

# Delegate Report

Area 29 Panel 70



December 2021

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

## Random Musings from your Delegate

I suppose that "reflection" is a normal state of heart and mind as we approach the final hours of any life experience. That is where I have found myself these past few days and hours as I approach the end of my service as Delegate to the fellowship in Area 29 and prepare to rotate on to my next adventure as a "Past Delegate". I will be joining a long line of dedicated trusted servants who have rotated ahead of me, and I hope that I will be able to mirror their examples of "elder statemen" as I trudge the path behind them.

These past two years were certainly not what I (or any of us for that matter) expected. Our world was up-ended, and we experienced many changes and challenges as the direct result of a global pandemic. AA has had to rise to the challenges to our "Primary Purpose" of carrying the AA message to those who are reaching out for a solution to their alcoholism. AA was thrust quickly into a service renaissance, finding new and different ways to connect with the alcoholic who needed our life saving program of recovery. AA service leaders begin to re-examine the approaches to our work in this unprecedented time. The difficult decision was made to hold a virtual General Service Conference. GSO quickly made plans to identify non-tech savvy conference members and mentor them in the use of virtual platforms. A four-day virtual 70<sup>th</sup> GSC happened despite COVID obstacles, and the important work of AA was accomplished. Little did the Panel 70 Delegates know that our entire panel would be spent working in a virtual environment. The 71<sup>st</sup> GSC was an eight-day virtual event that produced voluminous work. Not only was our service as conference members different, but the method of our service to our Areas was completely re-defined. We made the adjustments necessary to meet the demands of a COVID impacted world, and we did the work that Alcoholics Anonymous needed us to do.

Here is what I will take away from these past two years as your Pandemic Panel 70 Delegate. I have served with an amazing and resilient group of people in Area 29, it has been an honor to walk with all of you on this service journey. I have served Alcoholics Anonymous to the best of my ability with the loving guidance of a Higher Power and Service Sponsor.... and just maybe I made a small difference. I have had the great joy of joining many of my fellow NERDs every week on a virtual AA meeting and have come to know them beyond our service commitments. As a result they have become lifelong friends....they are the gift you have given me as a result of your trust in me, to serve you.

*"To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard....But it can be a real step forward in growth — a step into the humility that is, for some people (and I hope that I am one of those people), the spiritual essence of anonymity." AA Service Manual 2021-2023 page 107.*

## General Service Board and GSO

Your General Service Office and Board are excited to announce that they are embracing a new method of processing our Seventh Tradition contributions that will reduce costs, ultimately allowing for more investment in services to members and groups. To this end, we are excited to announce that a separate post office box has been established for Seventh Tradition contributions only. This change will enable us to process contributions much more efficiently and at a significant savings to the Fellowship.

Effective immediately, please send contribution checks to:

Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

I encourage each of you to take a few moments and read the attached letter from Bob W., GSO General Manager, with the details surrounding this change.

Final interviews are underway for a new desk staff member at GSO. The field has been narrowed down to three from over 300 applications! The plan is to have that position filled prior to the end of the year.

The Winter 2021 "Box 459" has been released and I have attached it for your reading pleasure. If you haven't already done so you might consider subscribing to this amazing newsletter. It is chocked full of great articles, news and event calendars about our beloved fellowship.

*The "Preliminary Agenda Items" list for the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference has been released.* I have attached it for your review. Please remember that this is a preliminary list and items may be added or deleted prior to the agenda being finalized.



## Financial Update

This information and many more details can be found in the November "Highlights from AAWS" publication. A few notable items are:

### *Contributions:*

Contributions year to date are \$7,416,647, which is 74% of the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 and \$293,439 more than this time last year. (75% of the year has elapsed.)

Contributions are averaging over \$824,072 per month compared to a budget of \$833,333 per month. The CFO expressed concern that the monthly contributions have declined from \$940,632 in July to \$762,965 in August to \$736,734 in September. In order to meet the budget, it is hoped that monthly contributions might average \$861,118 over the last three months of the year.

### *Literature Sales:*

Gross literature sales are \$8,613,803 which is 76% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,477,745 more than last year. Gross literature sales are averaging \$746,519 per month so far this year. September gross sales were \$746,519, and for the first time since June did not exceed \$1 million. Concern was expressed about an increase in cost of goods sold from 37% to 40% of gross sales due to supply chain disruptions.

## Publishing Update



The A.A.W.S. 2021 Holiday Special Offers line-up: “A Trio of Holiday Special Offers!”

November 1, 2021 – January 15, 2022

1. Big Book Special Winter Offer!

10% off all Big Books, all formats, all languages! (Reprise of our successful 2020 Big Book Special Summer Offer)

2. Get 15% off all orders over \$100! (Reprise of our successful 2020 Holiday Offer)

3. Focus on A.A. items on spirituality 10% off the following items: B-6, FB-6, SB-6, P-84, FP-84, SP- 84, P-86, FP-86, SP-86.)

All Holiday Special Offers and discounts are combinable



The much-anticipated release of the newly formatted AA Service Manual happened in November. The A.A. Service Manual is a critical resource for A.A. members involved in service. Chapters cover the roles of GSRs, DCMs, delegates, directors, and trustees, as well as what happens at G.S.O. and Grapevine. Substantive appendices cover the principle of rotation, the Third Legacy Procedure and much more. In Twelve Concepts for World Service, A.A. co-founder Bill W. articulates the principles by which A.A.’s world service operates and recounts how these emerged through A.A.’s early history and experience.

This publication is revised, fully reformatted in 2021 and General Service Conference-approved. The manual is available in English, Spanish and French. and the digital version is now available on the AA.org website. Print copies are available through the AA Bookstore for \$4.00 each.

There have been questions from several Areas in the NE Region regarding the newly revised “Safety and A.A.: Our Common Welfare” (SMF-209). I have attached a copy for your review and should you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Kurt, your incoming Panel 72 Delegate. The AAWS Board is interested in your feedback.

## Grapevine Update

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](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast)



## 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](http://NERAASA.org). I encourage you to make your hotel reservations ASAP, the hosting hotel traditionally sells out quickly.

The "Journey through the New Service Manual" study sponsored by Delegates from the NE Region that was scheduled to begin in January has been canceled. There are at minimum four other virtual studies starting that same week and flyers to all are available. There are now plenty of opportunities to get acquainted or re-acquainted with our service manual during the first of the year, please put one of these studies on your calendar.

To download your PDF copy visit: [https://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/whats-new-on-aaorg](https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/whats-new-on-aaorg)

## Final Thoughts

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.

And Finally.....

**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 and humbled by the trust you placed in me to serve as your Panel 70 Delegate it has been an amazing service journey....c....**

Cynthia T.

Delegate

Area 29 Panel 70

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**"Thank you for your life"**

