

2014 FALL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

The 2014 Conference Reports have arrived! Well, truthfully as of right this minute they haven't... But they will be delivered on Friday to my house. My hope is that I will be able get them organized and ready to bring to the Assembly the next morning. Which means I can't really report on what is in the report... not even what color the cover is.

Since our Assembly in June I have been frequently on the road. I have delivered various post-General Service Conference (GSC) reports, I believe 7 so far. I do owe apologies to District 11 since I missed the meeting they invited me to. Being Delegate has allowed me to be human on another level... having to make amends for missing a Delegate's report gives me new humility because I feel so strongly about keeping my commitments to deliver these. One of the neat "coincidences" in delivering these was my trip down to Clifton and District 52. Some of you may recall that I had to leave the Committee Meeting early to make that appointment. On the way down I stopped to use a gas station and stopped at the same station were recovering motorcyclists on their way a picnic.

The other thing that happened is that I was able to connect with someone who attends one of the meetings chosen to participate in the 2014 Membership Survey. This survey work has been a bit uphill. Of the 15 meetings chosen in Northern Illinois Area (NIA) to participate, over half of them were difficult to contact. These meetings had contacts or GSRs who were, for one reason or another, no longer the correct person. In one case the person had moved to Texas. In the case of some of the clubs, there was no person as a contact, only the club phone number. Of those that I was able to make personal contact I found that they were very interested in participating. Only one group wasn't really receptive. All in all it was a rewarding effort and I got to meet people and attend meetings that I would not normally. What a wonderful opportunity that you have afforded me.

But more importantly it brought to attention that we need to work with our groups to make sure they have contacts at minimum if not GSRs. Meetings with a GSR or contact are listed in the national directory. These directories are used by members as they travel around the country. 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. The alcoholic who is looking for a meeting may be trying to call the contact to get directions, and they may desperately need a meeting.

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 and I have submitted them to Phil G. for a Concepts piece.

Dialog with members at GSO

As I reported in my Committee Report last month, I forwarded a couple items to the Director of Publishing at AA World Services (AAWS). These were suggestions from members of the fellowship

on things that could be done better in terms of our literature. One was in regards to ordering literature on line in Spanish, the suggestion was to see if the English titles could be at the location to ease ordering. The other was to allow space on the back of pamphlets so that local AA organizations could stamp them with contact information. Both of these suggestions were greeted with interest. I sent a quick check up with Greg on Thursday and his replay was "Nothing to report yet. I've been working on myriad other issues and priorities, but the suggestion remains under active consideration." I'm sure with the release of the new pamphlet Many Paths to Spirituality, the complete overhaul of Circles of Love and Service, along with the changes to several other pieces, he has indeed been busy.

Highlights from General Service Board (GSB) meeting August 4, 2014

I will be forwarding on this full report after this meeting. I have found it difficult to pick what pieces to report here, and what to leave for individuals to read on their own. I have to admit that the report has become more interesting to me as a Delegate than it ever was before. It is my hope that DCMs are forwarding these reports on even if they are not reading it themselves. If nothing else it may spark interest in some new GSR or member to become interested in participating in this thing we call general service...perhaps even some day to stand and report as I do today.

Some highlights:

The Trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference has forwarded a number of tasks to the General Service Office (GSO). One would be the development of a website template that could be used by Areas and Districts in the US and Canada. An additional task is to develop a searchable, web-based, mobile-friendly database of meetings in the US. Also they forwarded a request to the GSB to consider a non-geographic district comprised of the North American-based Online AA Groups. This discussion would possibly include how those groups might be represented in the General Service Conference (GSC). I would not expect that we will see anything on the 2015 agenda for these items, but more will be revealed.

The Trustee's Literature Committee has agreed to forward to the 2015 Conference Committee on Literature a request to develop literature directed to transgender and gender non-conforming alcoholics. Since I am on that committee, I am interested in the thoughts of our Area on this topic. Also being forwarded is the request to produce a book combining the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions with the Twelve Concepts of World Service. You may recall that we sent a motion regarding this from the Fall Assembly of 2011.

The GSB Chair will appoint an ad-hoc committee to research the potential need for a Conference-approved pamphlet on bridging the gap (BtG) activities for corrections. This was an Additional Consideration that came out of the Treatment motion to broaden the BtG pamphlet.

A topic that was reported that I have heard talked about over the years is the idea of relocating the General Service Office away from New York. A formal study was completed by an independent consulting firm. Some interesting pieces of the discussion included the costs of the relocation with items such as; construction, severance, recruiting and retraining costs, etc. Two interesting items that came out of the investigation was that a salary outside of New York in one of the sample cities was lower. However, the difference between rent in our current location in New York and smaller cities was very small. The rent difference is because we are in a non-profit building. The result of this investigation prompted a recommendation that the office not move. This recommendation caused a motion to move forward with preliminary work for combining the AA World Services offices and the Grapevine offices on to one floor. This actual work would begin after the International Conference and

finish by December 2015. This work would prompt a possible draw down on the reserve fund not to exceed \$1.3 million.

In terms of e-Book sales of the 4th edition Big Book stand at 10,508, Twelve & Twelve are at 11,848 and Daily Reflections are 4,925. It will be interesting to see after year end to see where e-Books and "real" books line up. June YTD sales (cash) are ahead of projections for the Grapevine; along with expenses being down. La Vina is experiencing a similar positive experience, and while it isn't fully self-supporting yet, it is moving in the right direction.

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

Net sales (Literature)	\$8,171,190
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$4,948,213
Contributions	\$3,220,000
Total operating expenses	\$7,540,770
Net Income	\$ 627,616

This rise in "income" has been in part due to the approximately \$1.7 million dollars in sales of the 75th Anniversary Edition of the Big Book in the first six months of this year.

Literature Price Increase

Notice have 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. Attached as the last page is the price list most recently sent out by the Publishing Director.

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 of the requests was regarding the use of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters at meetings. The results were very interesting. One District that uses special donation cans to help offset costs. Another Area funds it for the Assemblies. There are Areas that use professional signers, and others that rely on member volunteers. It seems that in most Areas the Special Needs chair in the Area or District coordinate the activity as needed. It seems that Western Washington has a very active Access Committee in which the deaf community places a significant part. Some of that is due to a deaf school in Vancouver. To that point, a motion was recently submitted to make this an Area funded activity that any group can participate in. Another interesting items what that Area 81 (Canada) has funding through their social services. In the one location that uses those services they switched to an Open Meeting format to accommodate the interpreters. I have forwarded this report to Urbano.

There was a request regarding liability insurance for groups by landlords. Seems that like all issues, there are diverse answers. About a third of them have not had this happen, yet. Another third has the issue, and the smaller groups have had to move to new locations because they couldn't afford the insurance. The other third have found a way to pay the insurance. One location had several groups

and they split the cost between themselves. Another Area had groups in District band together to get a better rate. One Area suggests to the groups to ask the church who their provider is so they can contact the insurance agency and see about getting a rider, which is apparently much cheaper.

Upcoming Events

The NIA Big Book Conference is on the horizon. Scheduled for October 25th in Glen Ellyn, it will be hosted by District 40. Please register now so they can plan accordingly.

The big one that's coming up is the International Conference in Atlanta, July 2-5 next year. On line registration went live at 9am on the 3rd. Shortly afterward it appears the server crashed. It seems a lot of us tried to register as early as possible. Housing will be assigned after you have registered. If you register on-line you will be given a badge number to use for housing. If you mail in your registration you will be sent the necessary forms to register for a hotel.

It is the hope of the Delegates, past and present, to have a hospitality room at the conference. We are working to arrange for a space, along with working together in the East Central Region on planning. What with the 2020 International being held in Detroit, we feel like it's right in our backyard. Well, at least in our Region. Each Area is going to be asking for some funding to help offset costs. Hopefully we will know soon what those might be.

Planning is underway for the 2015 Panel 65 General Service Conference. They are looking for suggestions to list as potential ideas for the theme, presentation topics, and sharing sessions. I will forward out this memo to the Area Committee. These are needed by December 15th. I'd like to suggest that perhaps any District interested in participating add this to their agenda and give their GSRs the chance to participate in a small way with the conference. It appears that you can send your suggests in yourself, although if you wish to have me forward them I will be happy to.



Service? WooHoo!
Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee