

MARGENSER

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

Keep Hope Alive

By Calvin J.
Chairperson, Area 29 Maryland General Service

This past weekend, I had the privilege of representing Area 29 as its Chair at the 2005 Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA). The purpose of NERAASA is for Area trusted servants and Intergroup or Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to meet and discuss General Service Conference-related issues and concerns affecting AA as a whole. Additionally, aspects of recovery, unity, and service pertinent to the Northeast Region are discussed among the various service entities.

Once again I returned to the Area energized and excited about the activities and events on the Area 29 calendar, along with new ideas, which I hope will inspire others to help unify our service structure. Over the past ten years, I've had an opportunity to make new friendships in the Northeast Region with other AAs who, like myself, have a passion for service. To see others grow in recovery, unity, and service is an opportunity you don't want to miss. But what I'd really like to share with you isn't about NERAASA, it's about my experience to and from NERAASA.

continued on page 3...

In 2004, we ran a series of articles about the General Service Conference – what it is, how it functions, the roles of the various trusted servants who attend.... This year, we'll take a look at how you and I, as individual AAs, are connected to the Conference process.

Many Voices, One AA

Anonymous

When I came into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1989, shaky and scared, I heard a few things right away: "Go to meetings; get a home group; get a job in the home group; get a sponsor; work the steps; and don't drink no matter what." My first home group displayed the Steps and the Traditions, read the 'Open Meetings' part of the "blue card," and stocked a table of other Conference-approved literature.

It wasn't until I was four years sober, after moving to another state, that I heard things I hadn't heard before. I joined a small home group there that "needed support." On the night I joined, they also told me they really needed a GSR (General Service Representative) and asked if I would be willing to serve the group in that position. I said "yes," having no idea of the journey and its rewards that lay ahead.

Until then, I hadn't thought much about where all that Conference-approved literature came from on display at the

continued on page 3...

Table of Contents...

<i>Keep Hope Alive</i>	...1	<i>Area 29 Mini Conference</i>	...4
<i>Many Voices, One AA</i>	...1	<i>Area 29 Maryland Convention</i>	...4
<i>Archives: a Year in Review</i>	...1	<i>Calendar</i>	...5
<i>Just Around The Corner</i>	...2	<i>2005 Conference Committees</i>	...6
<i>Serenity in a Second Surrender</i>	...2	<i>Membership Survey Update</i>	...7

Archives: a Year in Review

Bill H, Area 29 Archives Committee Chair

This has been a special year for the Archives Committee. The Area archives were displayed at seven Area 29 Maryland General Services meetings. We were at both the State Convention and the Fall Conference, where many enjoyed archival material so special to Area 29 and Maryland, in general.

I had the privilege to meet Nancy O at an Archive Conference in Pennsylvania. Nancy has published numerous books and articles about AA. She is one of those who "fought the good fight" in Congress, trying to get alcoholism recognized as a disease. In addition, she moderated the "AA History Lovers" website. Most of the people involved in AA archives throw their whole beings into this passion. I met Nancy only once, but she left such an impression, a feeling that everything will be all right if we just keep doing what those before us have done. She painted a picture of early AA you could smell and touch and breathe into your soul.

continued on page 5...

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.

Just Around the Corner: The Ten Hills Group

By Vince S, Ten Hills Group

“Attend ninety AA meetings in ninety days, get a sponsor and get a home group.” Those were my instructions in late 1995 when I came to Alcoholics Anonymous. I still had a few brain cells left, so I figured out the math regarding the meetings, and I had a vague idea about a sponsor, but I had no clue what a home group was and why I should join one. I honestly thought it had something to do with inviting other recovering drunks to my house for meetings of some type.

I attended my first AA meeting the day after leaving a treatment center and ran into someone I had known in high school. He had a reputation as a prodigious beer drinker who ran in a fast crowd of heavy drinkers. He spoke briefly at that meeting. Afterward, I asked him to become my sponsor. We started going to lots of meetings together and the following Thursday, we went to a church on Edmondson Avenue just west of Edmondson Village Shopping Center. He told me his father used to belong to this group, and he suggested I choose this meeting, Ten Hills, as my home group. I did.

At that time, Ten Hills had only five or six active members. The coffee maker was not even a member. As the months went by, regardless of what part of Maryland I went to meetings, I heard many people share their stories. Many mentioned Ten Hills as an integral part of their recovery. In February 1996, we celebrated an anniversary, and Bob F gave a brief history of our group.

The first meeting was on February 20, 1951, in the same church in which we still meet. It was actually a Tuesday and it was an 8:30 PM meeting. It was not the first meeting in Baltimore, not even the first in West Baltimore, but from the beginning, it grew into one of the premier groups in the Metropolitan area.

After a few years, the meetings moved to Thursdays at 8. During the first couple of decades, many members brought their wives, and they actually had their own seating area (referred to as “the jury box”). The ladies served coffee in real cups and saucers to the members and comforted newcomers, especially females, after the meeting.

According to Bob F and other oldtimers, Ten Hills became the springboard for the great majority of AA meetings in West Baltimore, Catonsville, Ellicott City, and Howard County. Security Thursday, Resurrection and the Irvington Group are just a few of the many spin offs. Most groups over twenty years old in the area can trace their roots directly to Ten Hills. Apparently, coffee pots and resentments were not in short supply back then either.

Also, according to Bob, Ten Hills has not missed opening its doors for an AA meeting even once, regardless of weather or church events, since 1951. Many of our members have traveled throughout the country and report meeting people who mention Ten Hills.

Father Joseph Martin, who founded the Ashley Treatment Center in Havre de Grace, joined Ten Hills in 1958 upon returning from his treatment center in Michigan. He actually first performed his world famous “Chalk Talk” on a blackboard at a meeting in our hall.

This home group had a few interesting customs over the years. In the early years, members celebrating their anniversary had to supply the speaker for the meeting one week prior to their anniversary and were responsible for making coffee for both weeks. Also, members turned in their old AA chip prior to receiving their new one. To this day, we have dozens of 35-45 year AA chips on hand. We started a new tradition in 2000 by giving out AA coffee mugs to our weekly guest speakers.

When Bob F passed away last year, Ten Hills lost its last remaining oldtimer from the 1960s. As a group, however, we still try to offer a weekly meeting the “old fashioned way” – mediocre coffee, good speakers, and great fellowship, especially for the newcomer. ▲

Serenity in a Second Surrender

By Bill M, *Courage to Change Group*

When I first got sober, I was told that recovery included a series of surrenders. I had a vague idea what that meant, but it wasn't until my 7th year of sobriety that it truly hit me. I used to sit in meetings and cringe when I heard someone speak of God. I didn't know why it angered me, but it did.

I went to a meeting one day, after which I was fuming after hearing more than I could bear about God from those

who shared. “Higher Power” was OK, but “God” somehow rubbed me the wrong way. I vented to someone a bit more serene and spiritually fit. He patiently listened, and then I stormed off.

He later told me that he thought I would either get drunk or surrender when I left the meeting that night. Thank God I started the process of surrender. Up to that time, I believed I was the one keeping me sober. I gave lip service to the idea of a Higher Power but felt that as long as I was active in AA, that was enough.

But it wasn't enough; I had neglected my spiritual growth for the first several years of recovery, and then paid the price with emotional pain and faced another surrender. I was doing things in sobriety that I had done when I was drinking, living in my character defects, knowing full well I was, but doing nothing to change it. How could I? I didn't believe that “God could and would if he were sought!”

I read in the appendix in the Big Book that spiritual experiences often are of gradual and educational varieties. My surrender was a gradual one, which fortunately allowed me to experience the emotional pain without getting drunk – for which I can now thank God. The pain of living a supposedly sober life, yet not surrendering to the fact that I could not do this sobriety thing without some help, was a tough pill to swallow. But I've also come to understand something else I heard: “Pain is a great motivator.”

I now listen to people in meetings speak of God or Higher Power with the hope of hearing what I once viewed with disdain. I read from meditation books and practice prayer daily, the basic things I professed but did not really believe, but did just to say I did them. This process today is a hopeful experience because I am enjoying the peace and serenity I was looking for all my life. AA taught me that I can ask for help from God and that I don't have to carry the burdens of life alone.

This past year I experienced health problems that normally would have rocked my world and prompted more than a fair share of self-pity and resentment. Instead I found a strength that was generously supplied simply by asking for it.

I surrendered. ▲

(Keep Hope Alive) continued from page 1...

When I first entered general service as a GSR, I was advised to get a service sponsor, someone who would be available to answer questions about this area of service, point out the literature I should read, and remind me of the responsibility I agreed to assume. My service sponsor would also suggest Northeast Regional events I should attend and those that my group might even consider sponsoring. As servants, he said, we must always demonstrate good stewardships of the resources entrusted to us. We need to replace the lavish style of spending of the past with a thoughtful and humble spirit. Thus, you need to share transportation and housing cost wherever possible to make these functions affordable for all.

In those early years, my sponsor would invite me over to his house to spend the night before a travel day to a Northeast Regional service function. The next morning, other AA members would meet at his house, or we would pick them up along the way to our destination. It reminded me of the early AA members on their way to an AA meeting. I listened intently as the more experienced AA members shared their experience in service and discussed topics of interest about the Area, districts, and groups.

The principles my sponsor was trying to instill in me did not fall on deaf ears. This year, six of us traveled in a Van to NERAASA. There were two DCMs and one GSR, all first-time participants at NERAASA. Our conversation in the Van included topics such as district boundaries, revitalizing districts, and other Northeast Regional functions the district might consider sponsoring for the DCM and GSR. I want my sponsor to know that I'm grasping the ideas and principles that have been placed at my feet. And I say to all those who would listen, this is an opportunity you don't want to miss: watching others grow, as you "commence shoulder to shoulder your common journey." ▲

(Many Voices, One AA) continued from page 1...

meetings. I didn't know that a group conscience could be, or even should be, more than just a changing-of-jobs. Nor did I know there were 12 Concepts for World Service in that "simple kit of spiritual tools" I could apply to my daily living. In fact, while I was aware of the 12 Traditions and understood them on some limited level, I hadn't truly understood their purpose and value, because I hadn't seen them – all of them – being applied toward our legacy of Unity.

My GSR crash course included learning about the AA service structure, the responsibilities of the GSR and other trusted servants within that structure, the critical role of the home group, and how all this related to AA as a whole. As I learned more about the origins of the General Service Conference and the service structure behind it, it made perfect sense.

Early in AA's history, as our fellowship grew rapidly, Bill W and Dr. Bob (and others) began developing the idea of a world service structure. They realized that there would be "special services" that could not be performed effectively at the group or Area levels. These included writing and translating "uniform" AA literature, developing public relations policy, handling large numbers of requests for help, and helping new groups form (armed with the experience of successful groups). To take on these responsibilities, they set up a trusteeship for AA, the Alcoholic Foundation (later, the General Service Board).

By 1950, AA membership had grown to 100,000, and most of these "special services" were a reality. The 12 Traditions had turned the fear and doubt surrounding AA's growth into "confident unity." According to Bill, this could not have happened without our services. He went on to say that, if these failed or stalled, our unity and our ability to carry the message would be damaged, perhaps beyond repair.

The early AAs also faced the reality that the two co-founders would not always be around to help guide AA and its trustees as the fellowship continued to grow. The future of Alcoholics Anonymous had to be placed into other hands. Whose hands was the question.

Bill felt that that responsibility should pass to the "collective conscience of the AA groups." With this in mind, he sold the

General Service Conference idea. At the 1955 International Convention in St. Louis, the General Service Conference officially became the "voice and effective conscience of the AA groups" in the US and Canada.

So where do I – and you – fit into this world service picture? AA's service structure is essentially an upside-down triangle, with the AA groups at the top. So it starts by having a voice in an "informed" conscience of the home group. The group's GSR, guided by Traditions and Concepts, serves as the group's voice at the District and Area levels. Our Delegate, in turn, serves as the Area's voice at the General Service Conference, where matters affecting AA as a whole are decided.

But it's a two-way street. Many, if not most, of the agenda items for the Conference come from the areas, districts, groups, and individual AAs. That means that part of being an informed group is knowing what's on the Conference agenda. Once again, having an active GSR is key.

In 2004, there were approximately 2,000,000 AA members in 104,000 groups in 150 countries. Imagine for a moment what would have happened without a way to perform those "special services" so vital to our Fellowship. Without a service structure in place to ensure a "uniform" message of recovery, to translate that message into an ever-growing list of languages, and to make that message available in printed and recorded form to those who would want or need it, where would AA be today?

A common peril and a common solution, these are the things that bind us together. Imagine the differences of opinion and personality issues within a group multiplied a thousand times, ten thousand times, or more. What if each group added its own special "twist" to the message of recovery, printed its own literature, followed its own traditions? Would AA have been here in 1989, when the God of my understanding graced me with the gift of desperation, without a "collective conscience of the AA groups," firmly rooted in the informed group conscience? Who's to say?

I know this much, though. I want AA here for me, for you, and for those to come after us. The 12 Concepts provide us with a Right of Participation. For me, it's a right – and a voice – I gratefully exercise. ▲

Area 29 Mini Conference

April 1-3, 2005



Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

"Basics of our Home Group - Recovery, Unity and Service" (2005 General Service Conference Theme)

Purpose:

The purpose of the Area 29 Mini Conference is to provide a forum for Area 29's GSR's, DCM's, 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.

Friday:

Round Table Sharing Sessions

- District Committee Members (DCM's)
- General Service Representatives (GSR's)
- Committee Chairs
- Area Officers
- Special Needs



Saturday:

Six panel sessions reviewing the Conference Agenda items with audience participation to include questions and comments.

Julio E. from our General Service Office will speak following the Saturday Night Banquet.

Sunday:

Trustee's Forum Discussion of the Conference Process from the Trustee's perspective

Hosted By:

Maryland General Service

All AA Members Are Welcome

"Basics of our Home Group - Recovery, Unity and Service"
Area 29 - 2005 Mini Conference Registration

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Service Responsibility: (Circle)

- GSR / Alt GSR
- DCM / Alt DCM
- Area Officer
- Area Committee Leader

Home Group: _____

District Number: _____

There is **No Registration Fee**, but please register in advance so adequate preparations can be made.

Saturday Night Banquet at the Hunt Valley Inn.

_____ Number of Dinners @ \$28.50 per person: \$ _____

Banquet reservations must be received by 3/23/05

Make Checks Payable to: MGS - Mini Conference,
And mail to: Maryland General Service - Mini Conference, P.O. Box 832, Arnold, MD 21012

.....Cut Here

Hotel Registration Form: _____ Credit Card Type _____ # _____ Exp _____

Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn
245 Shawan Rd.
Hunt Valley, MD 21031
Phone: 410-785-3906

MentionAA Mini Conference

Mini Conference Room Rate - \$99.00 per night plus Maryland State Sales tax and local occupancy tax.

Arrive: Day and Date _____

All reservations must be guaranteed with first night's deposit or credit card number (include expiration date). Make checks payable to the Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn and return to hotel.

Depart: Day and Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

All reservations must be received by March 25th to guarantee a room rate. Cancellations must be received by 24 hours prior to the day of arrival or a cancellation fee of one night's stay will be assessed.

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

35th Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention

Hosted by
Maryland General Service
with Al-Anon participation



June 16th to 19th, 2005 • Clarion Hotel and Conference Center • Hagerstown, MD

AA SPEAKERS

Tim T. Cleveland, OH
Bob D. Las Vegas, NV

Michael E. Evans, GA
Kathie M. Henderson, NV

Lamar R. Baltimore, MD
Micky R. Forest Hill, MD

AL-ANON SPEAKERS

Janet D. Pittsburgh, PA
Ann G. Salem, VA

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 16th
NOON Registration Opens
2:00 p.m. Hands On Archives Presentation
4:00 p.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
5:00 p.m. Alcathons Begin
8:00 p.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
9:30 p.m. Fellowship & Fun
12:00 a.m. Last Daily Alcathon

FRIDAY, JUNE 17th
6:00 a.m. Alcathons Begin
8:00 a.m. Registration
8:15 a.m. Prayer & Meditation
9:30 a.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
11:00 a.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
1:30 p.m. A.A. Workshops (2 to choose from)
1:30 p.m. A-Anon Workshop
1:30 p.m. A.A. Play
2:45 p.m. A.A. Workshop (2 to choose from)
2:45 p.m. A-Anon Workshop
4:00 p.m. A.A. Workshop (2 to choose from)
8:00 p.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
9:30 p.m. Dance to D.J.
12:00 a.m. Last Daily Alcathon

SATURDAY, JUNE 18th
6:00 a.m. Alcathons Begin
8:00 a.m. Registration
8:15 a.m. Prayer & Meditation
9:00 a.m. Open A.A. Old-Timers Meeting
11:00 a.m. Open Al-Anon Speaker Meeting
1:30 p.m. Combined A.A./Al-Anon Workshop
2:45 p.m. A.A. Workshop (2 to choose from)
2:45 p.m. Al-Anon Workshop
4:00 p.m. A.A. Workshop (2 to choose from)
6:00 p.m. Banquet Dinner
8:00 p.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
10:00 p.m. Dance to D.J.
12:00 a.m. Last Daily Alcathon

SUNDAY, JUNE 19th
6:00 a.m. Alcathons Begin
8:15 a.m. Prayer & Meditation
9:00 a.m. Last Daily Alcathon
10:00 a.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting



Advance Convention Registration

Advance Registration Must Be Post-Marked By June 1, 2005

Mail your registration to: MGS State Convention Committee, P.O. Box 70364, Baltimore, MD 21237

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

A.A. Registration _____ X \$22 _____

Al-Anon Registration _____ X \$22 _____

Saturday Buffet _____ X \$20 _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

MGS State Convention Committee
P.O. Box 70364
Baltimore, MD 21237

35th Annual

Area 29 Maryland State Convention

Hosted by
Maryland General Service
with Al-Anon participation

June 16th to 19th, 2005 • Clarion Hotel and Conference Center • Hagerstown, MD

Lodging Information

Hotel Reservation Method

Our Host Facility is the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center. Minimum two night stay at this hotel required to get convention room rate. \$72 per room, per night. Clarion Hotel Reservations Only: 888.528.6738.

Mention MD State Convention to get convention room rate.

Other Hotels in the Area:

Comfort Suites	301.791.8100
Days Inn	800.422.2754
Four Points Sheraton	301.790.3010
Hampton Inn	301.739.6100
Sleep Inn & Suites	301.766.9449
Quality Inn	301.733.2700

NOTE: Most hotels require 72 hours notice to cancel a reservation.

Buffet Menu

- Tossed garden salad (with assorted dressings)
- Lemon Pepper Chicken • Roast Sirloin of Beef
- Chef's Choice of Potato & Vegetable
- Warm Rolls & Butter
- Freshly Brewed Coffee (regular & decaffeinated)
- Hot Tea & Iced Tea
- Dessert (served at individual tables)

Ice Cream Social Friday & Saturday Night
Vanilla Ice Cream topped with your choice of strawberries, chocolate sauce, pineapples, walnuts, peanuts & whipped cream.

Friday
Dances
Saturday

Register in advance today! Walk-in registration will be \$25

ADMITTANCE TO ALL FUNCTIONS WILL REQUIRE A NAME BADGE
For questions and information, Email us at: stateconvention@marylandaa.org

Register in advance today! Walk-in registration will be \$25

continued from page 1...

The Area archives also were on hand for workshops in Hagerstown, Annapolis, and Hollywood, Maryland. In Hollywood, I had another of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences; I met one of the curators from Dr. Bob's house in Akron, who brought his own collection of unbelievable AA memorabilia. It included over six first-edition Big Books, one from the first printing, as well as AA shares, stories, and tapes about the people who began AA in Akron. He also put on a three-hour slide show of photos of Bill and Bob, Ann and Lois, Reverend Shoemaker, Dr. Silkworth, Sister Ignatius, Ebby, Clarence S, and others.

We sent out over 1500 group history flyers, receiving back only a hundred or so, but it's a hundred more than we had when we started. As part of our gathering of AA history through interviews with AA oldtimers and others knowledgeable about AA's early days, we interviewed Joseph Houck, a 95-year-old living member of the Oxford Group. Mr. Houck met Bill W and Fitz M at Oxford Group meetings in Frederick. Mr. Houck gave us a good sense of the spiritual atmosphere that Bill, Bob, and Fitz were exposed to. Having this insight into the Oxford Group helps us better appreciate the Steps and the early years of AA.

I had enormous help from Bill M when we took the archives down to the young people's convention in April. It was an event teeming with opportunities to carry the message of hope and recovery with a special Maryland accent. We have added some smaller displays to the archives this year and ran into a little "luck" at the Fall Conference. A young woman there just bubbled over about the archives. It turned out that she does document preservation, so she is currently working on three booklets from the Area collection. In preparation for the International in Toronto, we have been going through our material, trying to choose the best to place in the hospitality suite there. I hope our fellowship will support this endeavor as they have so graciously in the past.

I want to thank the AA members of Area 29, the officers of Maryland General Services, and all the many others who helped us throughout the year. Without financial support from the Area and the moral and physical support of the fellowship, there would be no Area 29 archives. It has truly been a blessed year. ☺

AREA 29 MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE 2005 CALENDAR

March 19	Area Assembly	Aberdeen - DISTRICT 30
April 1 - 3	Mini Conference	Hunt Valley
May 20 - 22	NERF	Portland, ME - AREA 28
June 11	Area Committee	Calvert County - DISTRICT 1
June 16 - 19	International Convention	Toronto CAN
June 30 - July 3	NERD	Wilmington, DE - AREA 12
August 20	Area Assembly	Frederick - DISTRICTS 40/41/43
September 17	Area Committee	Queen Anne's - DISTRICT 24
October 15	Area Assembly (Elections)	Dundalk - DISTRICT 16
October 27 - 30	MD Fall Conference	Hagerstown
November 12	Area Committee	Towson - DISTRICT 4
December 10	Area Assembly (Transition)	Odenton - DISTRICT 26

Amends?

Last quarter, we attributed the experience, strength, and hope article "My Delusional Thinking Sledgehammer" to the wrong source. It was, in fact, graciously contributed by Larry H of the Glen Gardens Group. Progress, not perfection.

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 832
Arnold, MD 21012

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. Send all correspondence

margenser@marylandaa.org.

The submission deadline for the next issue is April 25, 2005.

AREA 29 COMMITTEES NEED PEOPLE

Have an interest in a new service direction? Join us. Area 29 Maryland General Service has service positions to meet you at the level of your needs.

No prior experience necessary. No resume needed. Just a willingness to offer Love and Service. Contact the Area Chairperson at chairperson@marylandaa.org.

2005 General Service Conference Committees

AGENDA ITEMS

I. AGENDA

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2006 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2006 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2006 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

II. COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

- A. Review shared experience on ways local committees approach professionals in addition to writing letters, for possible inclusion in the C.P.C. Kit.
- B. Consider ways that members share information about AA one-on-one with professionals, for possible inclusion in C.P.C. materials.
- C. Discuss the need for a pamphlet directed to the criminal justice system.
- D. Consider request to create a video for professionals.
- E. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

III. CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

- A. Consider including the following statement on AA's Singleness of Purpose in the pamphlet "A Message to Correctional Professionals":
"Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as 'substance abuse' or 'chemical dependency.' Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to AA and encouraged to attend AA meetings. Anyone may attend open AA meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings."
- B. Consider the revised updated draft manuscript of AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate.
- C. Review Final Report exploring the feasibility and cost of producing and distributing an informational video introducing AA to training academies for corrections personnel. [Note: the estimated cost of production and distribution is \$50,000.]
- D. Review the draft service piece on "Guidelines for the Development of Workshops Introducing AA in Training Programs for Correctional Personnel."
- E. Consider suggestion that the name of the Conference Committee on Correctional Facilities be changed to the Conference Committee on Corrections.
- F. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

IV. FINANCE

- A. Discuss self-support.
- B. Review and discuss report from trustees 'Finance and Budgetary Committee on delegates' fees.
- C. Discuss request to include information on how to obtain a tax ID number in the "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet.

V. GRAPEVINE

- A. Consider request that in 2006 or later, the Grapevine produce a collection of stories for young people, drawn from previous issues of the AA Grapevine magazine, similar to Spiritual Awakenings.
- B. Consider request that in 2006 or later, La Viña produce an audio compact disc of La Viña stories on Steps Seven through Twelve as a companion to its CD of stories on Steps One through Six.
- C. Review Workbook.

VI. LITERATURE

- A. Consider revised draft introduction developed by the Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Committee on Literature to be added to the front matter of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, as recommended by the 2003 Conference and per additional consideration of the 2004 Conference Committee on Literature.
- B. Consider revised draft pamphlet "Too Young?"
- C. Review trustees' Committee on Literature progress report on "Young People and AA" pamphlet.
- D. Review trustees' Committee on Literature progress report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.
- E. Consider revised draft text for the section titled "Service Sponsorship" on page 28 in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."
- F. Consider the revised draft comic book format pamphlet "It Happened to Alice!"
- G. Review draft manuscript of the revised pamphlet "The AA Group."
- H. Consider revised text for the section titled "The AA Grapevine" in the pamphlet "Your AA General Service Office."
- I. Discuss suggestion to develop a publication oriented toward and addressing the concerns of AA members with long-term sobriety.

- J. Discuss suggestion to replace the term "sexual preference" with "sexual orientation" in the pamphlet "AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."
- K. Discuss request to revise the table of contents in Living Sober by creating "unity," "service," and "recovery" sections and by including a subtitle under chapter titles.

VII. POLICY/ADMISSIONS

- A. Review dates for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss report from trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference regarding the use of laptop computers at the General Service Conference.
- C. Consider requests to revise the timetable for the election of one delegate in the Western Canada Region to allow for two odd and two even panels in that region
- D. Consider request that a second Conference Committee on Literature be formed.

VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

- A. Consider 2004 annual report from the trustees' Committee on P.I. regarding G.S.O.'s AA Web site.
- B. Review and approve final draft of the "Alcoholics Anonymous 2004 Membership Survey" pamphlet.
- C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
 1. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. - "Living in Chaos" - developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
 2. Review information on centralized redistribution, tracking and evaluation of television P.S.A., "We Know What It's Like."
 3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. - "Living in Chaos" - at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local P.I. committees.
 4. Consider removing the phrase "and taking pills" from the P.S.A. "Teenager," spot #6, on the radio P.S.A. CD item #R-10.
- D. Consider report from trustees' Committee on Public Information recommending first steps in determining the feasibility of replacing two videos, "AA - Rap With Us" and "Young People and AA," with estimated initial project costs not to exceed \$20,000.
- E. Consider a suggestion to replace/update the video "Alcoholics Anonymous - An Inside View."
- F. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

IX. REPORT AND CHARTER

- A. Review The AA Service Manual, 2004 – 2005 Edition.
1. Review editorial updates to The AA Service Manual.
 2. Review updated chart to replace “AA Grapevine, Inc.” on page S80.
 3. Consider adding proposed text pertaining to the AA Grapevine Digital Archive and Reprint Policy.
- B. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.
- C. Discuss AA Directories.
1. Consider request to include online meetings in languages other than English, French and Spanish in AA directories under “ONLINE MEETINGS.”
 2. Consider request to include adding Web site information for online meetings listed in AA directories under “ONLINE MEETINGS.”
 3. Consider placement of a central office serving Native North American People in the AA directories.

X. TREATMENT FACILITIES

- A. Review results of survey regarding activities of local committees involved in Treatment Facilities service.
- B. Consider request that the “Singleness of Purpose Statement” currently used in six C.P.C. pamphlets be added to the pamphlet “AA in Treatment Facilities.”
- C. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

XI. TRUSTEES

- A. Review resumes of candidates for regional trustee and trustee-at-large:
1. East Central Regional Trustee
 2. Southeast Regional Trustee
 3. Trustee-at-large/U.S.
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board.
- C. Review slates of directors of AA World Services and Grapevine Corporate Boards.
- D. Review request that the qualifications for regional trustee and nontrustee director be updated to include the following:
“That an Appointed Committee Member not be eligible as a Regional Trustee or nontrustee Director candidate until one year after his or her last service as an Appointed Committee Member.”
- E. Discuss recommendation from trustees’ Nominating Committee that new language be added to the Bylaws of the General Service Board regarding successor terms of Class B trustees in the event of resignation or death.

XII. ARCHIVES

- A. Review Workbook.

XIII. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS

- A. Consider the concept of broadcasting an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed Intranet broadcast of the 2005 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.
- B. Discuss the upcoming 2005 International Convention.
- C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Special Forums.
- D. Discuss the concept of restructuring and/or increasing Forums (Regional/Special).

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.

Membership Survey Update

During the first 14 days of August, Area 29 participated in the 2004 Membership survey. Ten groups around Area 29 were randomly selected, and nine out of the ten groups participated. Altogether, 232 surveys were completed. Below is a comparison between the 2001 AA Membership and 2004 MD surveys.

CATEGORY	AA 2001 SURVEY RESULTS	MD 2004 SURVEY RESULTS
Average Age	46	46
Under 21	2%	5%
21 – 30	9%	9%
31 – 40	24%	16%
41 – 50	31%	34%
51 – 60	20%	22%
61 – 70	10%	9%
Over 70	4%	6%
Male	67%	77%
Female	33%	23%
Married	37%	40%
Divorced	24%	36%
Single	31%	16%
Widowed	5%	4%
Separated	3%	4%
White	88%	90%
Black	5%	4%
Hispanic	4%	3%
Asian	2%	2%
Other	1%	1% (Human)
Average Meetings	2 per week	4.46 per week
Sober under 1 year	30%	30%
Sober 1 – 5 years	22%	20%
Sober over 5 years	48%	50%
Average Sobriety	7 years	7 years
Have Homegroup	85%	83%
Have a Sponsor	77%	85%
Referred by Professional	38%	38%
Doctor Knows your in AA	73%	73%

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MARGENSER Mailing List Update Form

Send to _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

- New Correction Change
- Group Individual

Mail form to: Margenser