

2015 WINTER COMMITTEE MEETING
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thanks you for allowing me to serve.

If I thought my report for December's Assembly was about a quiet stretch, the period between then and today is even quieter. There has been no Board Weekend in the time since my last report, that will happen next weekend. The January Board Weekend includes the Delegate Chairs of each committee attending. At the November Board meeting a motion was made and seconded to change the policy regarding the role of the Delegate Chair. In part this motions read; " Delegate chairpersons are invited to sit with the trustee chairperson at the meeting of the corresponding trustees' committee and participate in the meeting. The trustees' committees welcome input from the delegate chair of their corresponding Conference committee; however, they are not voting members of the corresponding trustees' committee." This is, I believe, in part because the Delegates have been saying that we want more say in agenda items. It will be interesting to talk to Bruce D., Delegate from Area 2 Alaska and Literature Delegate Chair, to find out how this change is implemented. While he won't have experienced last year's Board Weekend so can't make a true comparison, we have kept in touch with Carmella last year's chair. So my guess is we'll be comparing some notes.

I have received my Conference Buddy and been in communication with her. This year I get to be the "big sister" to Lisa P. Area 93 Delegate from Central California. We've had several exchanges already regarding many aspects of being a Delegate and on the Conference itself.

General Service Conference (GSC)

The 65th General Service Conference will be held April 18th through 25th.

I have sent out the Preliminary Agenda for the 65th 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 15th. 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 few years at. 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 be held on April 11th here at Lord of Life. I'm guessing that will change rather quickly. It is my hope that we can generate plenty of interest in the GSRs to attend the event. It is an opportunity for them to bring the voice of their group regarding the various agenda topics. As has been said by countless Delegates before me.... If you don't tell me what you think, I'm left with what I think. As of yet I have had no requests to visit Districts to present the agenda items. I will take those on a first come basis and get to as many as possible.

General Service Office (GSO) Staff Update

As I reported in December, Phyllis H, General Service Office (GSO) general manager has announced that she will retire in October of 2015. A letter was sent to a large number of people regarding the search for a replacement. This letter went to Current and Past Trustees, Current and Past Directors, Delegates, Current and Past GSO Staff, and Central offices/Intergroups.

These are the qualifications for the position:

1. Ten years minimum sobriety
2. Demonstrated leadership ability in AA and in a business/professional career.
3. Proven general management experience, preferably as General Manager of an multifunctional organization; understanding of organizational issues, planning and controls, financial reporting, human resources practices, and informational technology applications and trends.
4. AA service experience; knowledge of General Service structure and AA history.
5. Effective communications skills, both verbal and written; ability to report clearly and concisely on GSO operations to the appropriate boards, the General Service Structure and the Fellowship at large.
6. Demonstrated understanding of the unique nature of AA, the structural limitations and balances of authority in AA services, and the ability to work with and resolve conflicting viewpoints.

Deadline for submission is April 15, 2015. If you feel you qualify for this position, please let me know and I will forward the letter along with the resume form to you. Of course, you do need to be willing to relocate to New York.

Delegate's Sharing

Since December I've only had one response on a Sharing request come to me. It was regarding Electronic Equipment Committees. It was quite and interesting read. Of the responding Delegates, most do not have much beyond a web person, and many don't have much more than one or two laptops. Quite a number had translation equipment which sound similar to ours. Area 78, Alberta & Northwest Territories, supplied quite a bit of information regarding their committee that mostly handles their website. I have forwarded this material to John in case he has an interest. The most memorable comment was from Bruce D., Area 2 Alaska. He said, "As I explained to our Area Chair some years ago at PRAASA when one of the other Area's representatives stated that all their Officers now had computers and she looked at me curiously, 'some Areas buy computers, some Areas buy airline tickets.'"

I expect to start seeing more of these requests coming to me soon as the list of the 93 Delegates has just been sent out electronically so people can cut & paste addresses.

Upcoming Events

The Northern Illinois Spring Assembly Conference, hosted by Districts 20, 22 & 61, will be held on March 27-29 at the St. Charles Pheasant Run Resort. Sunday morning speaker and GSO Staff will be Albin Z. who is a General Service Trustee. For those who are asking in their minds, yes, this means he is an alcoholic. Albin was elected General Service Trustee in April of 2013, the same time our Regional Trustee Bill F. was elected. He served 4 years as a nontrustee director and his "other job" is as an associate publisher with a newspaper publishing company. He was appointed to serve as the Secretary to the General Service Board, and a director of the AA Grapevine Board. In addition he serves as a member of the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee, the Trustees' Committee on Literature and the Trustees' Committee on Public Information.

Plans continue for the International Convention that will be taking place in Atlanta, Georgia over the

4th of July weekend. In the last report I read they have filled up two blocks of rooms already and were working on the third block. The last communication I received regarding registration numbers was back in October with over 27,000 people already registered. Plans to host an East Central Region hospitality room continue. If you think nothing happens fast in AA, well, it's the same in planning this. We do know that we've been given space in the Omni Hotel, apparently located near the main events. We still do not have food and beverage terms from the hotel. The ECR committee has decided to move forward with planning as best we can. Past Trustee Bob M. is seeking information on previous financial experience might be found. Each of the 14 Areas will be asking for some funding. So expect to hear a motion presented in April for a Primary Purpose Motion regarding this.

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. Personally, I'm hoping for good weather. The drive will include going around the south half of Lake Michigan, a well-known snow belt. Then to the shores of Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron. Which is apparently also known for snow. WooHoo indeed!

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.

Please start thinking about hosting the 43rd Annual State Conference now. This will also serve as the East Central Regional Conference. That means that our event will be drawing people not just from Illinois, but also from 13 Areas in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin.



Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.

NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee