International Convention in San Antonio, TX. The hospitality suite will be located in the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel across from the Harry B. Gonzales Convention Center. Our host committee will be led by Jane T.

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 with me today.

Please let me know of upcoming events and Regional Panel meetings. If I can assist your district, group, Intergroup or committee, I will make every attempt to be available. You can contact me at delegate@marylandaa.org.

Yours in Service,

Nancy B.
Panel 60 Delegate - Area 29



Delegate's 2010 Calendar

- Sunday, February 21 - Baltimore Intergroup Breakfast
- February 25 – 28 NERAASA, Niagara Falls, NY
- March 12-14 NERD, Albany, NY
- March 20 – Area 29 Assembly
- April 9-11 Area 29 Mini Conference
- April 17-24 60th General Service Conference, Rye Town, NY

I am leaving my calendar open during March and April for any upcoming Regional Panel meetings. Be sure to let me know when they have been scheduled.