

Delegate Report – October 16, 2010

2010 Final Report from the 60th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

Anonymous

Don't forget to pick up copies of the Final Conference Report to take to your groups and districts. I have about 15 boxes left, including one in Spanish. I encourage you to take as many as you need.

Please point out to all members the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations that came out of the Conference. Review the numbers of books and pamphlets that were distributed in 2009. Mention the amount of contributions received at GSO from the groups in Area 29. In order for AA to be self-supporting, every AA member would need to contribute \$6.46. The registered groups in Area 29 contributed, on average, \$4.97 per member.

News from the General Service Office and the General Service Board

Staff Changes - G.S.O. General Manager, Phyllis H., reported that as a result of internal promotional recruitment for the new position, **Director of Staff Services, Doug R.** would assume that position on October 1, 2010. Doug has served on nine GSO assignments since beginning his service at GSO in June 1996. His most recent position was Staff Coordinator. Doug's primary responsibility will be the oversight and management of the ten GSO AA Staff members and coordination of services that support this division. He will also continue as Asst. Secretary to the General Service Board.

The duties of Staff Coordinator were carefully reviewed and it was determined to retain this position with additional assignment of web services changing the title to **Staff Coordinator/Web Services**. That position will be filled by **Rick W.** who recently served as the 2010 International Convention Coordinator. Rick will function as the

GSO Website Liaison and sit on both the Interoffice Website Committee and the GSO E-Technology Team. In addition, he will become a director on AAWS, Inc. and serve as Liaison to the Intergroups and Central Offices.

The Trustees' committees of the General Service Board are busy taking action on the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations from the 2010 General Service Conference.

Corrections - The Corrections assignment updated the AA Guidelines for corrections Committees with additional language regarding how AA members cooperate with the rules of local facilities, and a new section on Pre-release/Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contacts. Additional language regarding cooperation with facility regulations and how AA committees might prepare members new to the Twelfth Step work will be in the next printing of the Corrections Workbook.

The Corrections Desk is also seeking local shared experience about how Corrections Committees resolve perceived conflicts between facility regulations, and what AA does not do, particularly regarding facility regulations that involve legally binding paperwork. As some of you know from experience, at times local AA members and committees come across prison regulations that may conflict with our Twelve Traditions. What solutions have you found in your Area that have made it possible to resolve any perceived differences between facility rules/regulations, and what A.A. is and is not? Please e-mail the Corrections Desk at corrections@aa.org to pass along local experience, so that others may benefit from shared experience. You may also call Jim M., Corrections Coordinator at 212-870-3085.

Finance – The Reserve Fund at June 30, 2010 had a balance of \$5,723,892. After adding back the provision for pension costs, the balance used to compute the number of months of operating expenses is \$12,136,278. The fund is currently

earning approximately 2%, and represents approximately 9.5 months of combined operating expenses. The Trustees' Finance Committee discussed various methods for gathering information as requested by the Conference Committee on Finance to gather personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about Self-Support in new or existing literature. The Trustees' Committee is also reviewing suggestions and various alternate examples to replace the existing pie charts on page 12 of the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix".

Literature – The trustee's Literature Committee formed the following three subcommittees to address recommendations approved at the 2010 General Service Conference:

1. Subcommittee on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality
2. Subcommittee on the pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs"
3. Subcommittee on the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services."

The committee also asked the Publications Dept to review the text for outdated language or practices in the booklet *Living Sober* and present a draft or report at their October meeting.

Publications Report – Total distribution of all books for the 8 months ending August 31, 2010 was 1,152,762 units, down 33% from 2009. The 8 month total of A.A. purchases was 974,862 units, while non-A.A. purchases accounted for 177,900 units or 18% of the total units distributed through August. In 2009, non A.A. purchases represented 30.6% of total units distributed as the result of large non A.A. orders received prior to the July 1, 2009 price increase. In both 2007 and 2008, non A.A. purchases represented 19% of total units distributed.

Through August 2010, 592,718 Big Book units were distributed compared to 982,349 units in the same period in 2009. Gross sales for July and August were \$1,087,286 and \$1,012,664 respectively. Gross sales for the 8 month period ending August 31 were budgeted at \$9,711,130. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$8,458,302 which is 12.89% under budget. In the same period in 2009, gross sales amounted to \$10,213,929.

Public Information – The committee began work on the following: 1) drafting a policy regarding

showing or not showing the faces of actors who portray A.A. members or potential A.A. members in Conference-approved visual media; 2) developing draft text on the topic of *anonymity in the digital age* for the Conference-approved pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and 3) exploring a more effective distribution of Spanish and French language PSAs to Spanish and French language stations.

Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-

Accessibilities – Following up on a request from the 2010 Conference Committee, the trustees requested that the secretary begin collating background to include details regarding the impact of changing the name of "Treatment Facilities" Committees to "Treatment" Committees.

News from AA Grapevine, Inc.

Grapevine – The Grapevine Staff wants to thank everyone who participated in the readership survey sent out to many who subscribe to the Grapevine magazine. They have had great response. Also work continues on AAGrapevine.org and if you have any suggestions on how you would like the website to evolve please send them in.

Over the next several months GV will be changing subscription and product fulfillment systems. The mailing addresses to which you send your orders and payments will be changing and improvements will be made to the online order experience at AAGrapevine.org.

There will also be some exciting new additions such as an E-edition for Grapevine and La Viña; features that allow you to check your subscription status online and more easily navigate when ordering; and overall improved customer service.

Now available at Grapevine:

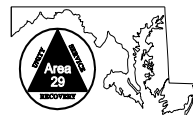
- Spiritual Awakenings II: More Journeys of the Spirit Item #GV23, \$10.95 each
- Grapevine 2010 International Convention Commemorative Issue
- 2011 Pocket Planner

Check with the Area 29 Grapevine table to check availability or order any of these products and other AA Grapevine products, at AAGrapevine.org Click on "Catalog", or call 800-631-6025.

La Viña – It is an exciting time for La Viña; they are ready to edit the new perfect-bound 68 page

magazine. Possible themes for 2011 are "Spiritual Awakenings", "Intimate Relationships and Sobriety", and "Financial Insecurity." July 2011 is also the 15th anniversary of La Viña.

Area 29



News

Grapevine Questionnaire Update

The deadline of October 31 is fast approaching to get your Grapevine Questionnaire to me. As of today I have entered 241 questionnaires in spreadsheets and have sent the first 200 to the central tabulator. The last opportunity to submit your completed questionnaire will be at the Fall Conference in Hagerstown. Visit the Delegate's display in the Maryland General Service room to fill one out and drop it in the box provided for that purpose.

2012 General Service Conference Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics

You or your district have until December 1, 2010 to provide suggestions for the Theme, Presentation and Workshop Topics for the 2012 General Service Conference. Forms are on the table today. Please pick one up, take it to your district or complete it individually and return to me by December 1. Thank you!

A.A. Membership Survey

The next A.A. Membership Survey will be conducted in 2011 once approved by the 2011 General Service Conference. The survey was to be conducted in 2010, but due to an oversight, the request for approval was left off the Agenda for the 2010 General Service Conference.

Openings for Nontrustee Appointed Member for Trustees' Committee on Literature

The trustees' committee on Literature of the General Service Board has two openings for nontrustee appointed committee members. They are searching for suitable individuals to fill these positions and would appreciate any recommendations. The success of our General Service Board rests not only on the capabilities of the trustees themselves but also on the competence of the nontrustee committee members, corporate board Directors, and Staff members who actively carry on A.A.'s world services.

Please see me if you are interested in submitting your resume for consideration or if you know someone who might be.

The **26th Annual Fall Conference** is only two weeks away! This fun event offering speakers, workshops, fellowship, alcathons, costume party and dance, will be held October 28-31, 2010 at the Clarion Hotel and Hager Hall Conference Center in Hagerstown. Look for the orange flyers and be sure to tell everyone about the new location!

Check out the Maryland General Service website at www.marylandaa.org for other workshops and events hosted by Area 29 or one of the districts in Area 29.

If I can assist 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**

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming North East Regional Events

NERAASA 2011 – February 25-27, 2011
(North East Regional AA Service Assembly)
Flyers are available TODAY!!
Area 49 – SENY
Westchester Marriott
Tarrytown, NY

NERD 2011 – March 11-13, 2011
(North East Regional Delegate Reunion
for seated delegates and alternates, and
past delegates only...sorry!)
Area 45 – Southern NJ
The Flanders Hotel
Ocean City, NJ

NERF 2011 – May 20-22, 2011
(North East Regional Forum)
Area 30 & 31 – Eastern/Western Mass.
Sturbridge Hotel & Conference Center
Sturbridge, Mass.