



Delegate Report

Area 29 Panel 70

November 2021

It's 2021 and "Everything" is different, but the message of AA is timeless....and AA is responding to the new normal so that our message is available to all of those reaching out for help in this unprecedented time.

Random Musings from your Delegate

Rotation is on the horizon and in preparation for the change in leadership, elections for the Area 29 Panel 72 Officers were held on October 16, 2021. Congratulations to our newly elected trusted servants! Kurt W., Delegate; Terry P., Alt. Delegate; Brigitte F., Chairperson; Kathleen W., Secretary; Jean B., Treasurer.

I am grateful to all who made themselves available to be of service to Area 29 and I am thrilled to see that many of you have already accepted leadership positions on our Area 29 Service Committees. As we enter the next phase of our pandemic-driven work in AA, enthusiastic leadership is critical in our efforts to carry the message of recovery and hope to those seeking a solution to their alcoholism. For those of you who may have an interest in committee service there are still leadership positions available. It is also important to remember that all committees need help, ask yourself "what can I do to be of service?" and then reach out to see where you might best be of service.

I will be co-hosting a "Journey Through the New Service Manual" study starting on Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 pm co-hosted by Panel 70 Delegates from Areas 12, 28, 48 and Panel 71 Delegate Area 47. A flyer with the login details and the list of our presenters will be available later this month.

General Service Board and GSO

The General Service Board held its 3rd quarter meeting October 29-31. Some of the information from that meeting has been made available by our NE Region Trustee and is included in this report. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Interviews are underway for a new desk staff member at GSO. The plan is to have that position filled prior to the end of the year.

I encourage each of you to take a few moments and read the “First Communication from Bob W., General Manager, GSO.” Bob joined us as GM this summer and this letter from him is a wonderful insight into Bob and his vision as leader of our team at GSO. Many of you had the opportunity to hear Bob’s story as our Saturday night speaker at NERAASA in Baltimore.

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_FirstCommunication_from_GM_BobW.pdf

The East Central –Region has a Forum scheduled from November 19 – 21, 2021. There is still time to register.

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums



Financial Update

This information was supplied by Francis G., NERT from last week’s GSB meeting and is unaudited as of Nov. 5, 2021:

Contributions:

Contributions for the 9-month period, indicated above, are estimated at \$7.4 million which is 74% of the 2021 budget of \$10.0 million (with 75% of the year elapsed). We are optimistic as the 4th quarter (October – December) customarily yields higher than average contributions – in part because November is nicknamed “Gratitude Month. We are on course to achieve at least \$10.0 million. Electronic (or online) contributions comprise just under 25% of the \$7.4 million total.

Literature Sales:

Gross Literature sales are approximately \$8.6 million which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11.4 million (with 75% of the year elapsed). The 4th quarter (October – December) customarily yields higher than average literature sales – in part due to the reduced shipping charges at this time of year and, of course, the holiday sales.

Expenses:

Payroll and Benefits – our highest expense category – for the first nine months are rounded to \$7.0 million which is 73% of budget (with 75% of the year elapsed). Since no major hiring is expected, other than one Staff person, we are optimistic that salaries are “in check” for the remainder of the year.

Overall Expenses – total operating expenses for the year are almost \$11.5 million or 73% of budget (with 75% of the year elapsed). The 4th quarter (October – December) may see some increased travel due to the AA Grapevine and General Service Boards having resumed in-person travel. At present, our overall expenses are slightly below budget.

Surplus or Deficit:

Needless to say, with contributions and sales at 74% and 76% respectively and expenses coming in at 73%, we’ve experienced a 9-month surplus of \$1.45 million, unaudited, compared to a budget surplus of \$750,000.

Prudent Reserve:

Some great news is as of August 31 the balance of the prudent reserve is now 8.5 months (the target is 9-12 months) up from 7.74 months resulting from the two prudent reserve drawdowns in 2020. As previously reported, the balance, above, does reflect the \$250,000 that the GSB voted (in July) to transfer to the reserve fund.



Publishing Update

The much-anticipated release of the newly formatted AA Service Manual happened Friday, Nov. 5, and the digital version is now available on the AA.org website. The manual is available in English, Spanish and French. Print copies are on the press and are due to ship from the printer to the warehouses by November 17, 2021. These should be available for purchase at the Area meetings starting in February.

To download your PDF copy visit: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/whats-new-on-aaorg

I have had several inquiries about the availability of revised literature. GSO announced that several items of revised and new literature published in adherence to Advisory Actions of the 71st General Service Conference are now available. Check out the current list.

https://aa.org/assets/en_US/en_NewRevisedItemsAvailable_9-28-2021.pdf

Grapevine Update

AA Grapevine is pleased to announce **FREE SHIPPING** for the U.S. and Canada. Hurry! This special offer is available for a LIMITED TIME ONLY. FREE SHIPPING discount on this promotion is automatic – no need to use a coupon code.

The AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety Hour, featuring AA members Don and Sam, started on October 4, 2021 with a new episode each Monday. Each week Don and Sam will interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual “meeting after the meeting” manner. Special features will enhance each episode. A new podcast episode will be available in English every Monday. To hear the podcasts go to aagrapevine.org/podcast

Here are some “advance” AA Grapevine, Inc. tidbits from our NERT arising from the 4th Quarter Board Weekend Ending November 1, 2021:

AA Grapevine Upcoming Magazine Topics (2021 – 2022):

November: Prayer and Medication,
December: Remote Communities / Holidays,
January: Day Counters (i.e., Beginners),
February: Getting Through Tough Times (working title), and
March: Emotional Sobriety.

Upcoming Grapevine Book planned for 2022: Fun in Sobriety (working title).

Top Three Selling Grapevine Books (Year to Date): Emotional Sobriety, The Language of the Heart and Voices of Women in AA. Honorable mention: Prayer and Meditation

Some big news is that, for our “members behind the walls,” “people in custody,” “incarcerated persons,” “inmates,” AA Grapevine and La Viña are making significant headway into jails,

prisons, etc. with two vendors: APDS (American Prison Data Systems <https://apdsincorporate.com/>), and Edovo (<https://www.edovo.com/who-we-are>).



Northeast Region Update & NERD Happening

Registration is now open for NERAASA 2022, hosted by WPA Area 60, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. Feb 25-27. Don't miss this amazing gathering of AA members from the Northeast Region who are passionate about service to our fellowship. The flyer with more information is available at NERAASA.org. I encourage you to make your hotel reservations ASAP, the hosting hotel traditionally sells out quickly.

Elections have been underway in the NE for Panel 72 Delegates and Alternate Delegates. There will be 10 Areas that will be rotating positions including Area 29. Over these past two years I have had the great privilege to serve with all of those who have been elected to the position of Panel 72 Delegate thus far. I feel confident that AA in the Northeast continues to be led by an amazing group of trusted servants who are committed to AA and its lifesaving message.

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

I am grateful for your sobriety....c....

Cynthia T.
Delegate
Area 29 Panel 70
Trustees Conference Committee
delegate@marylandaa.org

“Thank you for your life”

