
Delegate Report – Area Committee, February 9, 2019



Panel 68, Area 29

Maryland General Service, Inc.

Thank you for attending today's Area Committee meeting and demonstrating your commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous! We have plenty of major news items to take back up to your groups from the bottom of our inverted service triangle:

General Service Board News

Board Weekend: A six-day quarterly Board "weekend" was held from Wednesday 1/23 thru Monday 1/28. Conference Delegate Chairs attended orientation with staff on Friday and participated in Board meetings over the last three days. Our Trustees have developed a Concepts inventory and an array of leadership questions which should be released by late May.

Communications: A 3-year Communications Plan will include a more consistent and clearer message of what A.A. does & does not do.

Nominating: Seven candidates were interviewed for two Class A Trustee openings. The two nominees are hospital administrator Sister Judith Ann Karam, who worked as a novice with the legendary Sister Ignatia, and physician Al Mooney, M.D., who has devoted his life to treating alcoholics. Current Class A Trustee Leslie Backus, a treatment center CEO, has been nominated to serve as the next GSB Treasurer. Our seven Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustees, like the fourteen Class B's, receive no financial compensation for their incredible services to A.A.

Pension Fund: Options are being deliberated fully to limit exposure while providing maximum opportunities for vested, retired GSO employees.

General Service Conference

The 69th GSC, "Our Big Book - 80 Years, 71 Languages," will be held in NYC from May 19-25. Our Northeast and Southwest Regional Trustees, as well as the Trustee-at-Large/Canada, will be elected this year. Neither Area 29 submission made it onto this year's Agenda, but hopefully all of us have grown in understanding and effectiveness by participating in the Conference process. The list of Final Agenda Items has been released, with background materials due out on 2/15.

Agenda Items include proposals to develop a 5th edition Big Book, to create a US-Canada database of Correctional Facilities meetings, to change the Open Meeting "blue card," and to modify the year-round GSC polling process. GSC discussions also should include a new AAWS editorial policy and procedures for reorganizing the GSB. Our Alternate Delegate will hand out the list of 75 Final Agenda Items during today's Conference Agenda Review Committee meetings.

A.A. World Service, Inc. News

Conventions & Forums: The 2020 International Convention in Detroit is being budgeted for 47,500 attendees with an early registration fee of \$115, which will increase to \$140 after 4/15/20. Local Forums are being offered again.

Corrections: Many correctional facilities are doing away with books and moving to ebook-only formats, so AAWS is working to improve our digital distribution capabilities.

ERP: The Enterprise Resource Planning system to synchronize all AAWS databases is nearing its final implementation phases, but data conversion issues created by two decades of completely independent databases have delayed the final launch date, which will be announced soon.

Finance: 2018 contributions were \$8.38M, 2.25% higher than budget and 0.29% less than 2017. Online contributions were \$878k, or 10.57% of total contributions. We had \$14M in literature sales, with gross profit after shipping of \$9.45M, or 67.4%. This profit is used to support the publishing operation and to finance the shortfall in contributions to pay for our world services. Contributions were 75% of expenses, which were higher due to the GSC held in NYC instead of Rye, the World Service Meeting held in South Africa, and counting all pre-paid ERP system costs as 2018 expenses.

The 2019 Budget is set at the 2018 level of \$8.34M in contributions, with an additional \$800k in sales due to the forthcoming book of Bill W. talks at the GSC, *Our Great Responsibility, 1951-1970*. Budgeted net profit is \$304k, after subtracting the \$150k cost of the *La Viña* service.

Literature: The Twelve Concepts audio project is moving along well, with English and French recordings approved and Spanish-language corrections being made. The Daily Reflections video project has been suspended. A "Video in A.A." sharing session will be held on Thursday 5/23 during the General Service Conference.

Public Information: Videos have been added to YouTube and analytical data will be available soon. A process to conduct an A.A. Membership Survey is under review.

TCS: The Technology Communications Services Committee has been extremely busy preparing to launch the new website, developing an app, onboarding A.A. entities to the Meeting Guide, advancing the YouTube project, and responding to the Conference P.I. Committee concerning Google AdWords and Google Grants. Official launch date for the app is 4/15/19.



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

New Publisher: Stalwart AAGV Board and GSO staff member Albin Z. is our new Grapevine Publisher. Grapevine showed a net loss of \$164k in 2018, related primarily to the departure of the Executive Editor/Publisher. Employee/organizational changes, a new budgeting process, and other strategic shifts will help insure Grapevine's long-term viability.

Regional & National News

NERAASA ~ It's finally here!!! From February 22-24, we in Area 29 will host over a thousand service-loving A.A. members at the 28th annual North East Regional A.A. Service Assembly at the Delta Hotels by Marriott in Hunt Valley, MD. You may still register onsite. More info is available at: neraasa.org. Please volunteer to help out!!!

Around Area 29

Year-end 2018 GSO contributions reports were emailed to all Area 29 Committee members on 2/03/19. Of the 1,018 registered groups (859 active, 159 unknown) in Area 29, we had 426 (41.85%, down from 42.53% in 2017) which contributed \$96,040.14 to GSO in 2018. District 41 saw contributions from 72.73% of its groups, followed by Districts 42 (62.50%), 20 (60.87%),

and 36 (60.53%). Contributions were received from 50% or more of the groups in Districts 19, 31, 33 & 35. There were 27 groups in District 9 which contributed \$9,341.57, and contributions of \$6,299.00 from 11 groups in District 4, \$5,542.12 from 16 groups in District 7, \$4,249.89 from 21 groups in District 40, and \$4,047.56 from 8 groups in District 37. The number of contributing groups increased in Districts 3, 11, 15, 19, 20, 25, 28, 30, 31, 34, 38, 40, 41, and 42, while Districts 3, 9, 15, 18, 22, 24, 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 38, and 42 saw increases in total contributions. A Spanish-language group in Halethorpe made its first-ever contribution to GSO. Your generous individual and group contributions make our general services possible. Thank you all!

Yours in love and service,

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

- 1/05 – D10 meeting, Parkville
- 1/11 – AAGVB/GVCC joint conference call
- 1/12 – D41 workshop, New Market
- 1/18-20 – A.A. Men's Retreat, Centreville
- 1/20 – D18 workshop, Catonsville
- 1/26 – Area 29 Planning & DCM Training
- 1/28 – MGS IGLC conference call
- 1/31 – BTG coordination mtg, Baltimore
- 2/01-03 – Footprints conference, OCMD
- 2/05 – DCM training/D32/OCIG meetings
- 2/06 – D34 planning meeting, Brooklyn
- 2/09 – Area Committee, Frederick
- 2/11 – Baltimore IG
- 2/15 – Baltimore Institution Committee
- 2/20 – Three Legacies meeting, Parkville
- 2/20 – BTG mtg at Bracebridge, Earleville
- 2/21 – D4 workshop, Towson
- 2/22-24 – NERAASA, Hunt Valley
- 2/25 – MGS IGLC conference call
- 3/03 – A13 D2 inventory, Washington, DC
- 3/06 – D34 meeting, Brooklyn
- 3/8-10 – NERD weekend, Somerset, NJ