
Delegate Report – Area Assembly, March 17, 2018

Panel 68, Area 29



Maryland General Service, Inc.

Welcome to our first Area 29 Assembly of 2018! It is essential for us to develop good two-way communications practices. You who attend the Assembly, CARCs, and Mini-Conference are doing your part, and this report is one way I do mine -- to transmit information from our General Service Board, A.A. World Services, the A.A. Grapevine, the Northeast Region, and other news or events in Area 29 and A.A. as a whole. So, let's get started at the bottom of our service triangle. . .

General Service Board News

- AA has dropped its lawsuit to stop the public auction of the original Printer's Manuscript of the Big Book and settled out of court. A full GSB report of events will be released soon.
- A communications audit is underway to help meet the GSB goal of reaching out the hand of A.A. to all who suffer from alcoholism.
- Houston, TX, and St. Louis, MO, will be considered as host sites for the 2030 A.A. International Convention.

68th General Service Conference

Our 68th General Service Conference will be held in New York City on April 21-28. At this meeting, A.A.'s general business will be addressed by 93 area delegates, 21 trustees, and 21 directors and staff members from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine. Our theme is "A.A. – A Solution for All Generations." Final Conference Agenda items submitted from individuals, groups, and areas include proposed additions to the Big Book, revising *Living Sober* and numerous pamphlets, literature for atheists/agnostics, social media outreach, expanding our accessibility, and more. I will have the honor, privilege, and responsibility of serving for two years on the Conference Grapevine Committee.

A.A. World Service, Inc. News

Website Redesign: A vendor has been selected and the redesign of *aa.org* is now underway with an emphasis on ease and simplicity of navigation.

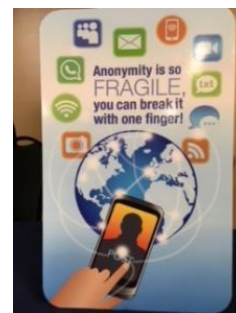
Daily Reflections: At the 3/9/18 AAWS Board meeting, approval was given to post *Daily Reflections* video readings on the AAWS YouTube channel. Project goes online by the end of 2018.

Free App: By the fall of 2018, A.A. will offer a free App that will include the Big Book, a meeting finder, Daily Reflections, and a message center.

GSO Services: Staff members respond to more than 90,000 emails and letters per year, answer over 6,500 corrections letters, respond to 1,300 archives requests, and ship over 8 million pieces of literature. A new literature catalog was mailed out in December. The *aa.org* website received over 12 million visits in 2017.

New Anonymity Poster:

A poster highlighting the importance of online and social media anonymity is now available from GSO.



Information Technology:

New backend systems have been implemented which will improve efficiency and reduce costs for intergroups, groups, and individuals to order from the online bookstore.

Translations: With the release of the new Navajo audiobook, the Big Book is now available in 71 languages besides the original English, with 20 more non-English projects pending. Notable high volume activity of book and pamphlet translation projects includes India, China, Czech Republic, Mongolia, Poland, and Ukraine.

Financial Summary: Unaudited gross sales in 2017 were \$13,898,550 (1.08% above estimate), contributions were \$8,409,452 (9.57% ahead of budget), and total operating expenses were \$16,012,457 (.47% less than budget). Net profit for year-end 2017 was \$1,758,837, significantly above the budgeted forecast of \$397,798. Online activity accounted for 10% of contributions and 14% of all 2017 transactions. Thanks to YOUR generosity, we expect in 2018 to reach 82% of self-support for the cost of our world services through individual and group contributions.

Rich P., our Northeast Regional Trustee (NERT), has provided an excellent financial PowerPoint which you can view or download from the NERAASA.org website.

Area 29 Contributions to GSO: The year-end Quarterly Contribution Reports provided by AAWS for 2017 were emailed to all DCMs on February 6 to share with GSRs. These reports provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of self-support in maintaining our services. Total Area 29 Group contributions reported in 2017 were **\$99,475.95**, with 432 (**43.53%** of all) groups contributing, an improvement over 42.83% of groups in 2016. Most notably, District 41 had contributions from 72.73% of its groups.

You can make **Recurring Contributions** to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous through the A.A. Contributions Online system at aa.org. Secure signup takes less than 5 minutes. Show your gratitude with action!



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

Grapevine is the Voice of A.A. as a Whole!

Our "Meetings in Print" (*Grapevine* and *La Viña*) reflect the current experiences, views, and issues of our beloved Fellowship. Write or record an article. Subscribe or purchase a gift subscription. Support the "Carry the Message" Project to those in need. Help Area 29 win the 2018 Subscription Challenge. For more information, go to aagrapevine.org.

GV Financial Report: For the year ended 12/31/17, Grapevine average print circulation was 69,249, online circulation was 4,077, and net income was \$126,128 in comparison to a budgeted net loss of \$113,959 (\$240,087 ahead of budget). *La Viña* circulation continues to rise, averaging 9,996 for the year.

Northeast Region News

NERAASA ~ Maryland had a great turnout last month at the NE Regional A.A. Service Assembly in Cromwell, CT. We in Area 29 will be hosting NERAASA in Hunt Valley, MD from February 22-24, 2019. Join our NERAASA 2019 Host Committee team now to learn about service work in Alcoholics Anonymous and meet hundreds of new friends from the Northeast Region.

NERD ~ Several Marylanders attended the NE Regional Delegates weekend in Tarrytown, NY, on March 9-11 to further prepare our NE Regional Delegates for the General Service Conference. NERD 2019 will be in Somerset, NJ, and NERDs will meet again in Sturbridge, MA in 2020.

Around Area 29

As your Delegate, I have been attending CARCs, districts, intergroups, regional, and local service and fellowship functions, keeping our Alternate Delegate Cynthia T. and our Area Committee members well-informed, and studying the background information for the Conference. I hope you will take the time to attend one or more of the upcoming CARCs to add your input on the many Conference Agenda Items being considered this year. Plan now to attend our **Area 29 Mini-Conference on April 7th** and help develop the collective conscience of Area 29 for your Delegate to take to the 68th General Service Conference.

Please contact me ASAP to schedule a visit to your District or Intergroup to report back following this year's General Service Conference.

Yours in love and service,

Don B., Panel 68, Area 29 Delegate
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Delegate Travels...

- 3/17 -- Area 29 Assembly
- 3/17 -- WCI Fellowship Event (6-9 pm)
- 3/18 -- OC Fellowship Event (3-5 pm)
- 3/23 -- CARC 1 (Hurlock, 6-8 pm)
- 3/24 -- CARC 3 (Baltimore, 1-4 pm)
- 3/25 -- BICAA Fellowship Event (8-10 am)
- 3/31 -- District 19 Safety Talk (10-11 am)
- 4/07 -- Area 29 Mini-Conference
- 4/14 -- OC 12 Step workshop (9 am-4 pm)
- 4/22-28 -- 68th General Service Conference
- 5/05 -- BICAA Fellowship Event (7-10 pm)
- 5/19 -- Area 29 Report Back Assembly