

January 25, 2014

2014 WINTER COMMITTEE MEETING **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Thanks you for allowing me to serve.

Since rotating in to Delegate in January, I have been inundated with information. I almost feel like a brand new GSR who has received their blue packet of information. I actually started getting information in December as I was copied on e-mails from our East Central Regional (ECR) Trustee, Bill F. Additionally Rich passed on e-mails starting in September after the election.

On December 26th I received my Communication Kit from Mary C at the Conference Desk at General Service Office (GSO). This packet provides a variety of information to begin my trip to the 64th General Service Conference, including seven forms that I need to fill out and return in a timely fashion. My committee assignment packet took a side trip to visit with Bill R, Panel 63 Delegate in Area 22, Northern Indiana. Seems a post-it-note was not quite marked correctly. However, both packets arrived on the same day, as if they had both been sent as intended. I have been given the privilege of serving on the Literature Committee at the General Service Conference. The information for the committee includes 52 pages of light reading. I am particularly happy to serve on this committee. I've long thought that there is confusion about the role of the local literature chairs, both in meetings, Districts, and perhaps even here at the Area. We tend to think this role is strictly about the sales of literature. But much of our work in this committee should also be about educating membership about all the pieces that we have, along with reviewing the content and relevancy of the pieces.

My conference buddy, Carolyn W. from Area 79, has contacted me. This area encompasses British Columbia and the Yukon Territories in Canada. For those of you who think perhaps we have to travel a bit to make Assemblies or visit Districts, Area 79 covers over 900,000 square miles, with 150 islands and 5 mountain ranges. They have 2 Assemblies a year, with an average attendance of 300 people, some who have to travel by plane or ferry. We have it MUCH easier.

I will attempt in my reports to update you on information from all the aspects of General Service that arrive in my mailbox and e-mail inbox. In doing this, I am going to try and organize it in some manner... but at this point have no clue how that will look. My intent is to summarize all the information in a concise manner. While I will be forwarding some e-mail as soon as I get them, my thought is to refrain from forwarding others until after I give my report. In this way you can decide which you want to read in entirety and which to simply file or delete.

General Service Conference (GSC)

I have sent out the Preliminary Agenda for the 64th General Service Conference. A printed copy is on the table with all the other reports. The final agenda should be available on the dashboard around February 14th. Once it's available I will download onto a cd and turn it over to AMOT to make copies for us. They have performed this service for us the last two years at least. Once the copies are complete, Kelly will be distributing these throughout the Area along with copies of the final agenda.

Our Pre-General Service Conference Workshop will held on April 12th here at Lord of Life. In addition, I have had my first request to visit a District to discuss these items. Please contact me to

make similar arrangements. And know in advance, I will be strongly suggesting that all your GSRs try their best to attend the Pre-GSC Workshop.

General Service Office (GSO) Staff Update

On January 9th, Staff Coordinator Julio E. sent a memo stating that Clement C. has been has joined GSO as a Staff Member on the Corrections assignment. Clement's prior work experience includes working as a Manager of a Television Station that broadcasts original programming about the St. Louis public schools and as a Substance Abuse Counselor for several non-profit organizations. Clement holds a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard University.

Grapevine & La Vina

The Grapevine is 70 in 2014. The AA Grapevine Board will meet on Thursday, January 30, 2014 in New York City. Upcoming topics are the "Prison Issue" (Feb. 5), "Special Hispanic Issue" (March 10), "Getting Sober Later in Life" (April 10) and "My Favorite AA Slogan" (May 10). On the subject of did you know... Did you know that if you order subscriptions in bulk you get a discount on your subscription price? If your group or District orders between 2 to 19 issues you will received a 10% discount off your subscription price. Want 20-39 issues? Get a 15% discount. And if you are very bold and order 40 or more issues you will only pay \$23.18 per year. *The Language of the Heart* was translated to Spanish in 1995, but has now been revised to faithfully reflect the original English language edition written by Bill W. La Vina is now offering a weekly quote that can be found on the web site or e-mailed directly to you. Upcoming topics for La Vina include May/June: Women in AA, July/August: The Annual Prison Issue, September/October: I am Different...Could I be an AA?, and November /December: Doing Service During the Holidays.

e-Book Project Update

- Fourth Edition Big Book was delivered to Apple on Friday, December 13, and it is expected to be available on iTunes by the end of December.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition (English) is now available via Barnes and Noble and Amazon.
- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions will be available from all three vendors very shortly.
- Over the next few months, our entire catalog of A.W.W.S. titles will be offered as e-Books through the major third-party vendors for the various platforms and e-reading devices and in the three languages of our General Service Conference. (English, Spanish, and French)
- The A.A.W.S. Board met and made a decision to discontinue all further sales of our proprietary iOS6 A.A. reader app, effective immediately. We will continue to support the app for current customers for a period of time – the end date yet to be determined.

East Central Regional (ECR) Forum Final Report

The final report from the 2013 ECR Forum has been sent out to attendees. I believe Rich forwarded these out to members of the Area. If you did not receive it and would like to, please let me know and I will send along. The next East Central Regional Forum, which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 13-15, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel. One suggestion that I have heard of in our Area is to have your Group set aside \$2 each week to support your GSR to attend a Forum. Perhaps your group can consider this idea also.

General Service Board (GSB) Reports from the November Board Meeting

These reports were forwarded on to you by Rich on 12/29/13. However I will highlight the financials here.

G.S.O. Financial Results:

Gross profit from literature sales was \$6,136,000 compared with \$5,823,300 budgeted and \$5,940,800 last year. Gross Profit was \$313,000 greater than budgeted.

Contributions of \$4,873,000 were \$94,000, or 2%, more than budgeted and \$194,000, or 4.1 %, greater than last year.

Total revenue (gross profit from literature, contributions and interest earned on cash flow) was \$11,009,400, \$406,000 (3.8%) more than budgeted and \$388,800, or 3.7%, greater than the same period last year.

Total operating expenses for the period of \$11,207,000 were approximately \$135,200 less than budget and \$682,200, or 6.5%, greater than the first nine months of the prior year.

Total personnel costs were approximately \$82,000 less than budgeted, but \$499,000 more than last year.

A.A.W.S. year-end projections and 2014 Budget:

Current expectations are that sales and Contributions will continue slightly more than budgeted through the end of the year, and that expenses may be slightly less than budgeted as well. The bottom line anticipates less loss than budgeted. Work on the 2014 Budget is progressing. Current estimates indicate a sizeable loss for 2014, before considering any literature price adjustments (last increase was 5 years ago on 7/1/2009), the results of the 75th anniversary edition or the impact of additional eBook sales.

Grapevine: Financial Results:

Average circulation for the nine months was 82,900 compared with the nine-month average last year of 89,800 and a budget of 84,100 copies. Magazine income was \$26,000 greater than budgeted with direct costs \$45,000 less than budgeted. Gross profit from the magazine of \$1,124,491 is \$19,000 less than last year, but \$71,900 greater than budgeted. Other publishing income exceeded the budget by \$13,000, while direct costs were \$13,000 less than budgeted. Total gross profit of \$1,475,148 was approximately \$97,500 greater than budget and \$34,000 more than last year. Interest income added \$8,500 to the total gross profit, resulting in total income for the period of \$1,483,648, compared with \$1,389,880 budgeted and \$1,453,049 last year. Total costs and expenses of the magazine of \$1,229,407 were approximately \$140,107 less than budget and approximately \$21,000 less than last year. Net income from operations for the nine month period was \$254,241 and compares with a budgeted income of \$20,366 and a \$202,869 profit for the first nine months of last year.

The La Vina Magazine incurred a \$103,650 loss for the nine-month period, which was \$10,000 more than budget and \$23,000 more than the \$80,062 loss incurred last year. Average circulation for nine months of 10,020 was 800 copies greater than budget and 900 copies greater than last year as well.

Reserve Fund:

The Reserve Fund Investment report noted that as of September 30, 2013 the Reserve Fund had a balance of \$15,293,134 for the purpose of computing the number of months of operating expenses. The Fund is currently earning approximately 1%, and represents approximately 10.7 months of

combined budgeted operating expenses.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) motion

I contacted Steve, the G.S.O. staff member on the Treatment/Special Needs-Assignment, regarding the motion presented at our Winter Assembly and forwarded to GSO on December 28, 2013. The request is being forwarded to the trustee's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities which meets on February 2nd. This committee will decide if this item will go on the final agenda for the General Service Conference.

Delegate's Sharing

During the course of the year, various Delegates look to find information from other Areas to address needs or concerns in their Area. In early January Homer M., Panel 63 Delegate from Area 51, North Carolina, assembled an e-mail list of all 93 Delegates to aid in the facilitation of these efforts. So far this month we have had requests for sharing on:

- Area Service Manual/Area Guidelines
- Accepting Electronic Payments
- Affiliation, Anonymity and Distress
- Hospitality Rooms and Family Members
- Wearing multiple hats within Area and Districts at the same time
- Archivist Information

If this keeps up, I'm going to be on my computer a lot! If anyone would like to read these sharing's, please let me know and I will forward the information along.

Upcoming Events

The Northern Illinois Spring Assembly Conference, hosted by Districts 10, 11 & 12, will be held on March 28-30 at the Gurnee Holiday Inn. Sunday morning speaker and GSO Staff will be Jim M. from the Public Information Desk. This will be the first time that the new conference procedures will be followed to fully incorporate the Assembly into the conference. You will hear a full report later by conference chairperson, Bob P, but here are some numbers that you need to keep in mind: The budget was based on receiving 600 registrations, 300 banquets and 250 hotel room nights. And keep in mind; current guidelines are that all Area Standing Committee members and Area officers are expected to participate in the conference. In "return" for this participation these members may submit for reimbursement of expenses under PPB12.

Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee