

DELEGATE REPORT  
FALL ASSEMBLY  
SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Hello Area 20,

Good morning everybody.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference affirms that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: "...at the level of press, radio and films."

I really like saying that. For reasons being, I like the way it sounds, it was one of my prouder moments of unity within Alcoholics Anonymous at this years General Service Conference, and it is a start, if only a small start to getting our membership to look at our behavior on social media and other forms of public communication.

We have started to disperse the Final Conference Reports of the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference. Hopefully by the end of today all DCMs will have their copies and begin to get them into the hands of all the GSRs. It does seem like a lot of information, but if you break it down, it is simply some presentations, reports, Board Reports, some actions of the Conference, financial information, information on those in attendance and Area Highlights from first year Delegates. Please take the time to open it up, find something that interests you, and continue reading. Ask your DCMs or myself anything that you may have questions on. We will get them answered.

As any of you know that heard me report on the Conference, I do regret changing my vote on the reconsideration vote on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Edition Big Book. But that I believe in the Group Conscience, and when we give great consideration to a topic, which we did, it will always be the best for Alcoholics Anonymous. But I was very surprised when the report of the July General Service Board Meeting came out that there was a \$12.00 price tag attached to that book. That is a 300% mark-up and a profit of about \$9.56 per book. On the first vote there was a lot of concern expressed about using this piece of literature to create profits, and about creating profits on which we would come to rely upon. The big selling point on the reconsideration vote was how important it would be to put this important piece of literature into the hands of our fellowship, and how important it would be for our younger members to see this piece of our history.

I have had communication with all of the Delegates present, that letter is attached, three Board Members, and our Publications Director at the General Service Office. Many Delegates thought I was trying to change the Group Conscience, not my intention. This book will be published and many members of our fellowship are excited for that. Two Delegates thought \$12.00 was fair. A few still expressed unhappiness about the book being published, once again not my concern is what I told them. And many feel the same as myself, some saying they are happy I have opened up this dialogue, and were happy that I intend to write a letter to the General Service Board prior to their Fall Board Meeting. The Board Members that I have talked to feel that it is a discussion that needs to occur. But of course I wouldn't be writing about this if we as a fellowship were self supporting through our voluntary contributions.

Part of our responsibility to Alcoholics Anonymous is to do our part in regards to self-support. I make a contribution on-line at least twice a year. And I know my Group does it's part in regular contributions to District, Area and the General Service Board. By now Cheryl has sent out quarterly reports of contributions to the General Service Board to all DCMs showing the contributions for each Group within each District. You can ask your DCM for a copy. They come out quarterly, usually prior to our Assemblies. They come to the Delegates, and in Area 20, are given to the Alt. Delegate to send out. And they are available to anybody that wants to see them.

I have been fortunate enough to be asked to give one last Post Conference Report at the District 62 November GSR Meeting which will be combined with District 64. Looking forward to it. Soberfest asked me if Area 20 would like a time slot for a presentation, so I am asking two friends and I have asked Chairperson Kelly to invite two friends, and we may be calling it, Some Members Look at our Twelve Traditions. Probably from noon to 2 on Saturday at Soberfest in Lake Geneva Wisc., November 22-24.

You can now submit your articles or stories to Grapevine via your phone and a 7 minute audio recording. Visit [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org). and click on AUDIO GV

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

Rich

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