

2014 SPRING COMMITTEE MEETING
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

The 64th General Service Conference (GSC) closed at 6:56 pm on Friday, May 2nd after having opened on April 27th with roll call of the voting members. It is my intention to give my first full report at the Assembly on June 14th. I am available after that date to give reports as requested. I believe it is important for the full Assembly to hear the report first.

There is no way in the time allotted at an Assembly to give a complete report of everything that happens at the GSC, but our AA Service Manual suggests that we report what we “saw and heard and felt.” I believe that is on top of conveying the information on the “business” aspect of the conference. I'd like to take my time today to give some of the information.

General Service Conference (GSC)

There are a couple meetings that happen “outside” of the conference agenda. Three of these happen on the Saturday afternoon and into early evening before the conference begins.

1728 Group

The 1728 Group was formed to help our Class A Trustees (non-alcoholic) to meet the Delegates and to develop a better understanding of our organization. These men and women give their time freely to us. As Rod B., Regional Trustee mentioned in his farewell talk, our Class A's give of their heart, because unlike us, their lives do not depend on service to AA. The meeting was opened by Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle, Class A from New Orleans. This year the 4th Tradition was presented by Bob W., Trustee at Large, US and 4th Concept by General Service Trustee Albin Z.

Remote Communities Meeting

Four presenters talked about various aspects of carrying the message in remote communities. These were: Michelle D-K. Area 78, Alberta & Northwest Territories, Canada; Sophie K. Area 42, Nevada; Jennie H. Area 85 Northwest Ontario; and Carolyn W. Area 79, British Columbia & Yukon. This was a very informative meeting, and I have volunteered to co-chair this meeting next year. While all of the presenters touched on the obvious aspects of remote communities (meaning reaching members where physical distance between meetings isolates members) they also talked about other aspects such as culture, language, literacy, and finances. For instance, in Area 78 a committee meeting can mean at 1300 mile road trip (equivalent to the distance between New York and Dallas) or a 2 hour flight. Another shared how in the smaller AA communities when a sober member dies it can be devastating to the group. One Area has created a workbook & service manual specifically on remote communities. Many of the people shared about using video conferencing to host meetings, with “stronger” groups sponsoring the smaller ones, along with Districts doing the same.

There was much general sharing about the cultural issues such as stigma of alcoholism in India and it's people, along with the caste system there. Many cultures treat women alcoholics differently than

men. Money can create a barrier in carrying the message, in part because poor communities cannot participate as completely in General Service simply because they cannot fund the necessary trips to functions. Some Areas have a specific fund to help these Districts better attend the Area functions. Another person shared about carrying the message into cultures that have no written words. Currently the Big Book is being translated into Navajo by recording. There is hope that this project will be finished next year in time for the Red Road Convention.

Financial

- To better understand the Reserve Fund, don't think of it as \$15.3 million overall. Think of it as a savings account of \$236.52 per group or \$11.01 per member. The services provided per group each year work out to be roughly \$146.96 and per member is \$6.84.
- Group contributions continue to decline.
- 50% of literature sales are from the Big Book.
- There will be a price increase on literature in October.
- If every member did the birthday plan, assuming a minimum of \$1 for each year of sobriety, we could probably sell literature at cost.

Grapevine / La Vina

- Grapevine subscriptions for up in the year of the International Convention, then trend down. They have been trending down since 1989.
- La Vina needs 28,000 to 30,000 subscriptions to reach break-even point.
- La Vigne is the bi-monthly French version of the Grapevine published since 1965. It is published on a completely volunteer basis. The East Canada Regional Trustee is the Director, the 4 Delegates serve on the board. Any profit realized from the publication goes back to the 4 Delegate Areas.

General Comments

- Significant changes coming to the web site, but they aren't done yet. One item of interest is that you will be able to make reoccurring donations to GSO on a monthly or quarterly basis. The limit is still \$3000 per year and it will not allow you to do greater than that. There will also be improvement to "how to find AA" portion of the web; zip code, city/state, and map. You will also be able to find world wide meetings.
- Archives received approximately 1500 requests per year.
- Big Book currently published in 69 languages with more on the way.
- Will be looking for two Class A Trustees in the coming year.
- Two Class B Trustees were elected; both came out of the hat. East Canada Regional Trustee from Area 90 Northwest Quebec, Richard B.; and Pacific Region Trustee from Area 08 San Diego/Imperial California, Joel C. were elected. Both were previously Panel 60 Delegates.
- Any new pamphlets that were approved should be out sometime in July or so. More will be revealed on that top at the June Assembly when I give my full report.

2014 Inventory

There were 3 sections of questions, each having 5 groups of 8 or 9 members per group. Full report will be in the published in the Final Report, a summary will be in a special edition of Box 459. Some general notes I took:

- There appear to be language barriers at the conference because background material isn't translated this seems to imply that some members are "less than" others.
- A concern that Trustees are more informed than the Delegates when they come to GSC.
- A suggestion that agenda items be proposed 6 months to a year in advance so that more discussion can happen in the Areas.
- A suggestion that background material be given an executive summary page in a standardized format for better communication.
- A general concern that the General Service Board isn't communicating clearly
- Several comments about how the Delegate committees might be better involved year-round in the conference committee structure.
- Discussion about the election process for the General Service Trustees, and the length of service / lack of rotation of the individuals who serve in these roles; could potentially serve for 10 years.

International Convention: July 2-5, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia

Kicks off Thursday night with dances. Marathon meetings start at midnight and continue through Sunday. Friday night flag ceremony will also have 3 speakers, Saturday evening Old Timers meeting (40+ years of sobriety) and Sunday morning wrap-up meeting with have 3 speakers. Flag ceremony will have a flag for every country that has a member attending. In 2010 there were 96 countries.



Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.
 NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
 Literature Committee