Welcome to our November Area Committee meeting. I’d particularly like to welcome those new to Area Service. We need you! Today I will be joining online from the National Corrections Conference in Chicago, IL. Technology can be a wonderful thing, allowing me to be in two places at once. As Chair of the Conference Corrections Committee I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with many who devote so much time and energy carrying our message to those behind walls.

New & Exciting

Our General Service Board (GSB) and General Service Office (GSO) continue to implement the advisory actions from recent conferences, planning for the 73rd General Service Conference is well underway. The GSB met the final weekend of October, where they began the process of reviewing Proposed Agenda Items (PAI’s) to determine which will be on the conference agenda, and which will be otherwise dispositioned. Again this year, many PAI’s that are similar will be lumped together into one Conference agenda item. The complete list of PAI’s has been sent to our Area mailing list and our Technology Committee for posting on marylandaa.org. The three PAI’s from Area 29 are included on the list.

The digital, anonymity protected, 72nd Conference Report has been issued. Copies were sent out to our mailing list. Printed copies are completed, although as of this writing I’ve yet to receive the 400 I ordered for Area 29. If copies are not available at this Committee meeting, they will be available at December’s Assembly.

The 2022 A.A. Membership Survey data collection has been completed and data is currently being analyzed at GSO. Groups visited in Area 29 are:

A. Bel Air Women's Big Book Group – Bel Air
B. Brooklyn Keep Coming Back Grp - Brooklyn
C. Sunday Morning Agape Group - Pasadena
D. Young Dumb & Full of AA Group - Frederick
E. As Bill Sees It Group - Pasadena
F. Riviera Beach Group - Pasadena
G. Safe Haven Women's Online Group - Online
H. Awake And Ready Group - Halethorpe
I. Hopkins Group - Baltimore
J. Saturday Nite Mountain Group - Frederick
K. Saturday Morn Free Time Group – Pasadena
L. Early Bird, Early Weisers – Baltimore
M. One Clear Moment - Parkton
An updated *Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference, 1951-2022* is now available. To reduce costs and resources, the newly formatted booklet (M-39/FM-39/SM-39) is only available in an anonymity-protected, digital version, in English, French and Spanish. Visit aa.org to download your PDF, or contact me at delegate@marylandaa.org. The printed, confidential version was discontinued in 2022, per decision of the A.A.W.S. Board.

Quarterly Group Contributions reports have been received and distributed to all District Committee Members (DCM’s). If you’d like a copy, contact your DCM or, if you are in an inactive District, contact me at delegate@marylandaa.org.

**Anonymity Break** – There was a recent anonymity break in our Area, noteworthy because it was an individual in a responsible service position. Since, as Delegate it is my responsibility to respond to anonymity breaks, I reached out to the individual, having a nice discussion, and took other steps to help resolve a potentially contentious situation.

### General Service Board (GSB) & General Service Office (GSO)

On Oct. 5th our GSO reopened for visitors Wed. thru Fri. from 9 am to 3 pm, the first phase of the reopening process. The Friday 11 am AA meeting has also been restarted. In the first three weeks, our GSO welcomed 46 visitors. AA members came from as far away as Tokyo, England, Germany, Florida, Guatemala, Maine as well as NYC and New Jersey. The Office shared that, while it has been busy, it has also been rewarding to re-establish this vital spiritual opportunity to welcome visitors. Visitors must wear face coverings and building policy requires signing in. Please call before planning a trip there. The phone number is (212) 870-3430.

GSO is also continuing to move ahead from the implications of the pandemic. As of September 12th, remote work for all employees is holding at a maximum of two days per week. Depending on individual employee preferences and roles, several are now working in the office four or five days per week. This fits well with welcoming visitors as the office is now quite full on a regular basis.

GSO welcomes three new AA Staff Members. Karina C. is now on the Group Services assignment. Michael R. is on the CPC Assignment. And Misha Q. is on the Treatment/Accessibility assignment. An updated Staff Assignment sheet will be coming soon.

GSO is updating their file of applications from AA’s interested in being considered for possible future openings for a position as GSO staff member. GSO staff members are AA’s who carry out rotating assignments and correspond with AA’s around the world on all aspects of recovery and service. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact our Director of Staff Services via email at directorstaffservices@aa.org.

GSO is looking for ideas for Theme, Workshop Topics and Presentation Topics for the 74th Conference in 2024. Please send me your suggestions at delegate@marylandaa.org and I will compile them and send along. Due date is December 2, 2022.
Plain Language Big Book PAIs: The trustee’s’ Literature Committee discussed requests from some members regarding access to the draft of the Plain Language Big Book. They committee agreed to provide a monitored, “closed” reading room for Conference members only during the 2023 General Service Conference, where Conference Literature Committee members will be given first viewing of draft chapters in a moderated environment.

Financial Update

This information (unaudited) is as of Sep. 30, 2022:

- Contributions: $7.4 million (67% of budget)
- Literature Profits: $4,290,152 (78% of budget)
- Cost of Goods Sold: 50% (49% budgeted)
- Payroll & Benefits: $6.9 million (70% of budget)
- Overall Expenses: $12.6 million (72% of budget)
- Deficit YTD: $545,496 ($855,032 budgeted)
- Prudent Reserve: Approx. 7.65 months

Some additional financial information learned during our most recent monthly Delegate’s meeting with our Northeastern Regional Trustee (NERT), where our CFO Paul Konigstein (non-alcoholic) was a guest:

- Literature Sales – For 4 months in a row (June-Sept) gross literature sales exceeded $1 million. Cost of goods sold were just over 50% - higher than ever. Still, if you sell more, you have more left over.
- 72nd General Service Conference (GSC) cost per member was $9,600.
- Additional 72nd GSC Expenses directly attributable to Covid were
  - Extended Hotel Stays for Conference Members - $16,290
  - Hotel Stays for GSO Employees to assist quarantined Members - $4,683
  - Meals for quarantined Members - $7,079
  - Supplies (Covid Tests, Medication, Thermometers) - $12,320
  - Total Additional Expense - $40,372
  - Additional Expense per Conference Member - $306

The mailing address for sending 7th Tradition Contributions to GSO:

Post Office Box 2407
James A. Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Online contributions can be made here.
Publishing & Grapevine

Our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other books will now be produced in a jacketless format, with jacket images printed on the covers (as pictured). This change is in response to supply chain disruptions and will help alleviate out-of-stock issues, as well as helping to keep costs down.

Grapevine will be adding a $2.49 increase to all books. The top 10 selling books’ prices will increase on January 1, 2023, and other books’ prices will increase as they go to reprint. Other ancillary items prices will increase on January 1, 2023 as well.

Free shipping for all Grapevine items continues through Dec. 31st.

AA Grapevine Upcoming Magazine Topics:
- December: Remote Communities / Sober Holidays,
- January: Spiritual Awakening,
- February: Making Amends,
- March: Getting Involved in AA Service, and
- April: AA and Families.

Upcoming Grapevine Books, Planned for 2023:
1. Home Group Book

AA La Viña Upcoming Magazine Topics:
- Nov – Dec: La Viña Short Stories,
- Jan – Feb: Prayer and Meditation,
- Mar – April: People who Ordinarily Would Not Mix
- May – Jun: Relapse Prevention

New La Viña Book, Now Available:
1. Sobriedad emocional: Más allá del horizonte

Upcoming La Viña Books, Planned for 2023 (or later)
1. Best of La Viña
2. Prayer and Meditation

Grapevine Podcast: Episodes of the AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour have now been downloaded over 250,000 times, with over 8,400 followers. They are available on may podcast platforms or can be accessed at aagrapevine.org/podcast. This month they are celebrating their one-year anniversary with a special episode released on Oct. 4th. It features Don and Sam talking with the gang at Grapevine about the creation of the podcast, as well as some hilarious bloopers that didn’t make it onto the weekly podcast.

Mixed-Title Volume Discount Test Pilot – A six-month test pilot was running through September 15, 2022. It has been extended until Dec. 31, 2022. Orders will receive a quantity discount based on the quantity ordered for all titles combined, as opposed to purchasing a quantity of one specific title.

A kangaroo walks into a bar. He orders a beer. The bartender, thinking a kangaroo can’t be very smart, says, “That’ll be $10. You know, we don’t get many kangaroos coming in here.” The kangaroo says, “At $10 a beer, it’s not hard to understand.”
Northeast Region Update & NERD Happenings

The Northeast Region AA Service Assembly (NERAASA) 2023 will be hosted by Area 48 Northeast New York (NENY) in Albany NY, Feb. 24-26, 2023. I hope to see many of you there. Registration is open at: neraasa.org/register/2023. Meals are now available to be selected. There will also be a NERAASA First Timers Orientation Committee located near the registration tables.

NERAASA 2024 will be hosted by Area 59 Eastern Pennsylvania in Hershey PA, Feb. 23-25, 2024

The Northeast Region Delegates (NERD) Get-Together 2023 will be hosted by Area 12 Delaware in Wilmington Mar. 10-12, 2023

The Northeast Regional Forum (NERF) 2023 will be hosted by Area 30 Eastern MA in Burlington MA June 2-4, 2023

NERAASA Inventory - Several years ago NERAASA voted to implement a biennial inventory process. 2023 will be our first opportunity to have an in-person inventory discussion. However, because the Inventory Guidelines state “All past and current attendees of NERAASA should be eligible to participate in the Inventory.” a wider net is being cast. To include people who may have attended in the past but will not be attending this year, as well as people who have never attended, part of the inventory is being conducted at the Area level. The Survey Monkey survey is available here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6YY7GCG (English), or https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T8WJMSJ (Spanish). Data collection runs through Dec. 31, 2022.

The Connecticut State Convention of Young People in AA, will be held Nov. 25-27, 2022 in Windsor Locks CT. For more information visit cscypaa.org.

The Cape Atlantic Annual Waves Roundup will be Dec. 2-4 in Atlantic City NJ. For more information visit roundup.capeatlanticaa.org.

I encourage all to visit websites of neighboring Areas for more information on upcoming virtual and live events.

Outside our Region

The Southeast Regional Forum will be held live in New Orleans, LA Dec. 2–4, 2022. For more information, contact James H., Regional Forums Staff Coordinator, at regionalforums@aa.org or call (212) 870-3120. Note: Recent Regional Forum Reports are available as free downloads on AA.org

Did You Know?

Did You Know? The first AA Group in a prison was formed at San Quentin in 1941.

“I looked upon Alcoholics Anonymous as a tool to help us rebuild lives.” Warden, Clinton T. Duffy
Travels & Activities

Sep 25 - Riviera Beach Group
Sep 30 - Hopkins Group
Oct 1 – DCM’s and Alternates Mtg
Oct 1 – Big Book Story Writing Workshop
Oct 2 - Sunday Morning Agape Group
Oct 2 - Young Dumb and Full Group
Oct 5 - Brooklyn Keep Coming Back Group
Oct 6 - Awake and Ready Group
Oct 8 - Saturday Morning Free Time Group
Oct 8 - Saturday Nite Mountain Group
Oct 13 - As Bill Sees It Group
Oct 15 – Area Assembly
Oct 16 – NEMDAA Gratitude Breakfast
Oct 16 – Delegates Meeting w/Trustee

Oct 18 – Conf. Corr. Cmte meet w/Trustee
Oct 22 – Corrections Workshop
Nov 1 – On the Right Track Group.
Nov 5 – Al-Anon Convention
Nov 5 – DCM’s and Alternates Mtg
Nov 9 – Mid-Shore IG Mtg
Nov 11 -13 – Corrections Conference
Nov 12 – Area Committee (Remote)
Nov 15 – Delegates Only Meeting
Nov 20 – Delegates Meeting w/Trustee
Dec 3 – DCM’s and Alternates Mtg
Dec 18 – Delegates Meeting w/Trustee

If you would like a visit to your Group, District or Intergroup please contact me at: delegate@marylandaa.org.

“To be vital, faith must be accompanied by self-sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action.”
– Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 93

Respectfully Submitted,

Kurt W.
Delegate
Area 29 Panel 72
Corrections Conference Committee
delegate@marylandaa.org