

January 23, 2010

## **2010 WINTER COMMITTEE MEETING** **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Fellowship of the Northern Illinois Area as your Delegate to the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. I look forward to working with you to fulfill our primary purpose to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. As your Delegate, my primary responsibility is to serve the best interests of AA as a whole by bringing to the Conference the shared experience and informed viewpoints of the Fellowship in Northern Illinois. Hopefully, I will not stray too far or too often from this responsibility. I trust that there are those of you who will keep me on track.

I will use my opportunity to report to you to attempt to bring clarity and transparency to those matters that come to my attention. Hopefully, this will allow you and your groups to be better informed when called upon to make decisions affecting the Fellowship within our Area and around the world. In each report, you may expect me to discuss not only the financial condition of AA, but also the services that we receive. Hopefully, this will allow us to better understand the use to which the money we toss in the basket is being put. Each report will be as detailed as I can make it. I do not intend to read it to you. Copies will be available so that all may follow up on the details of subjects I mention. My hope is also that sanitized versions can be posted on the Area website, so that information is available on an Area-wide basis prior to the publication of the meeting minutes by our Area Secretary.

### **60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference**

The 60<sup>th</sup> annual General Service Conference will be held in Rye Brook NY on April 18-24. The theme of this year's conference is "**Practicing AA's Principles – The Pathway to Unity.**" Our workshop topic this year is "Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process." Presentation/Discussion Topics for the Conference are:

#### Practicing the Principles in all our "Service" Affairs

1. What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
2. Love and Tolerance is our Code
3. Setting an Example – Attraction to Service

#### Unity Through Inventory

1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First
2. This We Owe to AA's Future
3. What Happens After Inventory?

#### General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process

1. How It Works
2. Collective Participation
3. Communication – The Key to an Informed Decision

## **Preparation for the General Service Conference**

My General Service Conference committee assignments are to the Trustees Committee, with a secondary assignment to the Archives Committee. The chairperson and various members of each committee have welcomed me. Our AA Archivist Michelle M. has already provided me with materials to acquaint me with the work of the Archives Committee, including the Archives Workbook.

I received the Delegate Communications Kit which included a To Do checklist, various forms and the Preliminary Agenda that our Alternate Delegate has already distributed to the Area Committee. Copies are also available here today. I now have two Conference buddies, Panel 59/Area 54 (Northeast Ohio) Delegate Danny F. and Panel 59/Area 5 (Central California) Delegate Mike P.

I have communicated with our East Central Regional Trustee Pam R. both by email and phone. Pam will be attending the General Service Board weekend the last weekend of January, at which the agenda for the General Service Conference will be finalized. By February 15 or so, the Conference Coordinator will forward the Final Agenda and background materials to me. At that point, our Alternate Delegate Rich H. will ask Committee Chairs and DCMs to distribute these materials, so that the Service Committees and groups throughout Area 20 can begin their consideration of that information in earnest. Our Registrar Judd W. has updated the Fellowship New Vision database so that this distribution can proceed.

## **Advisory Action #7**

On December 28, 2009, I forwarded to Don M., Secretary to the Trustees and Conference Finance Committees, a report responding to the questions posed by Advisory Action #7 of the 2009 General Service Conference. I prepared that summary report based on the input received at the two sharing sessions held at the Fall Committee meeting and the Winter Assembly, the discussion of the motion presented by Panel 58 Area Literature Chair Tom G. and other information received directly from individuals and groups. A draft of the report was reviewed by several members of the past and current Area Committee. Attached to the report, is an appendix containing, among other things, the nonverbatim transcriptions of the two Area sharing sessions. Copies of the report (without the Appendix) are available here today, and the full report has been provided to the Area Archivist.

## **Financial**

The following is an incomplete and somewhat stale snapshot of AA's financial condition. We can expect a full year end report for 2009 at the General Service Conference.

- **Fellowship Contributions:** At the end of 9 months, contributions were 6% less (down \$304,200 to \$4,371,200) than at the same point in 2008. This drop in contributions was a continuation of the downward trend in contributions that began in 2008 (down 1%), the first year in the past ten in which contributions had actually dropped.
- **Literature Sales:** Total unit distribution of all books through November 2009 was up 5.9% over the same period in 2008. On a per unit basis, this was due to increased purchases by non-AAs, whose purchase of literature increased from 19% of all books

sold in 2008 to 24% through November 2009. This increase in non-AA purchases had been referred to by Phyllis H., GSO General Manager, at the East Central Regional Forum. Hazeldon and others had made major purchases in the first half of the year in anticipation of the July price increase. In fact, sales have not yet recovered from the impact of the price increase with October-November gross monthly sales falling 11.6% below budget for that period and 18.9% below the same period in 2008.

- **Gross revenue**: Through September, total revenue (gross profit from literature, contributions and interest) was \$10,992,500, \$192,500 (1.8%) greater than budget and \$959,300 (9.6%) greater than last year. With the information available at this point, it would appear that these increases over budget and last year are primarily due to pre-price increase purchases of literature by non-AAs.
- **Reserve Fund**: As of the end of September, the Reserve Fund represented approximately nine months of combined operating expenses.

## **Services**

### **Video DVDs**

- **Young People Videos** (DV10)(new in 2009) \$10.00  
A collection of videos submitted by AA members who got sober in their teens and early twenties talking about their experiences in AA.
- **Hope** (DV9)(newly revised in 2009) \$10.00  
A young woman, on her way to her first AA anniversary, reviews her first year of sobriety. She explains what AA is and what AA isn't, AA's primary purpose, sponsorship, the Steps and Traditions and other basic principles of the AA program
- **Markings on the Journey** (DV1) \$16.00  
AA's history in 35 minutes, using rare material from AA's archives

### **Service Committee Workbooks/Kits**

- **Special Needs/Accessibilities Workbook** (M48)(new in 2009) \$2.50  
A booklet with information on topics such as forming a special needs committee, presentations to professionals and working with ASL interpreters. Like workbooks for other service committees, this workbook is downloadable for free from the AA website ( [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) ).

### **Big Books**

- **CD versions**  
There are now two audio CD versions of the Big Book – unabridged (M81 @ \$55.00) and a new abridged (M81A @ \$16.00).

## Events

- The **37<sup>th</sup> Conference of Delegates Past & Present** will be held on February 12-14 in Kalamazoo MI. This conference is held to give the Panel 60 Delegates from throughout the region an opportunity to meet and gain experience concerning the General Service Conference from the Panel 59 and Past Delegates in attendance. Area Chairperson Cheryl V. and I will participate in the Illinois State Policy Committee meeting held at the conference.
- The **36<sup>th</sup> NIA Spring Conference**, hosted by District 28, will be held on March 26-28 at the Westin Chicago North Shore, 601 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling IL 60090. The business portion of the Spring Conference, hosted by Districts 10 and 12, will be held on Saturday morning from 9:00 to noon. GSO staff member Doug R., currently an AAWS director and Staff Coordinator with responsibility for both "GSO Quarterly Report" and "AAWS Highlights," will join us at the conference.
- The **Pre-GSC Workshop**, hosted by District 11, will be held on April 10 at a location to be announced. This workshop will be your opportunity to share your group's or service committee's experience with your Delegate with respect to the Final Agenda items for the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference.
- The **60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference** will be held on April 18-24 in Rye Brook NY.
- The 2010 **International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous** will be held on July 1-4 in San Antonio TX. Come join us and celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The **37<sup>th</sup> Illinois State Conference**, hosted by Northern Illinois and District 11, will be held on August 20-22 at the Wyndham Lisle Hotel. East Central Regional Trustee and AAWS Trustee Director Pam R. will join us at the conference.

Respectfully submitted

Ray M.  
Delegate  
Panel 60/Area 20  
(Northern Illinois)