

2015 SPRING ASSEMBLY
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

General Service Conference (GSC)

I am looking forward to participating in the General Service Conference again this year. I leave on Friday, April 17th and return on April 25th. As a second year Delegates we are asked to take a more active part in supporting the Conference. Loving invitations are sent to each Delegate with specific requests. I have been asked to be the scribe for the Inventory Group I am part of, along with

I've had very limited requests this year to visit Districts and talk about the items that are on the Final Agenda. I hope this means that the DCMs are doing a wonderful job and that we will have a huge turnout for the Pre-GSC Workshop this year. If any of you DCMs here today would like a visit, please let me know.

I know that last year my report included the preliminary schedule for the week, but I'd like to include it again this year. There are always new GSRs attending our Assemblies, along with the various District meetings. I think it's important for you to know what you are sending me to attend.

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, Report/Presentation: 23rd World Service Meeting / AA Around the World, Presentation/Discussion: Our Common Welfare – Gratitude in Action, 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 65 Delegates Area Service Highlights, Presentation/Discussion: Finances, GSO Relocation Study, General Sharing Session

Tuesday 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

- Conference Committee Meetings, Panel 65 Delegates Area Service Highlights, Trip to the GSO / Grapevine offices, Delegates only dinner and meeting

Wednesday 8:30 am – 9:30 pm

- Inventory: Third year of three-year Inventory Process, Regional Luncheons for Delegates, Trustee Elections, Committee Reports & Discussion, General Sharing Session

Thursday 8:30 am – 9:45 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 65th General Service Conference

Saturday 8:30 am – 10:45 am

- Closing Brunch, Farewell talks by Rotating Trustees

2015 Inventory Questions:

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

11. Reflecting on Concept Six, how can the Conference ensure that the authority we delegate to the General Service Board is commensurate with the responsibility we have entrusted to them?
12. Reflecting on Concept Eight: (a) How well is the General Service Board exercising custodial oversight and how effectively are they serving as the principle planners and administrators of policy and finance? (b) What are the boundaries between oversight vs. delegation? When is each practiced?
13. Should the Fellowship have more direct influence in the selection of Class A trustees, corporate directors, and General Service trustees? If yes, how might that be accomplished?

Leadership

1. How well is the Third Legacy Procedure serving us? How could it be improved?

I think we have several very interesting topics this year that require our consideration. I hope to see a good turnout for the Pre-GSC Workshop held on April 11th at Lord of Life in Elburn. There are few items I would really like to hear what our fellowship thinks about. One of these is the Finance Committees item regarding translation of Conference material into French and Spanish. This item potentially carries a price tag anywhere from \$80,000 to \$320,000 per year. As it was stated in last year's recommendation; "Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material..." I know how difficult it has been to get Spanish translated material for our two Districts.

General Service Office (GSO) Staff Update

Several changes are going on at the office. As I reported previously, Phyllis H. the GSO General Manager has announced her retirement effective in October. If you have an interest in knowing the requirements for the position please let me know and I will forward them to you. Also, the new IT manager has been hired, Cynthia G. and has a myriad of projects to fill her time.

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

As always the board reports are both fascinating and challenging. Some of it still seems to go over my head at times, but more and more of it makes sense now. As always I will send it out now that we've met.

One of the items under the Trustees Nominating Committee is regarding what to do for unexpected vacancies for trustees. Some of you may recall that I reported last year that one of the Canadian trustees passed away and was not replaced. The new verbiage clarifies the timing of responses needed by the Areas in the Region.

The State of New York made changes to the laws governing non-profit business. This required special meetings of both the AA World Services (AAWS) Board and the Grapevine Board. I should have more information regarding these changes after the Conference.

General Service Office (GSO):

2014 results:

Gross sales = \$17,128,000 (14% higher than budgeted)

Gross Profit from literature = \$9,894,00 (less than budgeted)

Contributions = \$6,898,100 (less than budgeted)

On-line contributions were \$379,500 and are expected to grow in the overall percentage

Total expenses = \$15,415,800 (less than budgeted but more than 2013)

2015 Budget:

Budget sales = \$14,570,000

Budget contributions = \$7,000,000

Budgeted expenses = \$16,440,025

Grapevine:

2014 results:

Average printed circulation = 74,000 (2013 = 77,126 & 2012 = 83,258)

Average on-line circulation = 5,262 (2013 = 5,175 & 2012 = 5,535)

Total gross profit (magazine) = \$1,529,063 (greater than budgeted)

Total gross profit (other) = \$509,303 (less than budgeted)

Total costs & expenses = \$1,719,637 (less than budgeted)

Donation to the Reserve Fund = \$260,000

2015 Budget:

Average printed circulation = 69,632

Average on-line circulation = 5,368

Budget profit = \$1,432,614

Budget costs & expense = \$1,961,233

Projected loss = \$14,606

La Vina:

2014 results:

Average printed circulation = 10,380 (2013 = 10,145 & 2012 = 9,157)

Total gross profit (magazine & other) = \$59,447

Total costs & expenses \$201,804

Shortfall from operations = \$132,026 (2013 = \$142,544)

2015 Budget:

Budget profit = \$56,973

Budget costs & expense = \$225,728

Shortfall = \$159,457 (to come out of the General Fund)

Reserve Fund:

2013 balance = \$14,094,966

The GSB recommended a motion to transfer \$1,500,00 from the Reserve Fund to the Pension Plan. An additional \$1,695,480 was also transferred to the Pension Plan from the operating Corporations. The Pension Fund remains a challenge to fund.

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

On the off chance you haven't already heard, AA throws a really big event every five years. We descend by the thousands on a city in the US or Canada for a weekend of fellowship and recovery. And I do mean thousands... like about 40,000 to 50,000.

This year we will be gathering in Atlanta on the July 4th weekend. The East Central Region (ECR) is hosting a hospitality room at the Omni Hotel in the downtown area. We are looking for volunteers to come and be available to talk to whoever wanders by. I have given sign-up sheets to the DCMs and asked that they coordinate volunteers in each District. I have a few with me today if you would like to sign-up directly with me. The effort is being coordinated by Dennis M., Panel 63 Delegate from Ohio, Area 33.

Approximately 34,000 people have registered so far, and over 400 are deaf members. There were between 1,500 and 1,800 AA's attending the Volunteer Kickoff Meeting. They are gathering names for 4,000 members needed to be greeters. This effort is being lead by the local Host Committee in Atlanta.

One of the questions that comes up with any conference, including this one today, is about why we need to pay to attend. 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

The East Central Regional Forum will be held November 13-15 at the Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport hotel. This is a chance for AA members to have access to General Service Board (GSB) along with Directors from the General Service Office (GSO) and the AA Grapevine. Forums offer the opportunity for AA members to ask questions of these our "special workers" of our service structure. There is no registration fee for this event. And it's probably the closest Forum we will have until one is in our Area or Chicago. So please consider attending. Flyers have been given to the DCMs and I've asked one to be placed on our web site.

Please remember to attend the NIA 20 Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 11th 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