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# Delegate Report – Area Assembly, August 17, 2019



Panel 68, Area 29

Maryland General Service, Inc.

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Thank you for participating in today's Assembly and investing in the future of Alcoholics Anonymous. Please take the information you receive here today back to your groups so that all of our members can help us make well-informed collective group conscience decisions.

## General Service Board News

**NERT:** Our North East Regional Trustee, Francis G., recently completed the first of what will be 16 Board weekends over the next 4 years. He stays in constant contact with the North East Regional Delegates to relay us all of the latest news.

## General Service Conference

Hard-copy 69th General Service Conference Final Reports were scheduled to arrive yesterday & be available here today. The anonymity-protected electronic version was transmitted to all Area Committee members on Friday, August 2nd.

The 70<sup>th</sup> GSC, "2020: A Clear Vision for You," will be held in Rye Brook, NY, from April 19-25. Presentation/Discussion Topics are: *Recovery - Who is Missing in Our Rooms?*; *Unity - Practicing Our Principles*; and *Service - Keeping A.A. Relevant*. The 2020 Workshop Topic is: *Attraction Through Action*.

Any A.A. member can have direct input to the General Service Conference by suggesting our 2021 Conference theme, presentation topics, and/or workshop topic. Send your ideas to [delegate@marylandaa.org](mailto:delegate@marylandaa.org) no later than 12/8/19 for consideration by the 2020 Conference.

## A.A. World Service, Inc. News

**Archives:** Archives staff has responded to 750 requests for information and accessioned 67 new paper and digital items in 2019. A new printing of the Archives Workbook & a new service piece, "Archives Checklist: A quick guide for local A.A. archivists," were completed in May. A 1940s home movie of our co-founders and their wives is being added by the Publishing Department to the Archives video "Markings on the Journey."

**BTG:** Shared experience about Bridging the Gap from correctional facilities is being worked into draft language for consideration at the November GSB weekend. A letter to parole and probation professionals has been approved to raise awareness about prerelease and BTG services and will be included in the Corrections kit and distributed to professionals in related fields.

**C.P.C.:** The staff secretary is working with GSO to implement the AAWS LinkedIn page as an informational outreach tool to professionals. A process and timeline are being developed for recording audio interviews with senior military personnel to be posted online. A.A. has been invited to share at a conference on suicide prevention organized by the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Defense Department.

**Corrections:** FAQ for Corrections committee chairpersons is being edited for inclusion in the Corrections kit and the Welcome letter to new committee chairs. Discussions continue about how A.A. digital literature can be added to correctional facilities libraries.

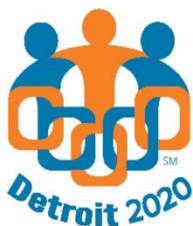
**ERP:** The Enterprise Resource Planning database went online on Monday 8/5/19. This new NetSuite system has automatically been assigning new Group Service Numbers when a group contribution is made. Area 29 Registrar Ray T. will be presenting a PowerPoint tutorial today at this Assembly on best practices for navigating through the new system.

**Finance:** Revenues are 3.63% above budget, operating expenses 4.15% over budget due mainly to ERP costs, and contributions 4.87% more than budgeted. Online contributions are 11% of total contributions. Our Reserve Fund stands at 9.4 months of the operating budget. AAWS will draw down up to \$1 million from the Reserve Fund to cover current expenses, mainly related to the 2020 I.C., which will be repaid before 12/31/19 with revenues from convention registration fees. Our GSB also has approved the use of up to \$1 million from the General Fund for renovations and asbestos abatement on the 8th floor of 475 Riverside Drive. The GSO General

Manager has been authorized to sign a lease for additional office space which will run concurrent with the existing lease to expire on 12/31/24.

**IT Services:** In addition to supporting the ERP implementation, our Information Technology Services team is improving the connectivity to GSO hosted servers while reducing the number of active servers needed. GSO computers and laptops are being upgraded to add hard drive encryption and additional memory as needed. The application for LegitScript certification, necessary for participation in the Google AdWords/Grants program, is underway. Work continues on the AAWS App & website update.

**International:** Our GSB will provide up to \$10,000 to join Mexico in supporting delegates from other countries to attend the Reunion de Las Americas (REDELA).



Love and Tolerance Is Our Code

**2020 International Convention:** 350,000 copies of the 2020 I.C. registration form will be sent to over 65,000 AA members this month. The website opens for registration and hotel selection on Monday 9/9/19 at 10 am EDT.

**Membership Survey:** Possible vendors have been identified to help review the sampling methodology to get as authentic a sampling of the fellowship as possible. Any changes in survey questions will go through the conference before implementation.

**Pamphlets:** The Publishing Department has identified the pamphlets most used in corrections & treatment and is actively working on providing the pamphlets in a staple free format. Work on a pamphlet for Spanish speaking women continues. Revision of "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" is underway. The existing language of "A.A. in Your Community" is considered consistent with A.A.'s primary purpose, so no changes are necessary.

**Publishing:** "Our Great Responsibility" sold 17,716 copies in English, 1,583 in French and 1,950 in Spanish in its first two months. The book includes previously unpublished photos of Bill, Bob, Lois and Ann at *Stepping Stones*.

**Staff:** Two new G.S.O. staff members have been hired: Brenda B., formerly of the Memphis Intergroup, and Irene D., former La Viña editor.

**TCS:** The test version of the new AAWS App was shared with several General Service Conference members and others. The Meeting Guide App is being enhanced with additions such as the *Daily Reflections* entry for the day, a means to store your favorite meetings, and a link to contact A.A., buy literature, offer suggestions & more.



### A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

Print subscriptions continue declining, but GV is in good shape overall.

Online services and popular books as well as a downloadable *Language of the Heart* mp3 help boost magazine sales. La Viña is gaining momentum and is higher than 2018 by 140 units & over the 2019 budget by 421 units.

### Regional & National News

**ICYPAA** ~ 61st International Conference of Young People in A.A. will be held August 22-26 in Boston, MA.

### Around Area 29

Thanks for participating in our *\$8.06 on 8/06 Challenge*. It's not too late to send your share!

Everyone is invited to the *NERDs on Tour* weekend on September 27-29, 2019.

**Yours in love and service,**

**Don B., Panel 68, Area 29 Delegate**  
[delegate@marylandaa.org](mailto:delegate@marylandaa.org)



### **Delegate Travels...**

- 8/18 – CARC 3, Parkville
- 8/20 – Annapolis Area IG, Annapolis
- 8/22-26 – 61st ICYPAA, Boston, MA
- 8/28 – West Central IG, Frederick
- 9/03 – District 32/Ocean City IG, OCMD
- 9/03-08 – Sessions By the Sea, OCMD
- 9/09 – Baltimore Intergroup Council
- 9/14 – Area Committee meeting
- 9/22 – District 10 Unity Picnic, Parkville
- 9/27-29 – NERDs on Tour weekend
- 10/01 – District 15 meeting, Owings Mills