

2014 SPRING ASSEMBLY
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thanks you for allowing me to serve.

At 3 months into rotation, I've discovered that I need to look at my e-mail daily. Each day brings something new. It might be a message from the General Service Office (GSO) about the upcoming conference or a question from someone here in Area 20. If you have sent me something and I have not responded, or if it looked like I was ignoring you, please trust that I'm trying to get better. It doesn't help that I started a new role at work and some days I leave having "learned myself stupid" for the day and nothing is making any sense after trying to hang on to that curve. My Higher Power certainly has a sense of humor making me a first year Delegate and moving me into Maintenance within a few weeks of each other.

The hardest part in preparing my reports is trying to discern what I should convey. With only 15 minutes of reporting time, it's a challenging task. For instance, the minutes from the February meeting of the General Service Board (GSB) total 64 pages of material. While I'm sure a few of us are interested in all of it, there's no way I can boil all of that down to 15 minutes, much less also report on other topics. If you are reading this report for the first time you'll see that I've tried to break it down into sections.

Box 459

If you haven't read your copy of the Spring edition of Box 459 (News and Notes from the General Service Office of AA) you might want to. You'll find an article in there from our Area. I'm not going to give away the surprise....

General Service Conference (GSC)

I've had 5 invitations to Districts for presentations on the Conference Agenda items. So far I've logged visits to Districts 10, 23, 40, 61 and 79. Hopefully I have generated some interest in the various motions we will be discussing along with imparting information on what the conference looks like. If any of you DCMs here today would like a visit, please let me know.

In these visits I've provided the preliminary schedule of that week so that all might have an idea of what the trip is about. Here it is for your reading pleasure.

Saturday 2:00 pm – 9:30 pm

- Hospitality, 1728 Group (Class A Trustees), Remote Communities Meeting, and Delegates Only Meeting

Sunday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

- Roll Call, Keynote Address, Presentation/Discussion: Living in the Heart of AA, Joint Trustee & Conference Committee Meetings, Opening Dinner

Monday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

- Conference Committee Meetings, General Service Board Report, AAWS Board Report, AA Grapevine Board Report, Panel 64 Delegates Area Service Highlights,

Presentation/Discussion: Finances, General Sharing Session

Tuesday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm

- Conference Committee Meetings, Panel 64 Delegates Area Service Highlights, Presentation/Discussion: Living in the Heart of AA, Delegates Only Meeting, General Sharing Session

Wednesday 8:30 am – 9:30 pm

- Inventory: Second Year of three-year Inventory Process, Presentation/Discussion: AA Archives, Regional Luncheons for Delegates, Trustee Elections, Committee Reports & Discussion, General Sharing Session

Thursday 9:00 am – 9:30 pm

- Committee Reports & Discussion, Presentation: 2015 International Convention, General Sharing Session

Friday 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

- Committee Reports & Discussion, Inventory Reports/Discussion, Farewells by Rotating Delegates, Adjourn 64th General Service Conference

Saturday 8:30 am – 10:00 am

- Closing Brunch, Farewell talks by Rotating Trustees
- Visit to Stepping Stones

2014 Inventory Questions:

General Service Board/Corporate Boards (AAWS & AA Grapevine)

11. Reflecting on Concept Eleven, does the General Service Board exercise serious care in having the best possible assistance in carrying out their duties? How can this process be improved?
12. Does the current role of the board most effectively address the needs of the Fellowship? If not, how should their role be changed?
13. Is the selection/election process for trustees and directors effective and impartial/fair? How would you change it?

Leadership

14. How can we improve the methods of selecting effective leaders and nurturing leadership qualities in our trusted servants?
15. What more could be done to ensure broad diversity of representation in our A.A. leaders?

General Service Office (GSO) Staff Update

GSO Staff member Mary D. has announced that she will retire at the end of September. Many of us have met Mary, as she has been one of the staff visitors to our conference in the past. She will be missed. When the request for resumes arrives, I will forward it to the Area Committee so that it can be cascaded out. For those of you who might now know, any member of AA can apply for these positions, provided of course they meet the minimum requirements. It's an interesting interview process, to say the least. While most positions now days require interviews with multiple people, I think the General Service Office tops the list with roughly about 9-12 interviewers. In addition you are asked to tell your story as part of the process. I recently interviewed where I work, and I have to say the idea of telling my story to the other people that I would be working with wouldn't have made that process easier.

General Service Board (GSB) Reports from the February Board Meeting

General Service Office (GSO):

2013 results:

Gross sales = \$12,837,500 (higher than budgeted and 2012)

Gross Profit from literature = \$8,104,800 (higher than budgeted and 2012)

Contributions = \$6,898,800 (higher than budgeted and 2012)

December contributions of \$850,000 – highest month ever recorded

Total expenses = \$14,910,680 (less than budgeted but more than 2012)

2014 Budget:

Budget sales = \$14,706,000

Includes general increase in selling prices of books and booklets (effective 10/1/2014)

Budget contributions = \$7,000,000

Budgeted expenses = \$15,928,516

Grapevine:

2013 results:

Average printed circulation = 77,126 (2012 = 83,258)

Average on-line circulation = 5,175 (2012 = 5,535)

Total gross profit (magazine & other) = \$1,993,516 (greater than budgeted and 2012)

Total costs & expenses = \$1,688,811 (less than budgeted and 2012)

2014 Budget:

Average printed circulation = 73,401

Average on-line circulation = 4,561

Budget profit = \$1,382,118

Budget costs & expense = \$1,852,902

La Vina:

2013 results:

Average printed circulation = 10,145 (2012 = 9,157)

Total gross profit (magazine & other) = \$62,405

Total costs & expenses = \$206,078

2014 Budget:

Budget profit = \$65,165

Budget costs & expense = \$212,425

Reserve Fund:

2013 balance = \$15,302,000 (represents 10.93 months of operating expenses)

The GSB recommended a motion to transfer \$1,500,00 from the Reserve Fund to the Pension Plan.

Highlights from AAWS (AA World Services, Inc.); March 14, 2014

AA World Services, Inc. (AAWS) Online Stores represent 40.23% of sales for 2013

Digital Publishing: Currently *Alcoholics Anonymous* and the *Twelve & Twelve* (English & French) are published by Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Apple iTunes stores. The French translation is being worked on.

75th Anniversary Commemorative Alcoholics Anonymous – 100,000 books ordered by pre-order deadline. Preorders will start shipping on or about April 1, 2014, and finish by April 15, 2014. For the two months ended February 28, 2014, total gross sales were reported at \$2,114,739.

Delegate's Sharing

During the course of the year, various Delegates look to find information from other Areas to address needs or concerns in their Area.

In January the topics were:

- Area Service Manual/Area Guidelines
- Accepting Electronic Payments
- Affiliation, Anonymity and Distress
- Hospitality Rooms and Family Members
- Wearing multiple hats within Area and Districts at the same time
- Archivist Information

February and March slowed down a bit because of distribution of conference agenda so they were on:

- Mileage Reimbursement
- Passing the Basket at District & Area functions
- Corrections

I initiated the one on Passing the Basket after Bill E., DCM from District 28 asked the questions of me. I've forwarded those results back out to all the DCMs. The results from the Corrections sharing were sent to Dan LaF. our Area Corrections Chair so that he could distribute to his committee.

International Convention: July 2-5, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia

I am starting to receive communications regarding the 2015 International Convention to be held in Atlanta, Georgia the weekend of July 2nd through 5th. If you have never been to one of these, it's an experience you try to enjoy. The theme will be *80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free*. I received and forwarded out the Frequently Asked Questions, one of which was about when registration forms will be available, September 3rd this year is on-line registration. As you can imagine, with 40-50,000 people descending on the city, the hotel rooms will book quickly. Registration will be \$100 in advance, and \$110 on site.

One of the questions that comes up with any conference, including this one today, is about why we need to pay to attend. Putting on a conference of any size requires funding. Our little conference this weekend for roughly 600 people has expenses that need to be paid. Several thousand dollars are required to pay for the various things like coffee, meeting rooms, printing, etc. Can you imagine what it costs to host an event that uses multiple hotels and a stadium? Here's the question and response for the International:

Q: Must everyone register? I thought I didn't have to pay to go to an AA event.

A: Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary and, as responsible AA members, "we pay our own way." The International Convention is paid for by those AAs who participate in it.

Upcoming Events

Please remember to attend the NIA 20 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 12th at Lord of Life Church in Elburn. This will be your opportunity to discuss the agenda items and to give me a sense of how your Groups think about the motions.



Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.

NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee