

MARGENSER NEWSLETTER

FOSTERING UNITY AND CARRYING THE A.A. MESSAGE IN AREA 29  2nd QUARTER 2004

YOUR MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE

CALVIN J., CHAIRPERSON, MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE

At one time I couldn't wait for the State Convention in June and the Fall Conference, as it's known now, in October. These were two of my social highlights of the year. Here was my chance to spend a weekend listening to speakers and seeing old friends and new faces. I'll never forget the time my friend Bill and I had breakfast with Paul O and his wife, Max.

Through the early years these events served to provide an outlet for sober socializing. This was entirely different from enjoying coffee or breakfast after my home group meeting with some of my buddies. In Hagerstown, after meetings and other events, I didn't have to go home and perform chores. I really got to enjoy the fellowship

and relished the opportunity to form new relationships. I mention the excitement and the fun the State Convention and the Fall Conference provided for this "newbie" for one main reason. These two events introduced me to and trained me for participating in the AA service structure.

Without events like these, I might not have had the many opportunities to serve you in various capacities. After being around a little while, I learned that these two events were the responsibility of, and were coordinated by, committees of your Maryland General Service (MGS).

While I was having a good time socializing, I heard the message being carried by the "faithful." I was once

Continued on Page 11

NEWS FROM THE 54TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

NANCY K., AREA 29 PANEL 54 DELEGATE

Attending the General Service Conference was definitely a spiritual experience for me and my family. I met so many others in the Fellowship as much in love with AA as I am. It was clear to me that our Primary Purpose was close to all our hearts. My only regret is that all of you could not be there. Since my purpose in attending was to be your trusted servant, a more in-depth article on my experiences will be forthcoming in the next issue. For this issue, I'll simply pass on the Advisory Actions from each Committee.

Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of AA Advisory Actions of the 54th General Service Conference

Agenda Committee

- Recommended that the Theme for the 2005 General Service Conference be "Basics of Our Home Group - Recovery, Unity and Service."
- Recommended that the following be Presentation/Discussion topics for the 2005 General Service Conference:

Continued on Page 3

MARGENSER STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Area 29 MARGENSER newsletter is published to foster unity and to 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, by Area 29, by intergroups, districts, or local groups, or by AA as a whole.

THE DELEGATE'S ROLE AT THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE – WHAT IS IT?

MORGAN J, AREA 29 PANEL 50 PAST DELEGATE

Before looking at the Delegate's role, we need to first define the General Service Conference. From the Service Manual: "The Twelve Traditions make clear the principle that AA, as such, should never be organized, that there are no bosses and no government in AA. Yet at the same time, the Traditions recognize the need for some kind of organization to carry the message in ways that are impossible for the local groups," such as publishing uniform literature, providing public information resources, helping new groups get started, producing an international magazine, and "carrying the message in other languages into other countries.... The Conference structure is the framework in which these 'general services' are carried out. It is a method by which AA's collective group conscience can speak forcefully and put its desires for worldwide services into effect. It is the structure that takes the place of government in AA, ensuring that the full voice of AA will be heard and guaranteeing that movement-wide services will continue to function under all conditions."

The first conference was held in New York in April of 1951, with 37 delegates from Canada and the US attending. Also in attendance were 15 Board members and 10 General Service Office and Grapevine staff. The year 2004 marks the Conference's 54th annual session. The 54th General Service Conference will have approximately 135 voting members from the US and Canada. There will be 93 Delegates, one from each Area of the Conference, each assigned to at least one Conference Committee. Our Delegate, Nancy K, is serving on the Policy and Admissions Committee. Her committee will have a lot to do at the Conference. Nancy will report to the next Area Assembly the details of the Conference and her Committee's work.

The Conference functions on the committee system and has eleven standing committees and two secondary committees, with eight or nine members from different regions, if possible, to provide the broadest spectrum of thought. Committees usually have an even distribution of first- and second-year delegates. It is in the Conference Committee meetings that a great deal of the Conference work gets done. The better the committee's job, the better the information reported to the Conference as a whole. The Conference Committee is the heartbeat of the conference. Reaction by the Conference can be one of prompt acceptance or prolonged dissertation,

depending on how well the Committee addresses its assigned agenda items. If the Committee leaves unanswered questions, the Conference is likely to, as it should, work a little harder to look for answers. The Ninth Tradition says "AA, as such, ought never be organized: but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." It is in the Committee that the collective voice of the groups is heard and acted on.

The Conference week is a very busy time for its members. Most will arrive on Saturday, get their room assignments, meet other Conference members, attended a Delegates-only meeting, and somehow find time to eat. Sunday features the first of the regional meetings, a combined meeting with the committee's corresponding Trustees committee, a banquet with several speakers, and the official opening of the Conference itself. Some Conference committees will meet on Sunday for the first of many sessions.

The committees generally meet on Monday and Tuesday. They discuss their agenda items and draft their reports, which may include recommendations for the whole Conference to act upon. Committees present their reports from Wednesday through Friday. Committee reports can often stimulate hours of passionate discussion and debate. Ultimately the conscience of AA as a whole prevails.

The Committee reports are presented to the entire Conference. Each item can have one of three possible outcomes: a recommendation, a consideration, or no action at all. The difference between recommendations and considerations is that, when passed with a substantial unanimity (2/3 of the Conference or more in favor), recommendations become Conference Advisory Actions. These become binding when approved by the General Service Board. Considerations are forwarded to the appropriate Conference Committee and may or may not be acted upon. When no action is recommended, the item typically dies and isn't heard from again.

In addition to her Committee work, Nancy will attend two Regional lunches, where much of the Region's business is conducted. She will also attend two Delegates-only meetings, usually general sharing sessions. But sometimes, new ideas are fostered in those meetings. One such idea began in the Delegates-only meeting in 2000 and later became a reality—the

Continued on Page 4

GENERAL SERVICE CONF.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

- Recovery:
 - "How It Works" in Our Home Group
 - Carrying the Message Through Practicing the Principles in Our Daily Lives
- Unity:
 - Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code
 - The Basket – Where Money and Spirituality Mix
 - The Spiritual Principle of Our 12th Tradition
- Service:
 - Concept One – Final Responsibility and Ultimate Authority
 - Concept Five – Minority Opinion -Are We Listening?
 - Concept Nine – Leadership – Responsibility for AA's Future
- Recommended that the following be the Workshop Topic for the 2005 General Service Conference: "Do I Carry the AA Message or My Own?"

Archives

No Actions

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

No Actions

Correctional Facilities

- Agreed to include the statement on AA's Singleness of Purpose in the *Correctional Facilities Workbook* and unanimously recommended that the trustees' Committee on Correctional Facilities consider including the statement on AA's Singleness of Purpose, which follows, 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 A.A. and encouraged to attend AA meetings. Anyone may attend open AA meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings."

Finance

No Actions

Grapevine

- Expressed gratitude for the AA Grapevine Corporate Board's final report on placing *Grapevine* items for resale in non-AA outlets and unanimously recommended to allow the widest distribution of the *AA Grapevine* and *La Viña* to all purchasers, while guarding against affiliation with any outside enterprise,
- subscriptions to the *AA Grapevine* and *La Viña* magazines be issued only by the AA Grapevine, Inc., or by AA trusted servants directly; and

- the AA Grapevine, Inc., adopt standardized sales practices and pricing for all purchasers. This recommendation is to clarify the 1993 Advisory Action, which states "the Grapevine Corporate Board not actively pursue the placement of *Grapevine* materials for resale in commercial (non-AA) outlets."

- Unanimously recommended that the *AA Grapevine: Our Meeting in Print* pamphlet be revised to include the proposed references to *La Viña* and *La Viña* Representatives, wherever the *Grapevine* magazine and its representatives are mentioned.
- Unanimously recommended that the *AA Grapevine Workbook* be designated as service material and be reviewed on an annual basis.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

- Recommended that an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony be taken at the 2005 International Convention.
- Recommended that the General Service Conference support the General Service Board Policy as amended on November 2, 2003, which reads: "Whenever a discount or subsidy is that which would be offered to any other organization of similar size requiring a purchased service or product of similar character and magnitude, for example, convention rates at hotels, it may be accepted. Whenever a discount or subsidy is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous, it must be declined."

NOTE: The original Board policy text contained the letters "i.e.," which were replaced with the words "for example." The General Service Board amended the policy because "for example" more accurately reflected the intention of the 1989 trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums. The 1999 General Service Conference supported the Board's 1989 policy through an Advisory Action.

The committee noted the Additional Consideration of the 1999 Conference Committee on Finance, which reads: "The committee unanimously recognizes that the acceptance of discounts or subsidies in the form of cash causes discomfort to some members of our Fellowship. The committee suggests that any future negotiations regarding International Convention discounts or subsidies be carried out with this in mind."

Literature

- Recommended that the Publications Department rewrite the pamphlet *Too Young?* with changes to layout and style as determined by Publications, targeting the ages of 11-17, and present the revised draft pamphlet to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee following review by the trustees'

Continued on Page 5

WORKING FROM THE OWNERS MANUAL

BILL M, HOW IT WORKS GROUP

My name is Bill, and I am a grateful alcoholic. I am here to report that alcohol has not been very good to me, and I have not been very good to myself. That started long before alcohol became the game. The sad truth is that not being good to myself made it easy not to be good to you or anybody else. I, like many, started drinking at a young age.

The more I drank, the better I got at it and the longer I drank. And often, the angrier I became. This behavior was becoming habitual and destructive. A typical night of drinking for me involved getting kicked out of a bar, wandering on to another, getting kicked out of that bar, then locating two or three of "Baltimore's finest" with nightsticks. That is a brief description of my life until almost three years ago.

Since then I have become willing to go to any lengths, to be honest with myself and others, and to remain open-minded enough to listen sometimes. When I returned to AA this time (after nearly 20 years around the fellowship), I finally heard it said that this program was about progress, not perfection. I have been making progress, not attaining anything near perfection.

I thank God for sponsors, especially the one God put in my life. Once I reached a point of surrender and humility, and at the suggestion of a friend of mine, I asked someone to be my sponsor. He has been there to help me learn about the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. But most of all, he has been a stable example of something I want out of my life. Now don't get me wrong; he is not perfect as a sponsor. I feel he is perfect for me, though, and maybe for some others he sponsors. All of us who have sponsors should be thankful.

I have lightly touched upon a couple of the important parts of this program of recovery for me. This is much different than the program I used to work – Bill's program. The end of Bill's program came when I stopped breathing – you know, dead. AA and sober people have shown me how they live, and I am learning how to live one day at a time. Action and more action, that seems to be the key to a program for staying sober, for living, that works. There are so many different and special kinds of action, truly something for everyone.

Sometimes when I hear people share their experience, strength, and hope, the story they tell parallels what I have done and what has happened to me. At other times, all I can do is listen for the similarities. But either story reminds me of the experience of using and abusing alcohol (for me, mostly abusing). The part that often changes for me is the recovery part of my story. It is not always easy, and many people I have met along the way tell me to expect a few bumps in the road.

For me the Big Book of *Alcoholics Anonymous* is chock full of information and step-by-step directions; it is the owners manual. A wealth of knowledge lies inside it, but I can't just let that knowledge lie there. The only way I've learned to get the knowledge from it is to read it, to participate in Big Book studies, and to talk to my sponsor and other sober alcoholics about it. And I have to put that knowledge to work through action. This seems to work, where Bill's program didn't. My hope for you is that you and your Higher Power work together the rest of your days.

DELEGATE'S ROLE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Concepts were added to the Big Book. Nancy will also sit in on reports from the General Service and Grapevine offices. These reports will give her, and subsequently us, the nuts and bolts of both operations.

Conference week isn't all work; there is some time for play. NERD (Northeast Region Delegates) night out is always a hit, and many can find a night or two for little sightseeing or taking in a local meeting. On Friday night, many will attend a ball game if the Yankees are in town, and Saturday on even years means a trip to Stepping Stones, Bill and Lois' home from 1941 until their deaths. One of the last jobs that

Nancy will have at the Conference will be to stuff copies of the early edition of *Box 4-5-9* into many an envelope at breakfast, so she can get them in the mail before noon.

A big part of any Delegate's job is to be a communicator. They need to hear the voice of their Area and somehow blend that voice with all the other voices of the fellowship into working solutions for all of AA. They also need to be able to hear the needs of AA and somehow communicate those needs to the Area, so the Area can express its views and communicate them back through the Conference. It's a continuous process that has been going on for 54 years so far and, hopefully, will continue for as long as the suffering alcoholic still needs us.

GENERAL SERVICE CONF.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Literature Committee.

- Recommended that the Publications Department update and shorten existing stories, wherever appropriate, in the pamphlet *Young People and AA*, and that the trustees' Literature Committee add new, younger-age stories solicited from the Fellowship to reflect current experience, and present the revised draft pamphlet or a progress report to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee.
- Recommended that a draft Spanish-Language 3rd Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed by the trustees' Literature Committee and that a progress report be brought back to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee, in keeping with the trustees' recommendations on contents, process and story solicitation, as follows:

O Contents

- The 3rd Edition Spanish-Language Big Book to be similar in page count to the English 4th Edition Big Book.
- The first 164 pages of the Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, the Preface, the Forewords, "The Doctor's Opinion," "Dr. Bob's Nightmare," and the Appendices will undergo a complete review to assure accuracy of translation and consistency of style and tone throughout the text. As in translations of all languages, the Publications Department strives to reflect the best possible translation of Bill W's writings and does not require Conference approval.
- Personal Stories: Retain selected stories from current Spanish-Language 2nd Edition. Select stories from AA's *La Viña* magazine. Select new stories from Spanish-speaking membership. Stories to be designated to three main sections similar to the English 4th Edition Big Book.

O Story Solicitation

- Within the United States and Canada and internationally to Spanish-speaking countries.

O Story Selection Process

- To be under the direction of the trustees' Literature subcommittee on the 3rd Edition Spanish-Language Big Book.
- Story selection subcommittee: All bilingual, Spanish and English; Spanish Editors; Spanish-speaking Staff Members; Chair to appoint subcommittee members from the Fellowship.
- Basic Selection Criteria: To use the same criteria as the English 4th Edition Big Book based on Bill W's recommendations. Each story must, as Bill W recommended, reach out to the newcomer who is still looking for the AA solution. Each story must be a standard AA story that tells what it was like, what happened, and what it is like today.
- Recommended that the text on page 11 under the heading "May a newcomer have more than one sponsor?" in the pamphlet *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship* be removed and replaced with the following text:

"Many feel it is best for a newcomer to have only one sponsor. Choosing one sponsor helps to avoid the precarious practice of a newcomer going from sponsor to sponsor seeking the advice he or she wants to hear. However, some newcomers benefit from more than one sponsor. Here the newcomer shares in a wide range of experience and hears a great variety of ways to use the AA program. In addition, this is a means of averting the crisis mentioned in the preceding question—it is unlikely that two or more sponsors would be unavailable at the same time;"

...and the sentence "Again, the answer is yes." be removed from the paragraph under the heading "May a newcomer change sponsors?" on page 11.

- Recommended that the trustees' Literature Committee

Continued on Page 10

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 offer our support.

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

2004 MD STATE CONVENTION JUNE 24-27, 2003

Brian D., Chairman

Bob P. accepted Co-chair position. Brian reports registrations are at 142, 45% higher than last year at same time. Three meetings are planned with the Clarion Hotel. Convention budget has been turned over to MGS Chair, Delegate and Secretary.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Report

John B.

Looking for a Co-chair and needs volunteers from districts that have CPC committees. Volunteers needed to help staff a booth at Society of Behavioral Medicine and Scientific Sessions on March 24-27, 2004, at the Baltimore Convention Center.

2004 MD FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 28-31, 2004

Skeeter H., Chair

Committee will meet March 7 at the Alano Club in Columbia. Mike is doing workshops.

ARCHIVES

Bill H., Chairman

Spent five hours organizing Archives on Feb 27th and attended NERAASA, sharing at round table discussions on Archives. Efforts are underway to protect archival items from theft and sale. The "Don't Throw It Away Program" has been instituted for items to be guarded by AA Archives in New York. Would like to get a history of each Home Group in Maryland and am developing some processes and guidelines, as well as attempting to conduct oral interviews.

AUDIO REPORT

Mike K.

Will tape Mini-Conference and attempt to get equipment up and running.

MINI CONFERENCE APRIL 2- 4, 2004

Morgan J.

Flyers are available. Barbara B., Alt Delegate, will create panels and events.

CORRECTIONS

Linda J.

Pulling together ideas for corrections presentation/demonstration at Mini-Conference. Anyone carrying meetings into any correctional facilities are asked to contact Corrections Chair, Linda J. to be added to the database for free pamphlets, books and other literature. We are collecting stories for Inmate to Inmate book due to GSO by July 7, 2004.

Finance Report

Dennis B., Co-Chair

Looking for participation on the committee. Will have a report at next meeting with respect to 2004 budget.

GRAPEVINE

Patti D. accepted position as Chair.

HOST REPORT

Nanci B.

Need a Co-chair. Have prepared a cover letter and checklist to assist those districts which have so graciously offered to host an Area meeting. If anyone is here today from a district who will be hosting a meeting, please see me for a copy of the letter and checklist. All dates for Assembly and Committee meetings have been filled for 2004. Calendars are available.

INTERGROUP LIAISON

Dan W. for Bill L.

During NERAASA, Bill presented methods for establishing new Delegate areas and attended Roundtables. Plans to

attend Intergroup Business meetings in Baltimore, Northeast, Annapolis, and Hagerstown. Dan W. from District 9 has agreed to be Co-Chair for committee. Any interested AAs are welcome to help out on the Committee.

LITERATURE REPORT

Tom H.

Literature restocked. \$609.28 of literature on hand. Will be at Mini-Conference and ECYPAA.

MARGENSER REPORT

Earl H., Chair

1st quarter 2004 available today. Next issue available on May 15, 2004 at assembly. Deadline for submission for 2nd quarter is April 30th. Please submit articles to committee for consideration. Request committee chairs to submit reports. Mail to MARGENSER, Catonsville, MD 21228 or email to margenser@marylandaa.org. Will be reprinting Area Handbook in the coming weeks.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

New Co-chair Richard N.

REGISTRAR REPORT

Barbara B. for Nancy B.

Please pick up GSO group update packets from Registration desk and return to Registrar by April 1, 2004.

TREATMENT FACILITY

Jackie W.

Chuck C. is Co-chair. March 9th is first meeting. See Jackie for details. Establishing communication with Districts to help with treatment facilities.

WEB SITE

Bob D.

Please help out on the Committee to define what the Web Site Committee is responsible to do.

DISTRICT REPORTS

District 6

Gary P.

The last District meeting was held on February 15, 2004, with 5 in attendance. Held discussions on General Service Structure, Regional Forum, Conferences, etc. The next District meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2004.

District 9

Dan W.

District is planning its 3rd annual Service Breakfast on April 17th at the Church of the Ascension at 23 North Court St. Westminster, MD, at 8:30–10:00 am. Speaker from 10:00–11:00. Cost approximately \$7.00. Our next meeting will be March 16th, 2004, 7:30 PM at the Senior Center in Westminster, Md.

District 10

David R.

The District reports that 13 of 19 registered groups have confirmed their GSRs, and 10 are in attendance today. A workshop is being planned to coincide with the effective date of the Big Book price increase titled "Self Support—More Than Just Buying Coffee and Paying Rent." Details to follow.

District 11

Veronica M.

The last meeting was held on March 1, 2004 with 11 in attendance. We plan to Host Area 29 Committee meeting on June 12th at the United Methodist Church in Northeast. The DCM and Alt DCM have attended different meetings to promote participation of GSRs and are pleased with the outcome. DCM distributed the phone tree. Our next meeting will be held on April 5th at the United Methodist Church in Northeast. We will vote on how to amend the non-payment of rent for two years. Three new GSRs and two visitors were welcomed to the District meeting.

District 18

Bill M.

The last meeting was held November 11, 2003. The next meeting will be held on March 12th at 6:30 at the Christian Temple. The District will be planning for participation in

MGS COMMITTEE REPORTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Region Panel 6. The meetings are scheduled March 13th and 20th. Six groups do not have active GSRs and will be visited to promote discussion on participation in MGS. Bill M., Scott M., and Earl H. attended NERAASA. After participating in the Archives Roundtable, intend to create a pictorial history of Catonsville meetings with other District members.

District 20

Nanci B.

The last meeting was held Feb. 8, 2004, with only 3 of 15 groups represented. Nothing new since then. The next District meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2004 at the Serenity Group.

District 21

Tammie F.

No District meeting held since the Area Committee meeting. We meet the first Saturday of each month. Regional Panel 1 will meet March 21st at Jerusalem United Methodist Church Hall – Rt. 346 @ Forest Grove Rd, Parsonsburg, MD. Districts 31 and 32 are alternating organizing the Panel discussions. District 21 will present Public Information. Flyers will be sent to the “dark districts” as well, thanks to our Church Creek friends. The DCM attended NERAASA in New Hampshire.

District 34

Wayne W.

The last meeting was held March 3, 2004, with 9 in attendance. We discussed preparation for the Area Assembly and continued to read the Twelve Concepts. Regional Panel 5 will meet at Retreat Group on March 14th from 3–6 PM. Next District meeting will be the first Wednesday of the month at Pontiac in Brooklyn.

District 35

Sue A.

April 17th is a Fourth Step Workshop. Lunch will be served at 11:30 with meetings and small group discussions from

12:15–3:30. Will host May 15th Area Assembly in Bryantown, MD. The District seeks an Alt DCM. Will check on dates for June History Night as well as the Jude House for literature.

District 36

Debbie S.

There has been no District meeting since the last Area Assembly. PI/CPC is in need of a new Chairperson; therefore nothing has been scheduled for that committee. The District sent their DCM to NERAASA. It was a wonderful experience for Debbie. The next District meeting will be held on March 9, 2004, at 6:30 PM, Placid Harbor, California, MD.

District 42

Frank Z.

The District encompasses Crofton, Crownsville, Gambrills, Millersville and Odenton. Boundaries for the District were drawn on the map provided by Area 29 Registrar and groups within the District were identified. In early February, fliers were delivered to several groups or group contacts. Morgan J. chaired a meeting on Feb 29th to organize the groups. Maureen J. is new Alt. DCM. Will attend each group in District to encourage groups to elect GSRs. The seven active GSRs are enthusiastic about service. A workshop titled “Service, the Third Legacy” will be held sometime in May or June. Folks indicate they are more apt to become involved if they are more educated about the AA Service Structure. A District newsletter is in development to better communicate with groups in the District.

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*

34th Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention

Hosted by
Maryland General Service With
Al-Anon & Alateen Participation



June 24th to 27th, 2004 • Clarion Hotel and Conference Center • Hagerstown, MD

AA SPEAKERS

Mari G. Toronto, Ontario	Charlotte F. Boiling Springs, PA
Peter M. Staten Island, NY	Joe P. Joppa, MD
Jeff V. Jamestown, ND	Carroll C. Baltimore, MD

AL-ANON SPEAKERS

Mary Pearl T. North Little Rock, Ak	Vannoy S. Marina Del Ray, Ca.
---	---

ALATEEN SPEAKER

To be announced

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 24th

Noon Registration opens
4:00 p.m. Open AA Speaker Meeting
8:00 p.m. Open AA Speaker Meeting
9:30 p.m. Coffee House
9:30 p.m. Alateen Fun & Games

FRIDAY, JUNE 25th
8:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
11:00 a.m. Open Al-Anon Speaker Meeting
1:30 p.m. A.A. Workshops (2 to choose from)
1:30 p.m. 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)
4:00 p.m. Alateen Informational Meeting
4:15 p.m. Alateen Speaker Meeting
8:00 p.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
9:30 p.m. Dance to DJ
9:30 p.m. Alateen Fun & Games

SATURDAY, JUNE 26th

8:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Open A.A. Old-Timers Meeting
11:00 a.m. Open Al-Anon Speaker Meeting
12:00 p.m. Alateen Pizza Party
1:30 p.m. Combined AA/ 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)
5:30 p.m. Banquet Dinner
8:00 p.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting
9:30 p.m. Dance to Live Band

SUNDAY, JUNE 27th

10:00 a.m. Open A.A. Speaker Meeting



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

Advance Convention Registration

Advance Registration Must Be Post-Marked By June 7, 2004

Mail your registration to: MGS Convention Committee, PO Box 70364, Baltimore MD 21237

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Persons Attending _____
 Registration Fee _____ X \$22 _____00
 Saturday Banquet Sirloin of Beef _____ X \$26 _____00
 One Choice Per Attendee Chicken Tuscany _____ X \$26 _____00
 Eggplant Parm _____ X \$26 _____00
 Total Due: \$ _____00

What one musical group or song would you like to request for the dance?

Please make checks payable to: MGS Convention Committee

34th Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention

Hosted by
Maryland General Service With
Al-Anon & Alateen Participation



June 24th-27th, 2004 • 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. Be Sure to Mention MD State Convention.

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

Banquet Menu

Chicken Tuscany: Sauteed chicken breast topped with mushrooms, onions, roma tomatoes & fresh mozzarella with pesto cream sauce

Sirloin of Beef: With roasted garlic demi sauce

Eggplant Parmesan: Vegetarian

All meals include one choice of: starch & vegetable, tossed salad with two dressings, rolls & butter, coffee, decaf, hot tea & iced tea

Dessert: New York cheesecake with raspberry sauce

Fri. & Sat. Dance Sundaes

\$5 Build Your Own Sundae: Vanilla ice cream. Toppings include: strawberries, chocolate sauce, pineapples, walnuts, peanuts and whipped cream.

ADMITTANCE TO ALL FUNCTIONS WILL REQUIRE A NAME BADGE
 For questions and information, Email us at: marylandstateconvention@hotmail.com

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

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 to Margenser, Catonsville, MD 21228 or via e-mail to margenser@marylandaa.org.

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.

GENERAL SERVICE CONF.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

broaden the section titled "Service Sponsorship" on page 28 in the pamphlet Questions and Answers on Sponsorship to reflect current shared experience and present a revised draft to the 2005 Conference Literature Committee.

Policy Admissions

- Recommended that the 57th General Service Conference be held April 22-28, 2007, since these dates do not conflict with any major religious holidays.
- Recommended that the use of personal computers at General Service Conferences be approved in keeping with the "Guidelines for PC Users at the General Service Conference" contained in a report from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

NOTE: The Conference Coordinator will continue to notify Conference members annually of the availability of up to 24 spaces complete with power outlets for the use of personal computers at the General Service Conference. If the number of requests for the use of personal computers exceeds 24, the Conference Committee on Policy / Admissions will review the Guidelines.

- After extensive discussion, the committee expressed gratitude for the hard work involved in preparing this request and unanimously recommended that the request from Area 15, South Florida, Bahamas, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and Antigua to create a new Delegate Area be denied. The committee suggested that the Area reconsider this request and explore alternatives at the Area level to address the challenges of the General Service structure in Area 15.
- Recommended that the current practice for viewing or examining all materials other than service material submitted for Conference approval be continued, adhering to the principle of the "right of decision" throughout the Conference process.

Public Information

- Unanimously recommended that the tag line on all radio PSAs be changed from "Look us up in the phone book" or "Phone or check your newspaper," to the tag line currently in use in the television PSAs "Look us up. Check the phone book, newspaper or aa.org."
- Recommended that:
 - The AAWS Board should continue to manage the Web site through its Services Committee.

- Any correspondence, requests for changes, or requests for reports on the Web site would continue to be responded to by the AAWS Board.
- The AAWS Board would be responsible for preparing a quarterly report to the trustees' Public Information Committee for their review. The report would include the following information:
 - Changes to the Web site
 - Updates on Web site activity
 - A summary of requests or correspondence from the Fellowship regarding the Web site and a summary of actions taken by the AAWS Board in response to those requests or correspondence
- The AAWS Board would prepare an annual report for the trustees' PI Committee summarizing all Web site quarterly report information. The report, along with any additional comments from the trustees' Committee, would be forwarded to the Conference PI Committee for their consideration.
- The Conference Public Information Committee agenda would include a permanent agenda item, "Consider report from the AAWS Board to the trustees' PI Committee regarding GSO's AA Web site."
- As with the placing of the 4th Edition of the Big Book on the Web site, the AAWS Board may consult the General Service Conference trustees' PI Committee, the Conference PI Committee, and any other trustees' committee or Conference Committee as appropriate if major changes were to be made to the GSO's AA Web site.
- Unanimously recommended that the 2004 AA Membership Survey be conducted by Area on a random basis as was done in the 2001 AA Membership Survey

Report and Charter

No Actions

Treatment Facilities

No Actions

Floor Actions

- That the punctuation in "Dr. Bob's Nightmare" in the 4th Edition be restored as it appears in the 3rd Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Move that we continue to distribute and track the two newest Public Service Announcements "Reach Out" and "We Know What It's Like" over the next year at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.

2004 MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE CALENDAR

May 15	Area 29 Assembly	District 35
June 12	Area 29 Committee	District 11
June 24 - 27	Area 29 State Convention	Hagerstown, MD
August 21	Area 29 Assembly	District 36, Lexington Park, MD
September 18	Area 29 Committee	District 20
October 1 - 3	NERC	Pittsburgh, PA
October 9	Area 29 Assembly	District 21
October 28 – 31	Area 29 Fall Conference	Hagerstown, MD
November 20	Area 29 Committee	District 32
December 11	Area 29 Assembly	District 9

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

told that having a grateful heart meant being of service to this great fellowship as we carry this life-saving message. And I truly understand today that the life I save might be my own. Believe me, I've been well schooled when it come to the purpose of the AA service structure.

One of the purposes of your MGS is to help new General Service Representatives (GSRs) and District Committee Members (DCMs) learn their roles in serving groups, districts, the Area, and AA as a whole. I learned that AA depends on group participation through GSRs and DCMs to formulate the collective conscience of the Area. It is through our Area Assemblies and Committee meetings that we are able to inform our Delegate about issues that affect our local groups and AA as a whole. GSRs and DCMs also play an active and important role in our Area committees.

MGS' committees, such as Treatment, Corrections, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community (just to name a few), carry AA's message to the public and to the professional who comes in contact with the sick individual. To put it another way, our committees "bridge the gap" between the fellowship and the community they serve.

It is by serving you as a member of your MGS that I've learned the AA meaning of the words "singleness of purpose" and the collective message of hope that AA and your MGS bring to everyone they touch.

Our Meeting in...Electronic Print?

That's right! Beginning June 2004, the AA *Grapevine*, our "meeting in print," will be available on-line. All 12,000 articles and letters, including Bill W's 150 articles, published in the *Grapevine* just a mouse click away. Access to this searchable digital archive is free the entire month of June. Beginning in July, the following subscriptions will be available:

\$2 for 30-day access

\$10 for 1 year of access for *Grapevine* subscribers

\$15 for 1 year for non-subscribers

Until October 31, 2004, current and new *Grapevine* subscribers can enjoy a **special introductory subscription rate** of \$5 for a year of access. Go to www.aagrapevine.org for more information and to sign up for the AA *Grapevine* digital archive.

MARGENSER NEWSLETTER

STANDARD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
CLINTON, MD
20735
Permit No. 4543

CATONSVILLE, MD 21228

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Margenser Newsletter
Mailing List Update Form

Send to _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Correction Change

Group Individual

Mail form to: Margenser
• Catonsville, MD 21228
Or E-Mail to: margenser@marylandaa.org