

December 13, 2014

2014 WINTER ASSEMBLY
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

It seems that this time of year is kind of quiet in the Delegate world. Reports on the 64th General Service Conference have all been delivered and the background for the 65th hasn't come out yet. That doesn't mean I've had nothing to do. It just means my work hasn't required a lot of driving.

One item that came to my inbox was a request from the Jim M. the Public Information (PI) staffer in New York regarding an anonymity break in the Chicago Tribune by a member in Lake County (District 12). I had hoped that I could skip this little issue during my tenure, but it isn't to be so. Although so far I have not been able to find a way to contact the member, it's on my list of things to do so that I might have a discussion.

The current Illinois Delegate's and Area Chairs have made a couple revisions to the State Conference Policy. These were to clarify questions that came up during the conference this year. One was to state clearly that the host committee was to offer no child care programs. This was seen as a risk that could present legal issues beyond what we would want to get into. Another change was to clarify when basic budget information would be reported, and the final change had to do with clarification of speakers and their reimbursable expenses.

Of note, Northern Illinois Area (NIA) will host the 2016 State Conference which will also include the East Central Regional Conference as part of it.

Highlights from AA World Services Board (AAWS) meeting October 31, 2014

I will be forwarding on this full report after this meeting.

The 23rd World Service Meeting was held October 12-16, 2014 in Warsaw, Poland. Attending were 61 delegates representing 41 countries and zones. The two Trustees-at-large, one from the US and one from Canada, attended to represent our General Service Office (GSO). Four new countries participated for the first time: Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Iran and Romania.

At present over 27,000 people have registered to attend the 2015 International Convention that will be held in Atlanta over the 4th of July weekend.

The Corrections desk has received 4,870 letters and 2,742 emails through the third quarter of 2014. During these nine months, they linked 651 male alcoholics and 237 female alcoholics for a total of 888 through our Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.).

For the first nine months of the year, through September 2014, total gross sales are \$14,345,500. For the sales month of September, prior to the implementation of the book price increase, we saw \$3,868,044 in actual gross sales. Sales in our two Online Stores (B2B for bulk orders and B2C for direct-to-consumer sales) accounted for 60.73% of all sales in the month of September. For the year

to date, web orders are 53.5% of total sales for A.A. literature. A.A. Comes of Age (English) is now available as a digital book on the three major platforms: Kindle, Apple and Nook; the translations into French and Spanish are being worked on. As Bill Sees It is next in line for publication as an ebook.

The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the 9 months ended September 30, 2014 showed:

Net sales	\$14,147,000
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$ 8,708,000
Contributions	\$ 4,911,000
Total operating expenses	\$11,379,000

Of note, despite a slight drop in contributions this quarter, we ended the quarter \$1,210,961.50 over budget due to increased sales before the October 1, 2014 literature increase.

Highlights from General Service Board (GSB) meeting November 3, 2014

The Board approved a recommendation that the 35th millionth Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be presented to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine at the 2015 International Convention. This is the order to which Sister Ignatia belonged. (You new comers are going to have to go looking for who she was. A hint: Try looking in AA Comes of Age.)

Phyllis H, General Service Office (GSO) general manager has announced that she will retire in October of 2015.

A special trilingual publications "A Brief History of the Big Book" was sent out with the Fall 2014 edition of Box 459. This covered the first English, Spanish and French editions.

Before the price increase of literature there was an increase in orders. This indicates that literature sales will be lower for the coming months. Of note, Hazelden placed a \$1.8 million dollar order.

Grapevine circulation of the printed version for the first 9 months was 74,254 and 5,286 for the online version. La Vina circulation was average of 10,426 for the same period. Both are currently doing well financially. Some of this is due to reduced costs. One of the projects that is underway is to move the Grapevine to the same floor as the GSO. This should help continue with cost reductions. However, subscriptions continue to go down.

The reports (which will be forwarded shortly) are starting to indicate some of the agenda items that may appear in February. While final decisions will not be made until the January meeting, some of these may be:

- A request for a book that is a compilation of Conference presentations. This would be derived from Conference Final Reports.
- A request to consider holding the General Service Conference (GSC) on the west coast on alternating years.
- Revisions to the pamphlet "Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies."
- Revisions to the pamphlet "Your AA General Service Office."
- A request for a Daily Reflections Volume 2

As noted, these are not yet fully approved agenda items, so some of them may not be seen in

February.

In financial terms (something that I'm still trying to better comprehend) I'll only bring two more items. First is that we will continue for the next 5 years to put away money into the pension fund. This amount continues to be a need for \$1.5 million dollars per year. I think there was some Delegates who thought that this was not going to be needed or that we had finished. Things that create this need is fluctuations in the stock market, but other things do also; like the fact that people are generally living longer. If people live longer they require pension payments for longer periods. The other item I found interesting was that while we have slightly over \$14 million in our Reserve Fund, it is roughly 9.4 months of operating expenses. Worse yet is that they are only getting 0.5% interest. While that's better than the amount I get in my savings account, it's lower than I can get in a CD. I guess I thought you could get a great interest rate if you had big bucks.

Delegate's Sharing

There have been an increased number of requests for Delegate's sharing. My guess is that rotation has something to do with it, meaning they wanted to find out something before they rotated out.

Area 78 requested Delegates to share what their Areas do regarding whether they have an electronics committee and if so what is the scope of their work, who was on the committee and were their guidelines. They also requested information on whether there was a webmaster and their role in the Area. Because I had recently replied with similar information to a request from Area 11, I did not respond to this one specifically, but simply forwarded my previous response.

Similarly an Area requested sharing about using cloud based storage. I have not had a chance to read this one yet.

There was a request from Area 84 regarding the a surge they were experiencing with members starting up Back to Basics Meetings based on Wally P's 'Recovery Model'. The majority of the Areas have chosen to view these groups as having autonomy. There were some however that chose not to recognize them as AA groups or to list them in their directories. These were the ones that specifically used the book by Wally P versus a conference approved literature meeting that simply had a name of Back to Basics.

An interesting one to read about is the way various Areas hold elections. Many mentioned using Third Legacy Procedure (for the newer people, the explanation is a bit too involved for here. But you can read about it in your Service Manual, our Area Handbook, or talk to me later.) At least two Areas specifically call the name of all current officers and DCMs and asks if they area available (about 160 people). They do this for each of the 8 officers positions. Another Area does not elect their service chairs, these are selected by the Area Chair (generally after conferring with other area committee members), after which they are confirmed at the next Assembly. What I found interesting is that in some Areas only current officers, committee chairs and DCMs are eligible to stand for the position of officer.

One kind of interesting one was regarding who can attend Area Committee Meetings. Of the 47 Delegates that responded, 5 had no meetings of this type, and 2 limited attendance to Area trusted servants. The other 40 relied that any AA member can attend.

Upcoming Events

Rooms are still available through the Housing process for the International Convention in Atlanta next year. These include hotel and dorm accommodations.

The Conference of Delegates Past and Present will be held in Bay City, Michigan February 13 through 15th. Any and all are welcome to make the drive and attend.

Planning is underway for the Spring Conference Assembly; to be held in St. Charles, Illinois on March 27-29, 2015.

The 65th General Service Conference will be held April 18th through 25th. I've started to receive preliminary communication. Information requests should step up here in the next week or so as all the rotating Delegates should be elected by now.

The 42nd Annual Illinois State Conference will be hosted by Area 21, our sister Area to the south. This time we will not have to drive quite as far since it will be held in Normal, Illinois on August 28 through 30th next year.



Service? WooHoo!
Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee