

2015 SUMMER COMMITTEE MEETING
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

It seems to me that reports are getting harder to start.... Then I did the math... Since my start on this wondrous journey at NIA I have been asked to write 8 reports per year, 16 per rotation. So 16 as Area Chair, 16 as Alternate Delegate, and it will be 16 more before year end. That means when I finish this report today it will be 45 down and 3 to go. For those of you who are just starting the journey into service... Don't think about ;-)

Our Summer Committee Meeting falls again this year one week after Board Weekend. Which means what little news I have is from June, and I won't get the Board reports in time to convey here.

I have been busy with General Service Conference reports (GSC), putting over 700 miles on my car in July. Some of you may recall that my Conference Buddy last year was from Area 79, British Columbia/Yukon. She had 900,000 square miles of area to cover. I can't complain about a mere 700 miles in one month. I have another one scheduled after this meeting. If you think I'm sneaking out early, I'm not. I simply am leaving so that I can be in Clifton (District 52) by 4 pm. There's something humbling about giving a report to people sitting around in bathing suits. I'm sure the Delegates in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Florida and others are used to it. I still have open space on my calendar if anyone else would like to invite me out. I've managed to compress a week's worth of conference into about 20 minutes. Haven't really hit the 15 minute mark yet, but I keep trying.

Speaking of the GSC, you'll find on the table printed requests for sharing. A memo from Mary Clare L., secretary to the trustees' Literature Committee stating submittals are requested for the three pieces of literature that are being updated as a result of Advisory Actions. If you have experience to share for the following topics, please consider sending them.

- The pamphlet AA for the Woman
- The pamphlet AA for the Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic
- Recovery experience form members with mental health issues and from those who sponsor such members

Deadline for contributions is October 15, 2015. The memo contains all the information on length of piece, format, etc. If they are all gone, please contact me and I will forward them electronically.

Highlights from AAWS (AA World Services, Inc.); June 13, 2014

I will be forwarding on this full report after this meeting. Some highlights:

Jim M. has announced that he will be leaving to seek new opportunities. Some may remember he was the GSO staffer who was at our 2014 Spring Conference.

On the International desk, it has been a busy spring with world communications and preparations and travel to the 7th Sub-Saharan Africa Services Meeting in Johannesburg, South on June 5-7, 2015.

The Navajo translation of Alcoholics Anonymous has slowed to a nearly complete halt for the

moment. A working committee of delegates (Panel 64s) has continued to monitor the situation “from the field,” and remains in communication with the Publishing Department.

The new ASL translation of Alcoholics Anonymous and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is progressing.

The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the period January 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015 reflected:

Net sales	\$3,350,239
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$2,183,469
Contributions	\$1,598,622
Total operating expenses	\$3,651,441

General Service Office (GSO)

The General Service Office (GSO) is currently under construction. The Grapevine office will be moved from the 13th floor to join GSO on the 11th floor. During this time visitors will not be able to visit the offices. Construction is scheduled to be finished in November.

The search for a new General Manager continues. The trustees were not able to come to a decision during the Board Weekend.

Hopeful resolution has been made regarding the licensing of AA World Services (AAWS) literature in Russia. A recent visit influenced the AAWS board to conclude the Russian Service Office (RSO) is firmly supported by groups in Russia and therefore should receive the licensing. They hold out hope that the two offices can also agree on such and bring unity to AA in Russia.

The Remote Communities Communicator has been completed. This is generated from the event held on Saturday directly before each General Service Conference. This year Cathi C. from Area 23 Southern Indian was chair of the event and I was the co-chair. I will be forwarding this out to all after I get home.

2015 International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia

I was lucky enough to attend the International Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia over the July 4th weekend. Preregistration numbers exceeded 50,000 attendees. Final count of the walk in registration numbers is still not complete. I hope to have some better information by our Fall Assembly.

For those who remembered, the flag ceremony was available on the internet. It was delayed to insure anonymity, but given the distance of the camera, I don't think they had to worry too much. There were flags from 94 nations. Some of the people dressed in their national garb to present. It was quite moving for me to see countries where I know our politicians are failing to make headway. It shows that AA and its members can be diplomats of

I was lucky enough to get to “work” two booths at the event. I spent about 4 hours in the Old Timers booth. The intent was to sign up people to sit on the main floor and 12 of the names would be pulled to speak. However, that's not how I spent most of my time. I spent most of the time telling people they weren't really old timers yet. In 2010 the sobriety limit was 40 years, which garnered over 300 names. This time they set the minimum at 50 years. This still created a list of over 100 people. The “oldest”

member had either 65 or 66 years.

I also spent plenty of time in the Anonymity Booth. I was signed up to only work the booth on Thursday night. However our bus ride down took longer than expected, so I didn't get my hours in and I felt a bit guilty so I went back after I finished in the Old Timers Booth. While the intent was to be a place for people to learn about anonymity, it turned into much more of a general information booth. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to get out of myself. By the end of the weekend I had met people from 20 different countries. Not all of them spoke English, but all smiled and shook hands. Even the two guys from Mongolia!

Working in this booth though did give me many opportunities to talk about anonymity with people from all over. A reoccurring concern is with what anonymity means on social media. There were many concerns about people taking pictures and the possibility of photos being posted on Facebook. At the booth some signs were made up from graphics in the article written for the Spring issue of Box 459. The graphic shows a picture of a cell phone and the text reads "*Anonymity is so FRAGILE, you can break it with one finger!*" Person after person came up asking where they could get a poster like that. This feedback has been given to various people at GSO in the hopes that they take heed and create this poster. If not, I won't be surprised if a motion comes to the Conference at a future date regarding this.

I also received many questions regarding the Anonymity Statement read at the opening of all the meetings. Generally speaking something specific is written at each International, enhancing what is currently available. I've included a copy of this in my report. It's large font so it's easy to read.

Upcoming Events

The Illinois State Conference is literally just around the corner at three weeks away. Hosted this year by Southern Illinois Area 21. I've filled the panel and Alcahion requests that I received and am grateful for all who are willing to serve I hope to see many of you there. Keep in mind that we will be hosting next year's State Conference and that it will be held in conjunction with the East Central Regional Conference.

Online registration for all of the 2015 Regional Forums is available at www.aa.org where the Regional Forum Flyers and Registration Forms can also be viewed and printed. The East central Regional Conference will be held this year, November 13 – 15, in Milwaukee, WI at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel. This is a wonderful opportunity to get as close to the people who work for "us" in the General Service Office as you can without going to New York. The event opens at 2pm on Friday for registration and orientation for first timers is at 6:45pm. There will be reports, workshops, general sharing sessions and much more. Milwaukee is a short car ride for many of us, and compared to Ohio and Michigan, where it can also be held, it's just a hop, skip and a jump away. Load up the car and make the trip. There is no registration fee for attending.



Service? WooHoo!
Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee

2015 IC Anonymity Statement

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audio tapes and in published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on the Internet.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And, our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that "A.A. principles come before personalities."

A further note about anonymity: Out of respect for others, please do not take photographs or videos during any of the meetings at the International Convention. Also, be considerate when taking photographs around convention venues. Take care that you do not capture images of AA members, family members and friends who did not give permission and may not wish to appear in your pictures. Even if you have permission to take photos or videos, our Traditions guide us not to post any content that identifies A.A. members as such on websites accessible to the public, or to share it on publicly accessible social media or social networking platforms, apps, or websites.