

# Delegate Report



July 2020

## Random Musings of your Delegate

2020 and “Everything” is different, but the message of AA is timeless....and AA is responding so that message is available to all of those reaching out for help in this unprecedented time.

International Virtual Convention is live at [2020convention.aa.org](https://2020convention.aa.org) . Check out the “Old Timers Panel” and hear ESH from our beloved Harold G.

The DCM/Alt DCM/Delegate meeting was a success thanks to all who joined us. Special thanks to Jenna F. for offering to take the lead on taking notes and pushing them out to the group. Our next meeting will be August 8 at 9:00. Join us as we will welcome Hank K., Panel 70 Delegate from Area 50 as he shares his experience with reigniting service in his area.

## General Service Board Updates

The GSB met for the annual corporate meeting on May and voted to seat the slate of directors to the Grapevine Board as approved by the 70<sup>th</sup> GSC. The also approved the slate of directors for the AAWS that was recommended by the Trustees Delegate Conference Committee that included one vacancy. A director to fill that vacancy will be presented for approval at the July GSB meeting. As of this report there been no release of the minutes of that meeting.

There will be a minimum of eight new trusted servants that will be elected to fill GSB, AAWS and GV board seats. Please pass along the following information to those who may be interested in serving.

Three new Class B (alcoholic) trustees — from the East Central and Southeast regions and the trustee-at-large/ U.S. — will be elected at the General Service Conference in April 2021. Resumés must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2021 and must be submitted by delegates only. A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

Following the 2021 General Service Conference there will be openings for three Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, replacing Michele Grinberg, of Charleston, West Virginia; Leslie Backus, of Savannah, Georgia; and Peter Luongo, of Germantown, Maryland. The trustees’ Nominating Committee asks that trustees, delegates and directors submit any names they deem appropriate as candidates for Class A trustees. Class A trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds, including doctors, lawyers, clergy, social workers, educators, finance/accounting and corrections professionals. In seeking applications for all vacancies at A.A.W.S., Inc., AA Grapevine, Inc., and the General Service Board, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large applicant file of qualified persons reflecting the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. Please submit your candidate’s business or professional résumé to the Secretary, trustees’ Nominating Committee ([nominating@aa.org](mailto:nominating@aa.org)), by July 24, 2020

Announcement of Openings for Nontrustee Director Positions. There will be upcoming openings for nontrustee director positions in 2021 for both A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. Nontrustee directors are A.A. members selected for business or professional experience that relates to the activities of the corporations. Per the A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine bylaws, a nontrustee director can serve up to four successive one-year terms. Full details will be made available on [aa.org](http://aa.org) and [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org), the Meeting Guide app news alert feature and in a letter to Conference members and the Fellowship later in the year

## Financial Update

Due to many issues with the transition to the new ERP system and the 8<sup>th</sup> floor construction overruns to mention a couple of issues, the audit on the financial results for 2019 has not been completed. The audit should have been completed and reviewed by the Audit Committee by May 30<sup>th</sup>. That deadline was move to June 15 and we received notice that it was complete as of July 13. There was communication from our NERT, Francis G. late this last week that the presentation of that information will tentatively be given to the members of the 70<sup>th</sup> GSC on August 15.

There may also be several versions of 2019 Income Statements for AAWS and the Grapevine. A final audited version of the financials will be included in the Final Conference Report for the fellowship to review. the 2020 revised forecasted 2020 budget is underway. Since almost all of our benchmarks and assumptions regarding 2020 have been upended, all of our remaining budgets will shift. Many of our expenses have declined. However, several other costs, such as overtime and technology costs, have increased slightly.

When meetings stopped - our literature sales dropped significantly – this drop is largely responsible for the \$3.0 million drawdown from our prudent reserve.

We have had no 2020 official financial updates however Francis G did notify us that the outreach to the membership for 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition support in April resulted in May 2020 contributions \$840,000. While in June, contributions were approximately \$900,000.

Cost Savings Measures: Our General Service Office implemented, cancelled or suspended the following:

- Ceased funding our Post-Retirement medical plan as well as our Defined Benefit plan (\$1.5 million budgeted in 2020).
- Our General Service Conference was held “virtually” (in 2019, Meals, Rooms and Transportation approximated \$760,000).
- However, for the Conference, there was an increase to Technology, Overtime and Operators (still trickling in).
- Cancelled both remaining Forums for 2020 (Eastern and Western Canada), savings of approximately \$100,000.
- All Overseas Travel, Local Travel, and Trustees Travel has been suspended.
- “Virtual” Board Meetings have been implemented versus In-Person Meetings.
- The World Service Meeting, budgeted for \$200,000 was cancelled.
- 6 employees were furloughed while 3 others are on extended leave.



## AA Grapevine

The August Issue of Grapevine Is Here!

This month's Special Section is “Stories by LGBTQ+ AA Members” featuring experience, strength and hope by AA members who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. Also featuring stories of hope by members during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Grapevine is always looking for stories on special topics as well as for departments such as Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Newcomers, Youth Enjoying Sobriety, Old-Timers and Home Group, and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. The number of articles has rebounded to prior level while website hits are skyrocketing! Throughout April and May, book sales were understandably down. However, web sales for GV books are up for June and we expect better in July.

There is discussion regarding the release of the updated AAGV daily quote book, that was to serve as an International Convention souvenir, had pre-orders of five thousand (5,000). We will be updated as decisions are made.

## Northeast Region Update & NERD Happenings

Delegates and Alternate Delegates have been gathering virtually both pre and post conference. We are scheduled to meet monthly to share happening in our Areas and discuss challenges and successes as we navigate the COVID 19 environment that we are experiencing. This Sunday we will entertain motions that would move the 2021 NERAASA to a virtual platform and roll the 2022-2024 hosting if approved. Stay tuned for updates.

There are many opportunities to join our NE regional Areas virtually in workshops and other happenings.

Take the time to visit the websites of our neighboring Areas for links to these virtual events. The North East Region (home of the NERDs) is comprised of 18 Areas in the US from New England to Washington DC. They are Area 11/ Connecticut, Area 12 /Delaware, Area13/ Washington DC, Area 28/ Maine, Area 29/ Maryland, Area 30/ E. Massachusetts, Area 31/ W. Massachusetts, Area 43/ New Hampshire, Area 44/ N. New Jersey, Area 45/ S. New Jersey, Area 47/ Central New York, Area 48/ Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire NY, Area 49/ SE New York, Area 50/ W. New York, Area 59/ E. Pennsylvania, Area 60/ W. Pennsylvania, Area 61/ Rhode Island, Area 70/ Vermont.

## Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARC)

The Area 29 CARC process for the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC will begin this month with the first reconvene being held virtually by CARC IV on July 18. I will be presenting the details of the conference actions specific to the agenda items that were discussed by each of the four CARCs. Our Alt. Delegate, Kurt W and the CARC leaders will then facilitate discussions around topics for potential agenda recommendations for the 71<sup>st</sup> GSC. I encourage the fellowship to be prudent in sending forward only items of significant priority given the number of items already slated for the 71<sup>st</sup> agenda as a result of forwards from the 70<sup>th</sup> GSC. CARC II will meet on Saturday Aug.1 and CARCs I and III are in the process of scheduling their meetings. Please refer to the MGS website for dates, times and virtual links for these meetings.

## Delegate Virtual Travels

May 16-19 General Service Conference	July 1 – District 41 Delegate Report back
June 6 – Area 29 Delegate Report back	July 6 – IGLC Delegate Report back
June 9 – District 36 Delegate Report back	July 9 – District 7 Delegate Report back
June 13 – Area 29/ BAIG – Safe Opening Workshop	July 10 – District 11 Delegate Report back preview
June 15 – District 1 Delegate Report back	July 11 - Area 29 DCM/Alt DCM/Delegate meeting
June 24 - District 6 Delegate Report back	July 14 – District 15 Delegate Report back
	July 15 – District 28, 30,11 Delegate Report back

## Upcoming Delegate Virtual Travels

- July 19 – CARC IV Reconvene
- July 20 – Area 29 Finance Committee
- July 26 – HAIG/ District 20 Delegate Report back
- July 30 – West Central Intergroup meeting
- August 1 - CARC II Reconvene

August 6 – District 35 Delegate Report back

August 11 – District 36 Delegate Report back

August 17 – District 40 Delegate Report back

If you are interested in hosting a Delegate Report back for your District or Intergroup, please reach out and we can get it on the calendar.

Thank you each one for all that you do for this amazing fellowship that brought us from darkness to light and to ensure that AA is here for all of those who will reach out for help in relieving their alcoholism for generations to come....c....

Cynthia T.

Delegate

Area 29 Panel 70

Trustees Conference Committee

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“Thank you for your life”

