

January 29, 2011

2011 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 General Service Conference. I look forward to continuing to work 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.

For those of you who are new to Area service, I will attempt to use my reports to you to bring clarity and transparency to those matters that come to my attention. Hopefully, this will allow you and your groups and service committees to be better informed when called upon to make decisions affecting the Fellowship within our Area and around the world. Each written report will be as detailed as I can make it. Hard copies are available to facilitate further distribution. Our Web Administrator will post an anonymity-protected version of my report on the Area website (www.aa-nia.org), so that this information is available on an Area-wide basis prior to the publication of the meeting minutes by our Area Secretary.

61st General Service Conference

The 61st annual General Service Conference will be held in New York City on May 1-7. The theme of this year's conference is "**Practicing AA's Principles – The Pathway to Unity.**" My General Service Conference committee assignments are to the Trustees Committee, with a secondary assignment to the Archives Committee. I am privileged to serve as Alternate Chairperson for each of these committees.

In a letter dated December 16, 2010, to Area Treasurer, Conference Coordinator Adrienne B. thanked the Fellowship of Northern Illinois for its payment of the \$1,200.00 Delegate fee to help cover Conference costs, as well as our additional \$3,800.00 voluntary contribution to further defer the total estimated cost of \$5,800.00 per Delegate for the 2011 General Service Conference.

Preparation for the General Service Conference

I have received the Delegate Communications Kit which included a To Do checklist, various forms and the Preliminary Agenda. Our Alternate Delegate has already distributed the latter to members of the Area Committee. Copies are also available here today. I have been asked to serve as Conference buddy to Wayne R., Panel 61/Area 44 (Northern New Jersey) Delegate. Our East Central Regional Trustee Pam R. has also asked me to serve as the Conference buddy to two new East Central Panel 61 Delegates, Fred C. of Area 33 (Southeast Michigan) and Bob D., of Area 54 (Northeast Ohio).

The Trustees and Delegate Committee Chairs are attending the winter board meeting this weekend 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 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 has updated the Fellowship New Vision database so that this distribution can proceed.

Online Literature

In a letter dated January 5, 2011, Adrienne B., Conference Coordinator, acknowledged receipt of the motion passed at the Winter Assembly concerning selling conference-approved literature on the GSO website (attached). She indicated that she had forwarded it to George Martin, Chair of the AA World Services Board. That Board is responsible for considering issues regarding the sale of AA literature.

At the December 17, 2010 AAWS Board meeting, the Board approved recommendations from its Ad Hoc Committee on E-Technology allowing GSO to proceed with plans to create and distribute AAWS publications in digital form, pending budget approval by the trustees' Finance and Budgetary committee in January 2011. GSO will develop the necessary technology infrastructure to convert Conference-approved literature into eBook format and make them available online for members to purchase and download. The project timeline calls for availability of the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in English, French and Spanish in the second half of 2011. The AAWS Board also requested that GSO conduct a feasibility study regarding future online sales of AA literature.

Grapevine Survey Report

To support the efforts of the Grapevine Board, the 2010 General Service Conference proposed four questions to gather information with respect to the value of the AA Grapevine to the Fellowship, the use made of it and possible changes to the magazine. (Advisory Action #15) The Fellowship in Northern Illinois submitted 221 completed surveys responding to those four and eight additional questions. On December 22, I forwarded to the Grapevine Board a report summarizing Area 20's responses to the questions posed by Advisory Action #15. That report is attached and has been posted on the Area website. I also tabulated the Area 20 Fellowship's responses to the broader 12-question survey in a spreadsheet format. That spreadsheet has been forwarded on to be used in the preparation of a combined report being jointly submitted on behalf of more than two-thirds of the Delegate areas.

Grapevine Activities

Digital AA Grapevine and La Vina are now a reality. Beginning with the January issue of both publications, it is now possible for the magazines to be delivered to one's email inbox. An online subscription to the AA Grapevine is available at www.AAGrapevine.org for only \$19.97 per year. Conversion from a print to a digital subscription is available with an appropriate extension of the subscription term to take advantage of the lower price. A combination discount is also available for those who want both a hard copy and digital subscription to AA Grapevine and La Vina.

Reflecting action taken at the 60th General Service Conference to bring La Vina into spiritual parity with AA Grapevine, the January/February issue of La Vina is the first 68-page, perfectly bound issue. La Vina Editor Irene D. reports that the July/August issue will celebrate that publication's 15th anniversary.

Thirty packs of AA Grapevine are now available at \$54.00. This replaces the 50 packs for institutions.

Upcoming Events

- The **38th Conference of Delegates Past & Present** will be held February 11-13 in Appleton WI. This conference is held to give the incoming Panel 61 Delegates from throughout the region an opportunity to meet and gain experience concerning the General Service Conference from the Panel 60 and Past Delegates in attendance. Our Area Chairperson and I will participate in the Illinois State Policy Committee meeting held at the conference.
- The **37th NIA Spring Conference**, hosted by Districts 10 and 12, will be held on April 1-3 at the Westin Chicago North Shore, 601 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling IL 60090. GSO staff member Mary C. will join us. The business portion of the Spring Conference will be held on Saturday morning from 9:00 to noon.
- The **Pre-GSC Workshop**, hosted by District 21, will be held on April 23 at Palatine High School. This workshop will be your opportunity to share your group's or service committee's group conscience with respect to the Final Agenda items for the 61st General Service Conference prior to my leaving for the General Service Conference.
- The **61st General Service Conference** will be held on May 1-7 in New York City.
- The **39th Illinois State Conference**, hosted by Area 19 (Chicago), will be held on August 5-7 at the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie. Chairman of the General Service Board Ward Ewing, General Manager of the General Service Office Phyllis H. and 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)