

## Report of the Area Chair:

Well, this is the last of these I will be doing. I have to admit that I expected to spend more time talking about privacy issues than “the book” but I guess that was a discussion that needed to happen. I know that the Report and Charter Committee has not completed their revisions to the documents that make up our handbook but I am confident that the next one will continue the work.

Since our last assembly I have attended the Big Book Conference, East Central Regional Forum and The McHenry Soberfest. Only the forum was an official representation for the area but all three were very good.

At the forum I was able to listen to the reports from GSO's new General Manager and the General Service Board's Chair and Treasurer. Based on what I heard money continues to be a problem, the groups are not supporting A.A. as a whole financially in the way that we need. Membership has remained, virtually, unchanged while the number of groups has increased. This means more groups with less people attending, which means less money for the groups to pass on to their district, area or A.A. in New York. At the same time, expenses haven't changed or have increased. I am struck with the reminder that it would take every group sending in approximately 150 dollars a year or individuals sending in 7.08 a year to fully fund our expenses without having to rely on literature sales. It really doesn't seem like a lot of money to me, but we aren't doing it.

There are currently two open positions on the General Service Board and therefore the board members are doing extra work to make up for the vacancies.

I am working with Marilyn to transition her into the chair position and with Cheryl and Kelly for me to transition into the Alternate Delegate position. By the way – thanks for your trust. I look forward to serving you in my new position.

Enjoy your holidays.

Robert S  
Area Chair (for the next 19 days)