

Delegate's Report – March 20, 2010

I want to thank Earl H. for creating the logo you see above. It will be used on the Panel 60 delegate stationary for the next two years.

With the General Service Conference just one month away, there is much business to report to you this month.

A.A. World Services, Inc. News

Following are highlights from the report presented by General Manager, Phyllis H. at the January 28, 2010 meeting of the AAWs, Inc. Board of Directors held in Rye Brook, NY.

- As we look to the fellowship for growing support, GSO will continue to provide critical services while maintaining a prudent posture, implementing efficiencies whenever practical.
- Scheduled as a 2010 goal, initial planning meetings for the new GSO E-technology team have been held to address potential use of digital web and e-technology tools and methods that are found to be most effective in communicating with the Fellowship in the new decade.
- GSO is on schedule with the Contributions Online project. A demonstration will be given for all Conference members during the 2010 General Service Conference (*with implementation possibly May 2010*).
- The Records Dept. staff has begun notifying Area Registrars to update all Area records as it is the intention to print the A.A. Regional Directories in 2010. In order to be included in the directories, group updates via Fellowship New Vision (FNV) should be completed by May 7, 2010.
- GSO Staff traveled to San Antonio in January for the big 2010 International Convention Host Volunteer Kick-off event.

2,000 excited AAs turned out to sign up to fill various host service positions such as greeters. Registration is now at 32,000.

A.A.W.S. Finance Summary:

Financial Report – Contributions received of \$6,296,700 were \$203,300 (3%) less than budgeted and \$166,100 (2.5%) less than the total for 2008. Total expenses for the period of \$13,252,600 were approximately \$79,100 (1%) less than budgeted and \$438,600 (3%) less than 2008.

Net sales of \$13,490,700 for the year 2009 were approximately \$67,300 (.5%) less than budgeted but 8.5% greater than 2008. The primary reason for the large increase in dollar sales over the prior year was the literature price increase effective July 1, 2009. **Gross profit** from literature sales of \$8,244,400 is 61.1% compared with 55.9% for the year 2008. Gross profit from literature sales, contributions, and interest earned on cash flow was \$14,542,300. Net profit for the year 2009 of \$1,288,650 compares with a budgeted profit of \$835,100 and was \$1,564,000 more than the \$275,300 loss reported for the year 2008.

Publications Report – Through December 2009 Total distribution of all books – 2,212,348 units, up 5%, from December 2008 distribution of 2,113,574 units. Total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,695,186 units, while non-A.A. purchases accounted for 517,162 units, or 30.6% of total units distributed to date. This percentage is much higher than normal, owing to a large order received from Hazelden prior to the July 1, 2009 price increase. It is estimated that the Hazelden order represented two to three years' inventory for them. In 2008, non-A.A. purchases represented 20% of total units distributed. Big Book Sales (All Editions) – 1,224,346 units (55.5% of all books distributed), were distributed in 2009 compared to 1,111,906 in 2008.



General Service Board News

A great deal of the information provided in the 68 pages of minutes from the GSB quarterly meeting held on February 1, 2010 was recommendations of Agenda Items to include on the Final Agenda of the GSC. Since you have already received a copy of the Final Agenda Items, here are a few other highlights from the minutes:

- The Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference agreed to forward a request to the AAWS, Inc. Board to place the Circle and Triangle with our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service on A. A. literature. This will be discussed at the AAWS, Inc. quarterly meeting in July.
- The Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference agreed to forward to the Trustees' Committee on Nominating a request "that the General Service Conference/General Service Board initiate/take action to create a position of **alternate trustee** to discharge the responsibility of seating (replacing) a trustee that either passes away or becomes incapacitated."

Coming in March, Grapevine will be publishing two new CD sets. "The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA" in English and Spanish. Pricing has stayed the same and will be \$10 for each CD.

Grapevine – Next Issues

April 2010 – Special Section: Along All Kinds of Spiritual Lines

May 2010 – Our Personal Stories

La Viña – Next Issues

May/June 2010 – Our Literature

July/August 2010 – Prison Issue

September/October – The Family: Before and After

Grapevine Starter Offer

To make it easier to start a subscription to the Grapevine, the following term and price have been added:

7 issues for \$17.00

This new term and offer is a great starter gift.

Of course you can still get 1 full year (12 issues) for \$27, 2 years (24 issues) for \$51.00 and 3 years (36 issues) for \$75.00.

Notes on the 2010 NERAASA



While some of Area 29's trusted servants were not able to get to the Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly in Niagara Falls due to the weather, there were many who did attend. Three of us took off in the car Thursday morning, February 25 and made it to the hotel to check in ½ hour before the snow began falling. Throughout that day and the next, we kept in contact by phone and by text to check the progress of those on the road and in the air. Our own Kathy S., DCM from District 21 made it to NERAASA Friday night with very little time to spare before stepping up to the podium to give her presentation on **Posthumous Anonymity – Why is it important in our fellowship?** She represented Area 29 well. Thanks Kathy!

At the NERAASA business meeting Saturday afternoon, a motion was passed to have the Northeast Regional Trustee appoint an ad hoc committee of seated delegates to review and revise the NERAASA guidelines, if needed. The committee's report is to be submitted to the next NERAASA Assembly, in 2011, for consideration



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

AA Grapevine Board of Directors met the last weekend in January for its quarterly board meeting. Until it realizes income from the 2009 price increase, AA Grapevine is still looking at another year of deficit budgeting in 2010. The good news is that the Grapevine did better than budgeted in 2009, and La Viña finished the year ahead of budget as well. Additional information has been provided in a handout for your review and discussion at a Grapevine sharing session.

12 months ending December 31, 2009

102,281	Avg monthly Grapevine circulation
97,900	Grapevine circulation as of 12/09
1,322	Avg monthly audio Grapevine circulation
2,718	Avg monthly Digital Archive Circulation
9,663	Avg bimonthly LaViña circulation
77,095	Total books distributed
10,748	Total CDs
31,641	Total other items

and possible adoption. I, along with 8 other delegates volunteered to serve on this committee.

Saturday night I was excited and honored to join the other Northeast Regional Delegates as we carried our state flags into the meeting hall. My heart swelled with gratitude as I passed by the cheering and waving folks from Area 29. We may have been a small part of the whole, but you knew what Area we represented!

The weekend was filled with presentations, workshops and roundtable discussions on many service positions. Our Northeast Regional Trustee, John K., gave the Trustee Report to the Assembly on Saturday evening providing interesting and important information such as:

Did you know?...

- In order for A. A. to be self-supporting, every A. A. member would have to contribute approximately \$7.50 each year. The problem is that only 40% of groups contribute.
- According to our Northeast Regional Trustee, in 2009 \$1,462,000 was contributed to GSO by groups in the Northeast Region – this works out to an average of approximately \$4.00 per person. Only two states in the Northeast Region met the \$7.50 goal - Area 12, Delaware, \$10.61 per person and Area 45, Southern New Jersey, \$9.64 per person.
- *(Delegate note: Area 29, MD contributed approximately \$4.14 per person. For the 12 months ended December 31, 2009, 40.6% of groups in Area 29 contributed to GSO compared to 39.7% in 2008.)*
- Only 5% of the A. A. Fellowship subscribes to the Grapevine. If 15% subscribed, the Grapevine would be self-supporting.

Mark your calendars

NERAASA 2011 hosted by Area 49, SENY, at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY on February 14 – 27, 2011.

Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion 2010

The NERD was hosted by Area 48, Hudson/Mowhawk/Berkshire, last weekend in Albany, New York. NERD provides an opportunity for past delegates to catch up with each other and to share their Conference experiences with seated delegates. A wealth of



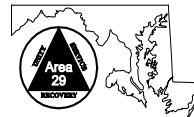
information and encouragement was provided to the Panel 60 delegates and alternates.

I was accompanied to Albany by our past Panel 58 Delegate, Tom R. and shared a room with our past Panel 56 Delegate, Barbara B. In addition, Area 29 was well-represented by our Panel 60 Alt Delegate, Linda J., and Past Delegates Morgan J., Arnold R. and Peggy R.

Although the weekend is filled with meetings for the seated delegates, this is the place where a little levity is allowed and everyone has the opportunity to get to know one another. A bond begins to form among the delegates. One of the lighter moments of the weekend is at the end of the Saturday night presentations when the first year women delegates draw the name of a second year woman delegate from the hat to represent the NERDs as "SWMBO" or "She Who Must Be Obeyed". For the entire first year "SWMBO" is served by the other delegates. They are at her beck and call, carrying her luggage, fetching coffee, feeding her ice cream, etc...all in good fun. I am humbled this year to have been pulled from the hat to represent Area 29 for the THIRD time as "SWMBO".

I will have the opportunity to turn my crown and scepter over to the next "SWMBO" at NERD 2011 in Area 45, Southern New Jersey, March 11-13 at The Flanders Hotel in Ocean City, New Jersey. Past Delegates - mark your calendars!

Around the Area



On Sunday, February 21 we attended the Baltimore Area Intergroup Breakfast at La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie. A rousing good time was had by the guests at Table 41. We were treated to sharing by Richard B. and Barbara B. from Delaware.

After returning from NERAASA, I attended the District 22 meeting in Annapolis; Regional Panel 4 in Cascade, MD on Grapevine and Policy/Admissions and Regional Panel 1 in Easton on CPC and Corrections.

There was great discussion on the two topics I was able to attend. It is my intention to attend as many of the Regional Panels as possible between now and the Mini Conference. I hope all DCMs and Alternates are attending as many Regional Panels as possible and encouraging participation by GSRs as well.



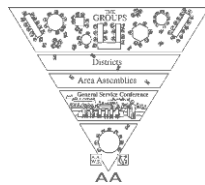
**Area 29 Weekend Mini Conference
April 9 – 11
Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel
Ocean City, MD**

All A.A. members are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in a Conference experience discussing agenda items that will be considered in New York this April at the General Service Conference. This is an exciting new format for the Mini Conference as Barbara B. will share with you later. At the Mini Conference we will hear Adrienne B., General Service Conference Coordinator from the GSO, share her story. There will be an Archive presentation by Harold G., from Annapolis, the Trustee's presentation by our Northeast Regional Trustee, John K.; and other short presentations by past delegates.

Mini Conference flyers are available on the table. There is no registration fee, but there is a cost for meals. Please complete your registration form and hand it to the Area Treasurer today!

60th General Service Conference

I continue to read and prepare for the upcoming General Service Conference in Rye Brook, NY April 17 to 24, 2010. The theme of this years Conference is "Practicing A.A.'s Principles – the Pathway to Unity".



Although I reported last month that the Conference has moved to Rye Brook, NY; we were notified formally at NERAASA that it will be going back to the Crowne Plaza in Manhattan in 2011. It seems that with the downturn in the economy, the hotel was willing to negotiate a better offer for the 2011 Conference than the numbers we were paying in 2009. The move back to Manhattan has its advantages for the GSO staff and for conference member travel to and from the airports. There will also be many more options available to the guests of the Conference members who attend at their own expense during conference week.

**2010 International Convention
July 1 – 4, 2010**



As of late January, registration for the 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous was 32,000. The convention will be held on July 1 – 4, 2010 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." Hotel and dorm rooms will continue to be available through

the Convention Housing bureau, and all rooms booked through the Bureau will be served by the shuttle service.

The trustees' committee on Int'l Conventions and Regional Forums will schedule a special meeting during the General Service Conference in April to review the final list of Big Meeting speakers and non-alcoholic friends of A. A. who will participate in the program at the 2010 International Convention.

Two presentations will be made at the Sunday Closing Meeting. The 30 millionth copy of ***Alcoholics Anonymous*** will be given to the American Medical Association and a souvenir edition of ***Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*** will be presented to the daughters of Father Sam Shoemaker; both of whom have been invited to attend.

Preparations are underway for the new soft-cover version of ***A.A. Comes of Age*** which will be the souvenir book of the 2010 International Convention. The Publications Dept will update the "Landmarks in A. A. History" section in the front of the book. The section was last updated in 1988 with the death of Lois Wilson.

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.

A. A. Membership Survey

The 2010 A. A. Membership Survey will be conducted this year using the same random sampling methodology. More will be revealed as additional information is received.

Opening for a Non-Trustee Appointed Committee Member

The trustees' Committee on Public Information of the General Service Board has an opening for a non-trustee appointed committee member. The committee is searching for a suitable individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations. The desirable qualities for a candidate are:

1. Expertise in media communications. The new ACM is needed for the continuing "A.A. Videos for Young People Project".
2. Available time to attend meetings of the trustees' committee during Board weekends and on Sunday afternoon of the General Service Conference.

I have a complete description of the experience and qualifications desired, plus a resumé form which must be completed and returned to the GSO by 4:00 pm EDT on April 15, 2010. Please see me if you are interested or have a candidate recommendation.

Nominations for Northeast Regional Trustee Due to G.S.O. by January 1, 2011

A new Class B (alcoholic) Northeast Regional Trustee will be nominated at the 2011 General Service Conference to replace John K. who rotates after four years. Nominations must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2011, and must be submitted by area delegates, only.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable, but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A. A. as a whole.

Once I receive the official letter and resumé form, I will make it available. Area 29 will elect a candidate by Third Legacy Procedure at the October Area Assembly.

Box 4-5-9 – Spring 2010 Issue

Don't miss the Spring 2010 Issue of Box 4-5-9 – News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A. Included in this issue you will find:

- Making Way for the Future: G.S.O.'s A.A. Archives Gets a Renovation
- Host Committee Prepares for International Convention
- Anonymity and the International Convention
- Opening Flag Ceremony
- Two New A.A.s Join G.S.O. Staff
- What are "Areas" and "Panels"
- G.S.O.'s Contributions Department
- Anonymity Letter to the Media
- Corrections: A New Opportunity for Hope Behind the Walls

- South African Pamphlet Poses Simple Question in 11 Languages
- Calendar of Nationwide Events from March through August 2010

You can find Box 4-5-9 at www.aa.org under "For Groups and Members" in the drop down box under "A.A. Literature". You can also order an individual 1 year subscription for \$3.50 or a 1 year group subscription of 10 copies for \$6.00.

And finally, if I can assist your district, group, Intergroup or committee, I will make every attempt to be available. You can contact me at 301-797-1964 or e-mail me at delegate@marylandaa.org.

Yours in Service,

**Nancy B.
Panel 60 Delegate - Area 29**



Delegate's 2010 Calendar

- March 21 – Regional Panel 4 – Grapevine and Policy/Admissions - Cascade, MD
- March 27 – Regional Panel 5 – Finance - Davidsonville, MD
- March 28 – Regional Panel 6 – Literature - Elkridge, MD
- April 3 – Regional Panel 6 – Archives - Elkridge, MD
- April 9-11 Area 29 Mini Conference – Ocean City, MD
- April 17-24 60th General Service Conference, Rye Brook, NY
- May 15 – Area 29 Assembly Report Back
- May 21-23 Area 12 Delaware State Convention, Rehoboth Beach, DE
- June 17-20 40th Maryland State Convention, Hagerstown, MD
- June 29 through July 5 – San Antonio, TX 2010 International Convention July 1-4

I will be available to give a shortened version of the report back from the 2010 General Service Conference to your districts and Intergroups. Please see me to set a date.