

September 18, 2010

## **2010 NIA FALL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE'S REPORT (REVISED)**

It was great to see many of you at the International Convention in San Antonio over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Those of us from Northern Illinois were joined by 53,000 other attendees. Final figures are not yet available, since bills are still being paid. I have been led to believe that we should receive an upside surprise by a positive financial net from the event.

Since returning from this year's gathering in Rye Brook NY at the end of April, I have had an opportunity to provide post-General Service Conference reports across the length and breadth of Northern Illinois and in a number of venues. In addition to the Spring Area Committee meeting and Summer Assembly, I have given a report on the GSC in 11 other locations throughout the Area.

### **2010 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT**

Copies of the Final Report for the 2010 General Service Conference are available for distribution today. DCMs (or their Alternate or representative), please see Richie or myself to pick up your district's copies prior to going to your breakout room. Area Officers and Service Committee Chairs and their Alternates, please see me if you have not already received your copy. It is my understanding that Past Delegates have already had their copies mailed directly to their homes.

### **SURVEYS**

#### **AA Grapevine**

To support the efforts of the Grapevine Board, the Conference Grapevine Committee is circulating a survey throughout the Fellowship to gather information with respect to the value of the AA Grapevine to us, the use we make of it and possible changes to the magazine. This survey includes the first four questions proposed by the Conference Committee and approved at the GSC. It also includes eight additional questions proposed by a Delegate subsequent to the GSC. On behalf of Area 20, I opted to participate in this more inclusive survey along with more than 2/3 of the other Delegate Areas in the US and Canada, because I felt the additional information developed would benefit AA as a whole. This broader effort has received the support of the Grapevine Board.

This survey was included in the summer edition of the Concepts newsletter, is available on the NIA website ([www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org)), and has been distributed at Area Assemblies and Committee meetings and through DCMs. To date, I and your Area Grapevine Committee have received more than 150 completed surveys. Whether or not you are currently an AA Grapevine subscriber, please take the time to review and complete the survey. Return it by **NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>** to me or our Area Grapevine Committee by mail or email ([delegatepanel60@aa-nia.org](mailto:delegatepanel60@aa-nia.org)), through your DCM or at an upcoming Area event.

In addition to this survey being distributed on behalf of the Conference Grapevine Committee, the Grapevine Trustees and staff have also prepared and distributed a separate survey to random sampling of current Grapevine subscribers. If you were selected for participation in this

effort, you should already have received your form. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this additional effort and for returning it as directed.

### **E-Tech**

The GSO began distributing a questionnaire about digital services, including electronic delivery of our literature, at the International Convention. I made this questionnaire (English and Spanish) available for distribution throughout the districts at the Summer Committee meeting. Our Web Administrator also placed it on the Area website for downloading as needed. To meet the AAWS deadline for a summary of these questionnaire responses by October 15, I need our Fellowship's responses **ASAP**. I have attached the survey to your copy of my report. If you have not already provided me with a copy of the survey, please remove it from my report, fill it out and return it to me today.

### **REPORTS ON INTERIM BOARD WEEKENDS**

Details concerning the August Board weekend, including mid-year financials for AAWS, Inc. and Grapevine, Inc., are contained in my report at the Summer Committee meeting. If you did not receive an update on this information at your district meeting, you may download it from NIA website ([www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org)) under the Information tab.

Details from the interim September AAWS Board meeting include the following:

- Contributions are up and literature sales are still down. Final figures on the International will not be available until the October Board meeting, but the event is expected to have made a profit.
- The E-Tech Committee continues to work toward Publishing.
- The revised AA Service Manual containing changes made at the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference is at the printer. A distribution date has not yet been announced
- The new Young Peoples video "Animations" will be on the AA website in early October.
- An assistant has been hired for the Archivist Michelle M.
- The Membership Survey will be brought to the Trustees Public Information Committee and forwarded to the 61<sup>st</sup> GSC for approval.

GV Board meeting details include the following:

- The GV will be bringing forward the candidate for Executive Editor at the October Board meeting. It will also bring forward a candidate for General Service Trustee.
- The GV continues to lose money. There are no new products lined up for next year, and circulation is at a standstill.

After confirming that Alcoholics Anonymous had no legal right to it, Hazelden has acquired a manuscript copy of the first edition of the Big Book. AA has two such manuscripts in its Archives, but they are not the same as the one acquired by Hazelden. Because AA has lost the exclusive right to publish the first edition of the Big Book, Hazelden is expected to publish a book containing this manuscript, along with commentary, annotations and related essays.

As a result of questions by a couple of members of the Fellowship, I contacted our East Central Regional Trustee Pam R. about why I had not been receiving actual minutes of such interim Board meetings. I expressed the view that it is important to provide the Area 20 Fellowship with as complete a picture of the work being done on their behalf as possible, as well as our service

committees with a preliminary look at possible agenda items for next year's General Service Conference. Pam stated that this information is not sent directly to the Delegates because it bypasses the structure of communication that is expected to come from the trustees. Her quarterly Trustee report is based on what she knows to have actually happened at the AAWS Board meetings, rather than the somewhat more cryptic minutes. She bases her report concerning Grapevine Inc. and two committees she is unable to attend based on what is reported to her.. She had talked to GSO General Manager Phyllis H. some time ago about the Delegates receiving the AAWS report directly and will raise it with her again.

## **2011 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

The Fellowship is being asked to provide suggestions for a theme, presentation and workshop topics for the 2012 General Service Conference. The theme and topics for the Conference will be voted on at the upcoming 2011 GSC. Copies of forms (English and Spanish) to submit this information are available here today and will be placed on the NIA website. You are asked to submit your suggestions directly to the Conference Secretary at the GSO by December 17.

Respectfully submitted

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