

2014 SUMMER COMMITTEE MEETING
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

It has been a full schedule since our Assembly in June. I am out and about, hither and yon. I have delivered various Post General Service Conference (GSC) Reports to date, with another one scheduled after this meeting. If you think I'm sneaking out early, I'm not. I simply am leaving so that I can be in Clifton (District 52) by 4 pm. Districts 10 and 73 have given me time on their agenda to report; along with a very abbreviated version at District 71's Workshop last weekend. In addition I was asked to speak at the 12, 12 & More meeting in Elgin where I spoke on what a Delegate does.

I am actively attempting to help administer the 2014 Membership Survey, a somewhat up hill road. Only one meeting so far has not been interested in participating, and so far one meeting is no longer active. At least half of them have been difficult to contact. Some of the primary contacts either didn't return my phone call, or no longer attended the meeting. There was also at least one meeting that is at a club, with no contact information for an individual. For those DCMs reading this, it points out how vitally important it is for you to work within your District to try and encourage meeting contact information to be kept up to date. I know how challenging this work can be, but please keep at it. Next time it might not be a Delegate looking to do a membership survey, it might be an AA member looking for a meeting to attend.

I attended the East Central Regional Conference in Perrysburg, Ohio on July 25th through 27th. As you may recall, the Area funded an additional 6 people to attend and participate in the round table discussions that centered on sharing how each Area does service. I believe each of the people attending will be providing a report on what they heard. In addition, I've requested that each of them forward me their information. My hope is to combine these reports and submit them to Phil G. for a Concepts piece. So far three of the people have submitted their expenses against PPM51 for a total of \$1,295.12 but I'm sure there will be more submissions today. For myself, I attended the Delegate's only breakfast, along with a meeting for current and past Delegates in which we discussed two items. One item is the intent of the Region to have a hospitality room at the International Convention in Atlanta, July 2-5 next year. We've placed our request and are awaiting additional information. First, if we can have a room, second, what the cost of the room will be, and finally can we make coffee and provide snacks. This final one is the real kicker. If we are limited to only using hotel coffee the price could be anywhere from say \$35 a gallon to over \$100 per gallon. I hope to have an idea of costs and a motion to present for the Winter Assembly. The second discussion was a regarding the idea of changes to the Conference of Delegate Past & Present, along with the ECR Convention. The presented idea is that we combine these two events, move it to late February, and have it include presentation on the GSC agenda items. I believe there is still a lot of discussion on this topic.

At our last Assembly I spoke with the DCMs regarding an issue that seems to be happening in Ohio and was reported to from our Regional Correspondent to our Regional Trustee and then to Delegates. It seems that there are people who are attending AA meetings and announcing retreats that have little or nothing to do with AA. These events seem to be targeted to newly sober members, and since they are announced at AA meetings are perceived to be AA events. Some of the descriptions remind me of my days of hazing in a sorority. The point that was made in Mary Clare's e-mail is that we should all be aware of what announcements are being read at our meetings. If we are unsure of what the event

is, we should not be afraid to ask. We all bear the responsibility to keep our Traditions insight and do our best to make AA a safe place for people to come and to find sobriety.

Dialog with members at GSO

I'd like to share a couple dialogs I have had with staff members at the General Service Office.

Early this spring Don S. came to me about the challenges he was facing ordering Spanish Literature in the on-line store. He had to keep bouncing back and forth between pages comparing the covers to figure out if he was ordering the correct book/pamphlet he wanted. He asked me to convey to GSO this challenge, and suggested that they add the English translation to the site. (Having done the same thing, I know how challenging this can be.)

More recently, District 41 found a challenge in adding information to the back of various pamphlets when they use them for CPC and PI. This stamp has their local contact information so that people would have a way to get in touch with AA.

I sent both these suggestions to Greg T., Publishing Director at AAWS. He will be taking both topics up with the publishing department and they will see what can be done. I don't know what the timeline on this type of discussion is, but the voice of NIA has been delivered. When I hear additional information, I will be sure to relay it.

Additionally I was "talking" with Michelle M., Archivist. I wanted to learn more about how information can be obtained. The trustees' Archives Committee has oversight of the collection. Any member of Alcoholics Anonymous, non-member, writer, student, film producer etc. may have access to the Archives collection of unpublished letters or other unpublished material. They do need to become familiar with the research policies and submit a signed application form. They also have to abide by the US Copyright laws. Generally speaking, few requests are denied. My particular interest was regarding a letter that Bill references in *As Bill Sees It*. It seems that this wasn't an easy request, in part because excerpts were sometimes taken out of their original context; Bill rewrote some of them to fit the situation. In addition, much of his writing is owned by Stepping Stones, not GSO. Ah well....

Highlights from AAWS (AA World Services, Inc.); June 13, 2014

I will be forwarding on this full report after this meeting. Some highlights:

Newly elected Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, Billy N. opened the meeting. Attendance included new director Beau B. and new trustee directors Chet P., Southeast Regional Trustee, and Joe D..

A new aspect to the on-line contributions portion of aa.org is the ability to make reoccurring contributions. The option allows the user to set-up regular contributions, but still limits how much a member can contribute during the year.

Following Mary D.'s retirement in August 2014, Mary Clare L. will move from Regional Forums to the Literature assignment. Clay R. will take over the Regional Forums responsibilities and continue to oversee the Nominating assignment, as well.

Recruitment for the newly-created position for an A.A.W.S. Information Technology Manager is well underway. The position has been posted internally and on external websites. We anticipate a

September 2014 hire date.

The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the period January 1, 2014 - March 31, 2014 reflected:

Net sales	\$3,262,530
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$2,079,433
Contributions	\$1,671,562
Total operating expenses	\$3,692,983
Net Income	\$ 58,121

General Service Office (GSO)

Notice has been sent out regarding a price increase to literature effective October 1st. Discounts for shipping and handling will be changing slightly, but it will be to lower costs on larger orders. The last increase to literature prices was in July 2009. (As I reported in my GSC report, literature prices are set to help offset the difference between contributions from members, groups, etc. and the cost of doing the business of AA at the office. One estimate is that if each and every member of AA were to participate each year in the birthday plan, one dollar for each year of sobriety, literature could be sold at cost. This would reduce the price of literature to what it costs to print and ship only.) I received the communication on the increase this week, and will be forwarding it out. Generally prices will change somewhere between one and two dollars. For instance, the Big Book will go from \$8 to \$9.50 each, but Daily Reflections will go from \$8.25 to \$10.25 per book. The changes to shipping and handling are in those middle bands: \$51 - \$250 going from 19% to 15% and the \$251 - \$500 down to 12%. The communication did not mention what happens on the price per book on larger orders.

I know that there is often discussion on why we “pay more” when we buy the smaller orders than places that can purchase larger orders. One thing to keep in mind is that it takes more time to package 10 single copies individually than it does to package a larger box with 10 copies in it. An idea that Districts can consider is to have groups come together and create a larger combined order. There’s always been the question of storage, but if an order was placed say a week after the District meeting, then by the time they are delivered they would only be stored in someone’s house (or car) for a little more than a week. With the shipping a single Big Book costs \$19.50, but 6 Big Books it would be more like \$11.31 each. If you can combine groups to an order of 27 Big Book, the price goes down to about \$10.64 each.

Delegate’s Sharing

I had several requests for Delegate’s Sharing’s these past couple months. This is where an e-mail is sent out to all the Delegates asking how each Area handles a particular subject. I am finding this a very interesting effort as it allows me to see into how different and the same each Area is. It brings a greater depth of understanding to autonomy.

One was regarding whether Areas fund their Delegate to attend the International Conference, held every 5 years around the US and Canada. While the full responses haven’t been reported yet, initial indications are that about half of the Areas do support attendance. Another was a request for information regarding the Young People’s groups such as ISCYPAA which I have not yet received back information on. A big “Thank You Marcia!” for helping me answer those questions. Another request that I have not heard back yet on is regarding Special Needs and how sign language interpreters are paid for by meetings. In talking with Urbano we realized that our web site had not been updated in several years, so he’s going to be looking into that soon.

The Delegate in Colorado made an interesting request recently. There was a need for someone who spoke Karen, a rare language spoken by a small minority in Burma /Myanmar. In this case, the problem drinkers are part of a fairly isolated refugee community living in Denver. Several of them have been court-ordered to AA meetings. GSO does not have any literature translated into Karen, although there are three pamphlets available in Burmese. Regardless, the clients are illiterate so they wouldn't be able to read any literature even if we did have translations available. The Delegate had contact with the group in Myanmar whose members created the existing pamphlets in Burmese, and they are asking their own networks for Karen speakers who might be able to assist. None of the other Delegates had any help to offer specific to the request. It did however help us to understand another aspect of what is referred to in AA as Remote Communities. While most people would never think that Denver, Colorado would experience anything akin to a remote community, here is a prime example of exactly that same thing. In this case it is not physical distance that removes the member from meetings but the barrier of language.

A request was sent along in early spring regarding whether the Areas helped fund DCMs and other District members to attend Area meetings. In general most of the Areas were like ours where Groups are suggested to reimburse GSRs and Districts elect to reimburse DCMs and/or District Chairs. Two Areas in specific have funding for this type of effort (Area 28 Maine and Area 79 British Columbia / Yukon). This funding is strictly for the DCMs or their Alternates. Each Area has a form that is filled out to request this funding; a limit on how much can be requested per District and for the year total. Each one also attempts to provide the funds in a rotational manner and does ask that the District provide information to indicate that there is a need for the funding.

A final request came from Area 67, South East Texas where groups are being asked to pay a portion of the property tax when they rent space in strip malls. One Delegate shared what sounded more like a landlord had to come up with their taxes and "squeezed" the meeting to help pay those by coughing up some cash (my words). Another shared how a landlord wanted the group to pay for a new roof (they moved) and several mentioned challenges with landlords asking for insurance. The majority mentioned that it is the landlord's responsibility and how they use the rent is their business, not AAs. It all helps bring new meaning and perspective to the Tradition's; especially Tradition Six in it's long form.

Upcoming Events

The Illinois State Conference is just around the corner. Hosted this year by Chicago's Area 19. I've filled the panel requests that I received, but I still need to fill some Alcahons. If any of you are planning n attending, please see me and take a slot. I need to do that today so that I can let them know tomorrow what we are unable to fill.



Service? WooHoo!
Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee