

# MARGENSER

Fostering Unity and Carrying the A.A. Message in Area 29 MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE

## Delegates Corner: Communication and Participation in Area 29

Tom R, Area 29 Delegate

Friends, it is an honor to serve you as your Panel 58 Delegate for Area 29, Maryland General Service. The theme of the 2008 General Service Conference is, "Communication and Participation - The Key to Unity and Self-Support." Our General Service Conference will be held on April 26 –through May 3, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Times Square in New York. One of my goals while serving as delegate is to continue to reach out to our districts and groups and be a conduit of information between our membership and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Since coming in to area service in December 1998, my experience has been that Area 29 communicates well through its' service structure. We have seen this in our active districts. Just in the past few yearsyears, we have experienced the joy of watching several of our inactive districts becoming active, thriving hubs of communication between our home groups and A.A. as a whole. Having participated on some of our committees, I've been struck (figuratively speaking) by people passionate about A.A. and recovery. Through our Intergroup Liaison committee and Days of Sharing, we encourage communication with our Intergroup service entities. All of this communication and cooperation can only help strengthen unity in our area.

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## Regional Panels and the Mini Conference...a process, not an event

Nancy B, Area 29 Alternate Delegate

In April of each year elected delegates from the ninety-three (93) areas of the US and Canada meet in New York to discuss the business of Alcoholics Anonymous at the General Service Conference. They come together to take actions that will guide all A.A. groups in the years to come. In order to prepare the Area 29 delegate to discuss and vote the conscience of the groups in our Area, MD General Service holds a weekend Mini-Conference and has created a Regional Panel process to inform our delegate and all A.A. members.

MD General Service has created six Regional Panels, each made up of from six to ten of the 47 districts in Area 29. Each Regional Panel is assigned two topics from the General Service Conference Agenda which they will discuss over a two year period before being assigned two different topics in May of even years.

This Regional Panel process mirrors the General Service Conference committee process. Conference delegates are split into 13 committees and assigned an agenda topic. They review and discuss all of the items under that topic and then present their discussion on the Conference floor, much the same way as we do at the Mini Conference.

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## COURT SLIPS

Michelle M, Chair, Public Information Committee

This message is to a shared experience only. It is not an inventory on how to tackle the subject of court slips, or whether it is right or wrong if a group conscience vote allows or disallows the signing of these slips.

As a newcomer I was not aware of the large amount of bitter debates and controversy that happened in the late 80's regarding court slips and A.A. meetings, nor the growth of D.W.I. programs and related problems it had caused. Upon my arrival to A.A. in January of 2003 these debates, from where I stood, had been put to bed and group conscience votes had taken care of the issue. My first home group signed court slips and within my first year of being a sober member of this group I did as the group asked and signed slips. When I stepped down as Secretary I no longer had to sign court slips and never really thought much about the subject again. Today, however, I see newcomers doing as I did in signing the court slips without question or concern.

Recently I had an opportunity to get a first hand look at how court slips are used. It made me wonder how many newcomers who go along with what

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## MARGENSER STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Area 29 MARGENSER newsletter is published to foster unity and facilitate communication among AA members, groups, districts, and intergroups within the Maryland General Service Area. The MARGENSER aims to be instrumental in carrying the AA message. This quarterly newsletter seeks to publish AA-related material, including personal stories of experience, strength, and hope. Material will be reviewed by the MARGENSER committee chairperson or by a member of the committee. Nothing published in the MARGENSER should be thought of as a statement of Area 29 or AA policy. Finally, publication shall not constitute endorsement by the newsletter itself, Area 29, intergroups, districts, local groups, or AA as a whole.

## Gleanings from Maryland's AA History (A Sequel)

Ron M, (BYOL Easton)

*Ed: The 1994 - 1995 issues of the Margenser carried articles depicting the evolution of AA in Maryland. Those articles were so well received that they were subsequently collected, bound into a single volume and have become a valuable resource for all those interested in the history of AA. Accolades for this effort belong to Bill R. (deceased) and Bob R. The intent of this series is to present historical information not only of the early days of AA but also previous efforts that attempted to deal with the disease of alcoholism.*

### The Washingtonian Movement

The Washingtonian Movement began in April 1840 with six hard drinkers (William Mitchell, David Hoss, Charles Anderson, George Steer, Bill McUrduy, and Tom Campbell. John Hawkins was an early member (but not one of the original six) that met at Chases Tavern on Liberty Street in Baltimore, Maryland. A noted temperance speaker was announced to be speaking at a local church and the group appointed two of their group to attend. Reporting back, they formulated the idea that by relying on each other, sharing their alcoholic experiences and relying upon divine help, they could keep each other sober. They voted to meet the next night and each agreed to bring another new member. They taught total sobriety and preceded Alcoholics Anonymous by 100 years. Although the temperance movement was very prominent during this period, the Washingtonians focused on the individual alcoholic rather than on society's relationship with alcohol. At their peak, the Washingtonians numbered around 300,000. In the space of just a few years, they all but disappeared, due their lack of focus on a primary purpose. They quickly became involved in such things as prohibition, sectarian religion, politics, and abolition of slavery.

The group traveled around the country, telling their stories and recruiting new members. The aforementioned John Hawkins was a prominent speaker on the circuit and the following is an excerpt from one of his talks:

"Drunkard! Come up here, you can reform. I met a gentleman this morning who reformed four weeks ago., rejoicing Rejoicing in his reformation, he brought a man with him who took the pledge, and this man brought two others. This is the way we do the business up in Baltimore; we reformed drunkards are a Committee of the Whole State of the Union. We are all missionaries. We don't slight the drunkard; we love him, we nurse him,

as a mother does her infant learning to walk.

"Go to Baltimore now and see our happy wives and children. Just think of our procession in April when we celebrated our anniversary. Six thousand men, nearly half of them reformed within a year, followed by two thousand boys of all ages, to give assurance to the world that the next generation shall be sober.

"But where were our wives on that occasion? At home shut up with hungry children in rags the way they were a year ago? No, no: but in carriages, riding round the streets to see and rejoice over their sober husbands!" ▲

## Regional Panel Presentation, Feb. 16, 2008 – Area 29 Committee Meeting

Holly S, 2008 Fall Conference Co-Chair

Hello! My name is Holly and I am an alcoholic. I have been asked to share about my experience in participating with a Regional Panel.

Last year our Regional Panel was held at a church in Calvert County. It was a very bare and simple room and about fifteen of us were there. We were there nearly six hours talking about the subjects of Public Information and International Conventions and Regional Forums. There were heated discussions and then there was the inevitable "let's just get this thing over with" feeling. That always makes me sad. I love service and I thoroughly enjoy participating in this kind of service work, especially the Regional Panel.

Why do I take the Regional Panel so seriously? These decisions and issues at the General Service Conference are there because it affects the unity and purpose of our program to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. This is the program that saved an undeniable lousy self-serving ignorant foolish lush like me.

When I first came into AA my concept of a Higher Power was "something powerful" that had to do with the stars and the universe and was way out there. After awhile, God moved from out there to in here, into my heart, and God doesn't feel so far away anymore.

When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous, the New York General Service Office and AA all around the world felt like something so far away- as far away as my concept of God when I first came in here. As I am introduced more and more to service work, the circles of love and service, and the structure and history of AA , then Alcoholics Anonymous in New York,

Sweden or China and the General Service Office, just doesn't feel so far away anymore. Sure, the General Service Conference affects all of AA, but this doesn't have to be "way out there." This is the message that keeps me and so many others sober and helps us pass it on. This is the program that offered me a life of which I could never dream - as I'm sure it was for so many of you as well.

I love the people I meet who are so involved in General Service. I can't believe these people-- you people, that have that sparkle in your eyes, (even when engaged in a passionate discussion about the budget or something) were drinking themselves to death just like me. And you've found the same solution that was so freely given to me. We all have a God of our understanding and I think that is what makes this type of work so amazing to be involved in. The more I participate the more I learn, especially about how God acts through all of us. This is particularly true when the group conscience does not act according to my will but according to God's. I have usually found that out the hard way, but it is always worth it and it ALWAYS enriches my sobriety when I let it help me become more open-minded.

I have learned that humility is what enables me to be part of a Regional Panel, an Area Committee meeting or a workshop. It seems to be that the humility our lives depend on is the core of what keeps us together and keeps us willing to work together. To me, this underlying strength permeates all of our service work- the coffee maker, sponsor, or GSR, the Intergroup, district, area assemblies, all the way down to the General Service Conference. Even when my ego starts to get in the way of my service work I know that I will not remain sober without humility. Humility is the key. Humility has given me freedom.

It seems that the simplicity of this program has grown to such a mass proportion that there have to be and are people willing to sit in the background and work to preserve the precious message of helping one drunk talk to another. Thanks to all of you sitting in the background making sure that this program stays alive and growing.

Now I never have to-- no, WE never have to suffer alone again, if we choose not to. How incredible it is that I get to have a voice in a program that saved my life if I choose to participate. And it is the Regional Panels that help me feel so vitally connected to the General Service Conference. The General Service Conference, as Nancy B. said, "brings together all the trusted servants from each area to take actions that will guide all of AA groups in the years to come."

Thank you for letting me share. ▲

## Don't Just Stand There, Do Something!

*Pat H, But for the Grace of God Group*

Throughout my sobriety there has been one steady "factor". It is something that Dudley taught me. He said that if I wanted to enhance my spiritual condition, then I'd better do something besides just going to meetings. Dudley L., Paul C. and Wilson B. started the ODAT Group back in the early 70's and it continues carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers to this day. ODAT was my second home group and I was blessed to know all three of the gentlemen who worked so hard at getting it going.

It was there, at that group, that I became a General Service Representative (GSR) for the first time. Actually, it's funny how it happened. During one of our group conscience meetings, I went to wash my hands and when I returned to the group, bingo, I was the new GSR. Little did I know what was in store for me: the excitement, the fellowship, the passion of saying out loud what I believed would be best for our group and indeed, for AA as a whole. Too, I met others involved in service that had so much passion about it all. I used to think that there sure were many arguments at the assemblies but actually, it was just people sharing passionately about our Twelve Traditions and our Twelve Concepts (of which I knew little at that time). Another way I was blessed is that no one else in our little group aspired to take over as GSR so I stayed in that position (didn't know a thing at that time about rotation) from approximately 1978 to 1988. I grew up amid the "court slip signing era" and truly benefited from that experience. It was both scary and exciting at the same time. And the biggest blessing was that I witnessed the survival, if you will, of Alcoholics Anonymous through it all.

It is with much gratitude and a little bit of sadness that I am now taking a back seat in this arena of Maryland General Service and am giving the younger ones an opportunity to serve and be as passionate--or even more so-- as I have been or as I am today. I could never repay to our beloved Program what it has given to me. I feel that I have integrity today, together with so many other gifts that I can't begin to name them all. Thank you to all my teachers throughout the years; Ed E., Tom E., Gene R., Paul W., Tom S., Sunny W., Frank Y., Peggy R., Arnold R., Nancy K., Tom R., Peggy M., Calvin J., Barbara B., Nancy & John B., Morgan J., Earl H., David R., Jackie F. and so, so many others. Remember now, don't just stand there, do something!

*(Delegates Corner) continued from page 1...*

As evidence that this is a program of attraction, I believe that through our actions and through making ourselves visible and always available to the fellowship, we draw people in who are willing and anxious to participate in service work. If we could bottle and sell this enthusiasm we would be rich, but the rewards of participation are much better. For me, the rewards are that I get to stay sober, and the quality of my sobriety is greatly enhanced. When I was relatively new and confused in A.A., someone pointed out to me thatme "we are not a glum lot." I went to my first convention and was overwhelmed by the number of sober people together in one room, and the enthusiasm they shared for their sobriety and for life. Who knew I would one day be on a committee that helped make that convention possible? What a gift!

In my experience as District Committee Member, we found that as our district was became more active and groups participated, the groups within our district contributed funds to keep the district self-supporting. If groups did not support the district, was it because they did not approve of what was being done, or simply because they did not know what services were being provided? When we reached out to groups and encouraged participation through electing General Service Representatives, more groups became informed. onThey whatlearned what services were being provided and could make an informed decision on sending contributions to the district, area, and A.A. World Services. Again, the key here was communication.

Our area has a very effective way of informing our fellowship on Conference Agenda Items and preparing our delegate for the General Service Conference, through the Regional Panels and Mini Conference. Our Alternate Delegate Nancy B. will be working with you in coordinating the Regional Panels and our Mini Conference chair Nancy K. has put together a wonderful weekend on April 11 - 13, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Columbia, MD where all A.A. members are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

I am looking forward to the next two years, serving you as the Area 29 delegate and serving A.A. as a whole. All I wanted when I came to my first A.A. meeting on April 18, 1997 was to not drink. I didn't plan to get this sober. (I say with tongue planted firmly in cheek.) Please feel free to contact me at any time and I will be happy to visit your district meeting, or support your district, committee, area or regional event. Thank you for allowing me to participate in my own recovery. ☺

*(Court Slips) continued from page 1...*

is accepted group practice, know or understand what happens to those innocent little slips. While working at my job one day, I had the opportunity to view thirteen pages of court slips along with legal documents from a probation officer regarding a person who was trying to get a state license. State licenses are more than just driver licenses-- there are many types of license that need state approval, i.e., medical board, contractors, etc. Actually, most anything that a person can be sued for while doing a job requires background checks.

I was very surprised at what I was reading-- not the content, but that it found its way to my work desk. This professional had been convicted of a violent crime, spent a few years in prison and wanted a license to practice his skill. My job was to hear his appeal. This person went to A.A. groups for three years having court slips signed. The groups supplied all the information that was requested by this professional along with the name and address of the group, the full name of the secretary and date of the meeting. Did the person signing this slip know where this information would eventually end up? This is my question and my reason for writing.

As an eager newcomer, who has gladly signed slips, would I have wanted a slip that I had signed to appear on my boss's desk? This is the question and NO is the answer. I protect my anonymity today, and should have at that time, but I was only instructed to sign and had no idea as to the bigger picture and where these slips might land. My wish is to provoke some thought when you are presented with a court slip to sign. Where is it going to end up, and who may someday see the slip with YOUR name on it? A question you may want to ask yourself. ☺

### DISTRICT NEWS

**District 32: Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.** At the Ocean Pines Library, Ocean City Intergroup presents a workshop on the history of AA in Maryland, followed by an AA trivial pursuit challenge. Teams may bring literature to the challenge and the 1st prize team will receive an audio CD of the Big Book. Contact Ocean City Intergroup for more info.

**District 36: Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** "Spirituality Retreat- Step Out Into the Sun." William W. Wimpfinger Technology Center, 24494 Placid Harbor Way, Hollywood, MD 20636. \$175 includes two nights lodging and all meals for the retreat. Registration \$20.

**District 9: Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>,** "3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spiritual Breakfast."

**District 36:** PI/CPC "Reaching Out" newsletter on District website... [marylandaa.org/districts](http://marylandaa.org/districts) ... check it out!

**District 41:** Newsletter on District website... [marylandaa.org/districts](http://marylandaa.org/districts)

**Area 29 – Maryland General Services, Inc.  
2008 Mini Conference  
April 11 – 13, 2008  
Holiday Inn – Columbia, MD**

The purpose of the Area 29 Mini Conference is to provide a forum for Area 29's GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers and Committee Leaders to discuss the General Service Agenda items and related issues and concerns affecting Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole and to provide our Area 29 Delegate to the General Service Conference an informed Area conscience. The Mini Conference provides an opportunity for AA members to exercise their "Right of Participation" in the business and direction of AA.

**Let your voice be heard**

Saturday Night Banquet  
Saturday Guest Speaker: Mary D, Staff Member GSO  
Workshops facilitated by John K, Northeast Regional Trustee

**No Cost for the event unless you wish to participate in the Banquet  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE BANQUET AND HOTEL IS APRIL 1, 2008**

<u>Event Registration</u>	<u>Hotel Registration</u>								
<p>Send this portion to: Maryland General Services, Inc., PO Box 2683, Salisbury, MD 21802</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/Town: _____</p> <p>State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>E-Mail: _____</p> <p>Phone: (D): _____ (E): _____</p> <p>Check One:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GSR or Alt GSR                      <input type="checkbox"/> Area Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DCM or Alt DCM                      <input type="checkbox"/> Area Officer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> District Committee                      <input type="checkbox"/> AA Member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Central Office/Intergroup              <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p align="center"><b>Saturday Night Banquet Buffet \$26.00*</b> *includes tax/gratuity</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Sliced Top Sirloin</td> <td>Broiled Flounder Filet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stuffed Shells</td> <td>Fresh Garden</td> </tr> <tr> <td>w/Meat Sauce</td> <td>and Caesar Salads</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Potato/Vegetable</td> <td>Dessert Table</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Meal Registration- NOT AVAILABLE ONSITE</b></p> <p>\$ _____ <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b> (Check or Money Order Payable to: "MGS")</p>	Sliced Top Sirloin	Broiled Flounder Filet	Stuffed Shells	Fresh Garden	w/Meat Sauce	and Caesar Salads	Potato/Vegetable	Dessert Table	<p>Send this portion to: Holiday Inn-Columbia 7900 Washington Blvd., Columbia, MD 20794 OR</p> <p>To make your reservations by phone, call <b>800-287-0037</b> and ask for the special rate for MGS (Group Code-MGS)</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/Town: _____</p> <p>State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>E-Mail: _____</p> <p>Phone: (D): _____ (E): _____</p> <p>Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____</p> <p>\$ _____ Friday Night Lodging \$109</p> <p>\$ _____ Saturday Night Lodging \$109</p> <p>\$ _____ <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></p> <p>(Check or Money Order Payable to: Holiday Inn-Columbia (One Night Room Deposit of \$109 Required)</p> <p><b>Modify or Cancel Policy:</b> If you need to modify or cancel you reservation, please do so before 6:00 PM (local hotel time) on Friday, 11 April, 2008 or your credit card will be billed for a minimum of one night plus tax.</p>
Sliced Top Sirloin	Broiled Flounder Filet								
Stuffed Shells	Fresh Garden								
w/Meat Sauce	and Caesar Salads								
Potato/Vegetable	Dessert Table								

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO...**

In accordance with the 7th Tradition and abiding by the group conscience of your home group, you may send contributions in support of Area 29 to:

Maryland General Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2683  
Salisbury, MD 21802

**Area 29 – Mini Conference****SCHEDULE****Friday, April 11, 2008**

5:00 PM – Registration Opens  
 5:00–7:00 PM – Dinner On Your Own  
 7:00–7:30 PM – Opening  
 7:30–8:30 PM – Roundtable Sessions  
 (GSR/DCM/Committee Chair)  
 8:45–10:00 PM – Workshop

8:00 AM – Registration Opens  
 8:30 AM – Panel Presentations  
 Opening  
 9:00 AM–12:00 PM – Panel  
 Presentations  
 12:00 PM–1:00 PM – Lunch On Your  
 Own  
 1:00 PM–5:00 PM – Panel Presentations  
 5:00 PM–6:30 PM – Fellowship Time  
 6:30 PM–8:00 PM – Banquet Dinner \$26  
 (Pre-Registration Required)  
 8:00 PM–9:00 PM – GSO Speaker  
 Meeting  
 9:00 PM–9:30 PM – Closing

7:00 AM–9:00 AM – Breakfast On Your  
 Own  
 9:00 AM–10:30 AM – Workshop  
 10:45 AM–11:30 AM – Ask It Basket  
 11:30 AM – Closing

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS****From the North:**

I-95 South toward Baltimore (Portions Toll), Merge onto MD-175 E Waterloo Road via Exit 41-A towards Jessup. Stay left on the exit Ramp, Cross over Rt 175 and stay left to go onto 175-East. Make your first right onto Washington Blvd. Make an immediate right into the parking lot.

**From the South:**

MD-2N to MD-44 North towards Baltimore, Merge onto I-95 North towards Baltimore/College Park. Take MD-175E via Exit 41 A-B toward Columbia/Jessup. Stay right on the Exit Ramp. Make you first right onto Washington Blvd. Make an immediate right into the parking lot.

**From the West:**

I-70 E towards Baltimore. Merge onto US-29 South towards Columbia/Washington. Merge onto MD-175 Exit 20a towards Jessup. Travel approximately 6 miles until you cross over I-95. Make your first right after crossing over I-95 onto Washington Blvd. Make an immediate right into the parking lot.

**From the Eastern Shore:**

US 50 West over the Bay Bridge, merge onto I-97 North via Exit 21 towards Baltimore. Take MD-32 West via Exit 7 towards Columbia/Bowie. Merge onto I-95 North via Exit 13A towards Baltimore, Exit 41 A-B towards Columbia/Jessup. Stay right on the Exit ramp. Make your first right onto Washington Blvd. Make an immediate right into the parking lot.

**RESERVATION WEBSITE**

[http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rate&checkInDate=11&checkInMonthYear=032008&checkOutDate=13&checkOutMonthYear=032008&brandCode=hi&hotelCode=balcj&GPC=MGS&\\_IATAno=99801505](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rate&checkInDate=11&checkInMonthYear=032008&checkOutDate=13&checkOutMonthYear=032008&brandCode=hi&hotelCode=balcj&GPC=MGS&_IATAno=99801505)

**THE MARGENSER IS YOUR NEWSLETTER**

The Margenser Committee welcomes submissions. We are here to serve you. Submissions should be no more than 750 words and about service or recovery. Please include your first name, last initial and home group. Email all correspondence to [Margenser@marylandAA.org](mailto:Margenser@marylandAA.org) or mail to Maryland General Services, P.O. Box 2683, Salisbury, MD 21802. The submission deadline for the next issue is April 25, 2008.

(Regional Panels continued from page 1)...

The purpose of the Regional Panel Process and Mini-Conference is to:

- inform our delegate and all AA members on the conference agenda items and background material, so we fully understand each item and the history behind it. In this way we can develop an informed group conscience to
- prepare our delegate for the General Service Conference
- This process encourages the panels to determine if there are any potential agenda items to be submitted for consideration. Potential items must be submitted by the December Assembly if the Area's support is sought.
- This process also assists the seven standing committees of MD General Service to fulfill their primary purpose by encouraging participation in those committees

The seven standing committees of Maryland General Service are: Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Correctional Facilities, Finance, Grapevine, Literature, Public Information (PI), and Treatment Facilities.

There are several tools we have available to work with to facilitate the discussion at the Regional Panels. One is the Final Report from the previous year's General Service Conferences which detail the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations. Another is the A.A. Service Manual. The final Agenda and supporting background material are provided to our delegate by the General Service Board on or about February 15. The delegate makes copies to give to the Regional Panel Leaders. Finally, we draw from our experience as members of AA.

Over the next few weeks, after receipt of the Final Agenda and background material, the panels will meet regularly to discuss their assigned topics. Each Panel will already have a panel leader and a recording secretary, chosen earlier in the year. Presenters will be chosen from those in attendance to report on the discussions of their panel at the Mini Conference in early to mid April, thereby giving the Delegate, and all AA members, a conscience of the panel.

After the General Service Conference, the process continues. In May, the Delegate will report to the Assembly what took place at the Conference, providing details of the Conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations.

The Regional Panels should then meet again to review this information and determine if there are items or issues they would like to recommend be submitted for possible inclusion on the following year's General Service Conference Agenda. This must be done by December if Area support is requested.

In conclusion, what do the Regional Panels and the Mini Conference provide? The Regional Panels are important because they give all members of AA who attend, the opportunity to participate in an in-depth review of each agenda item as it pertains to our districts, Area 29 and AA as a whole. The Regional Panels provide a sense of the Area conscience regarding each agenda item through the presentations to the Area Delegate at the Mini-Conference. And they provide an opportunity for the Regional Panels and the Standing Committees to unite, which encourages participation by all AA members to help the committees fulfill their primary purpose of carrying the AA message to the still-suffering alcoholic. ☺

## Unity Cannot Happen in a Vacuum


Linda J. Area 29 Chairperson

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Area Chairperson for Maryland General Service on Panel 58. My initial thought on October 23, 2007 immediately following the election was "Now what??" And precisely four months later, I'm here at NERAASA having just attended the Area Chair Roundtable. I came away from the Roundtable with a realization of the enormous network of shared experience and information available to us all in the Northeast Region. There are sober alcoholics in all 18 areas in the N.E. Region providing the same services that you and I are providing. All are more than willing to share their experience, strength and hope with each and every one of us.

I am truly humbled by this opportunity to serve in Area 29, and God has expanded my horizons exponentially in a very short period of

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### Area 29 Regional Panel Dates and Locations

Panel Name	Eastern Shore Panel 1	Western Shore Panel 2	North Eastern Panel 3	North Western Panel 4	Metro East Panel 5	Metro West Panel 6
<b>Districts</b>	21,24,25, 32,37,38, 46,47	1,6,22 23,26,27 31,35,36 42	4,10,11 15,28,29 30,33	9,17,20 40,41,43	2,5,13 14,16,34 39,45	3,7,8 12,18,19 44
<b>Meeting Location and Dates</b>	2/26/2008 7:00 p.m. Salisbury (planning meeting)  Planning Panel meetings for Saturdays in March	3/1/2008 9:00 a.m.  St. James Episcopal Church  5757 Solomon's Rd. (Rt 2) Lothian, MD  <a href="#">Flyer</a>	3/16/2008 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.  3/30/2008 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.  TBD - possibly Mann House  14 Williams St. Belair, MD	3/4/2008 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. <b>District 20</b> Hagerstown Presbyterian Church 20 S. Prospect Hagerstown  3/25/2008 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. <b>District 9</b> St. Luke's Church 701 Green Valley Rd Rte 75 New Windsor, MD	3/29/2008 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  4/5/2008 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  Watersedge Baptist Church 3843 Sollers Point Rd Dundalk, MD	3/8/2008 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  Salem Lutheran Church  905 Frederick Rd Catonsville, MD
<b>Agenda Topics</b>	Archives, Finance	Public Information, International Conventions and Regional Forums	Policy and Admissions, Treatment Facilities	Corrections, Report and Charter	Literature, CPC	Agenda, Grapevine

time. One of the main goals of the Chair will be to work towards facilitating communication and participation in all levels of service. I look forward with excitement towards the projects to present themselves for each and every one of the Committees in Maryland General Service over the course of the next two years.

Unity cannot happen in a vacuum. It only occurs when more than one person joins with another to enrich the experience of the whole. Tradition One teaches us that you and I (u-n-i ty) can do together what none of us can do alone. Bring your experience and share it with others throughout the Area to enable us to more adequately provide needed services for the alcoholic who is still suffering just a few short blocks away. Committees are forming now and there's a spot just right for each of us!!

Be sure to let me know your ideas for enhancing and increasing communication and participation from your Home Group, through your District, as part of an Area Committee, involvement in the Area Assembly and back to your Home Group - - the heart-beat of Alcoholics Anonymous. ☺

### SEARCH TO FILL GSO GENERAL MANAGER'S POSITION

The General Service Office in New York has announced that Greg M. will be retiring from the position of General Manger of GSO by the end of 2008. The letter indicates GSO is beginning the search process for a new General Manager, and includes a resume to be completed and returned to the Search Committee at GSO by interested candidates. The deadline for submission of resumes is May 30, 2008. Copies of the letter and resume form will be available at the next Area Assembly meeting on March 15. Please let Tom R., Area 29 Delegate know if you, or others you know of, may be interested in this opportunity.

The letter lists the following qualifications for the position:

1. Ten years minimum sobriety.
2. Demonstrated leadership ability in A.A. and in a business/professional career.
3. Proven general management experience, preferably as General Manager of a multifunctional organization with an understanding of: organizational issues, planning and controls, financial reporting, human resources practices, and information technology applications and trends.
4. A.A. service experience; knowledge of General Service structure and A.A. history.
5. Effective communication skills, both verbal and written; ability to report clearly and concisely on GSO operations to the appropriate boards, the General Service Conference and the Fellowship at large.
6. Demonstrated understanding of the unique nature of A.A., the structural limitations and balances of authority in A.A. services, and the ability to work with and resolve conflicting viewpoints.

### REACHING OUT TO THE "DARK DISTRICTS"

Many of our neighbors do not actively participate in Area 29, nor are their voices heard within AA as a whole. We encourage you to reach out to those districts without active GSRs or DCMs, sharing your experience of service beyond the home group and carrying the message one-on-one. Area 29 welcomes your ideas on how we can best do this and offers our support.

### MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE 2008 CALENDAR

Area Assembly(Annual Meeting)	March 15	Prince Frederick, MD
Mini Conference	April 11-13	Holiday Inn-Columbia, 7900 Washington Blvd., Columbia, MD
General Service Conference	April 27-May 3	New York, NY
Frederick Workshop	May 2-4	Frederick, MD
Area Assembly (Report Back)	May 17	District 31
MD State Convention	June 12-15	Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Hagerstown, MD
Area Committee	July 19	North East, MD
Area Assembly	August 16	Frederick, MD
Area Committee	September 20	Ocean City, MD
Area Assembly (Inventory)	October 18	Howard County, MD
Fall Conference	Oct 30-Nov 2	Carousel Resort Hotel, Ocean City, MD
Area Committee (Budget)	November 15	Crofton, MD
Area Assembly (Budget)	December 13	Aberdeen, MD

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