

2015 SPRING COMMITTEE MEETING
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

For those of you who were here last year, this report will look very familiar. I love that I can call up last year's report and just edit some of the details. Given the full rich life I have been afforded because of Alcoholics Anonymous, this is a wonderful gift of sobriety!

The 65th General Service Conference (GSC) closed at approximately 7 pm on Friday, April 24th after having opened on April 19th with roll call of the voting members. It is my intention to give my first full report at the Assembly on June 13th. 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.

As last year I will give some business highlights here and a more full report later.

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. The meeting was opened by Michele Grinberg, Class A Trustee. This year the Conference Charter was presented by Bill F., our East Central Regional Trustee and Concept 2 by Chet P., Southeast Regional Trustee.

Remote Communities Meeting

This year I was privileged to serve as the alternate chair of this meeting. Cathi C. from Southern Indiana was the chair. The meeting had three presenters: Bruce D. (Panel 64, Area 2 Alaska), Tami R. (Panel 65, Area 10, Colorado), and Diane P. (Panel 65, Area 89 Northeast Quebec). In Tami's case she shared about a request their Area received last year from a Denver-based mental health provider inquired about translating some basic AA literature to serve members of Karen-speaking communities. The Karen people hail from the frontiers of Burma/Myanmar. Bruce shared about how 40% of the AA members live in Anchorage, and they make up 80% of the Area Committee. He also shared about having 300 villages with populations from as small as 17 people, and where they would contact village elders before flying out to do PI work. And Diane shared of AA in the Inuit people and how also white people can be considered remote in those areas with a strong native population.

The reports were quite interesting and will be published more fully in the Remote Communities Communicator. This will also include additional submissions from others than those who presented.

Financial

David M. Morris, C.P.A., Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee and the General Service Board Treasurer again made a presentation entitled: Around the Picnic Table.

Based on feedback on my finance presentation at last year's General Service Conference and at several Regional Forums, he revamped his presentation to make it clearer. He also attempted to make each slide stand on its own and not have the benefit of his commentary from the podium. Further, he hoped that the slides better consider the broad range of backgrounds and understanding of the members throughout the Fellowship. Thus, for each subject, he tried to present a simplified overview discussing the item so that all members will understand the key take away concept and then have several detailed background slides for those members who are more passionate about the subject and want to know every detail. I know we have a few on each side of this debate here in Northern Illinois Area. For those who are on the side of more is better, I will use a few of his slides at the Assembly, and make the entire presentation available to any who wish to discuss it in more depth with me. A few points here though to give you some ideas:

- To better understand the Reserve Fund, don't think of it as \$14.1 million overall. Think of it as a savings account of \$216.10 per group or \$10.26 per member.
- The services provided per group each year work out to be roughly \$149.11 (up \$2.15 from last year) and per member is \$ 7.08 (up 24 cents from last year).
- Group contributions continue to decline and member contributions were down slightly this year compared to last year.
- According to the US Dept. of Labor, the buying power of \$1.00 in 1945 is \$13.00 now.
- 70.9% of the services provided by the General Service Office (GSO) are covered by contributions. That leaves literature sales to cover the rest.
- In 2014 sales of the Big Book made of 59% of the total amount of sales. This includes copies of the commemorative issue.
- If every member did the birthday plan, assuming a minimum of \$1 for each year of sobriety, we could probably sell literature at cost.

In terms of the Commemorative issue of the Big Book, this was discussed more than once. As has been reported previously, a rather large order was placed last year, leaving a large overstock of books on hand. This presented an accounting challenge, and 125,000 books were written off financially in 2014 but are available for sales. What it boils down to is human error regarding the reorder. A person saw how many books were being sold in the beginning and placed another order. Then sales leveled off and dropped, leaving many more books available than needed. The principle we need to remember is that we are all human and make mistakes, and that our best experience comes from these mistakes. A thorough "4th Step" was done on the process and new safe guards have been placed for future special printing items.

Grapevine / La Vina

- In terms of "profit or loss" the Grapevine 2014 results were the best since 2002 with \$325,87 over expenses.
- Grapevine subscriptions have been trending down since 1989.
- Language of The Heart (all languages) is still the most popular book from the Grapevine, making up 14% of the non-magazine sales
- La Viña subscriptions continue to trend up, although they have not yet reached the number seen in 2007.

- Currently the Grapevine challenge is being lead by California with a 9.38% increase in subscriptions. Illinois has seen a 4.15% increase. The challenge goes until December 20th.

General Comments

- The member from the Czech Republic was unable to attend after all.
- There are currently 62 General Service Office (GSO) around the globe, each autonomous.
- There has been some ongoing issues in Russia regarding there being two “GSO’s” in different parts of the country. Since AA World Services (AAWS) is the one that can grant publishing rights, their decision was to grant neither organization rights and allow them to work out for themselves which one would be the correct office.
- Between June and August of 2014, there were web site visits recorded from over 200 countries
- The office mailed out over 8 million books, pamphlets etc.; received over 90,000 pieces of mail, (including contributions) e-mails and phone calls. Over 400 of these were from member sin extremely remote areas.
- The trilingual booklet “A Brief History of the Big Book is being offered free with each commemorative book purchased, and may be purchases on line.
- Archives received 1480 requests last year.
- The Big Book is currently published in 68 languages with 13 more on the way.
- A net total of 1,387 new groups in the US and Canada were registered last year.
- The background material was done in a format that allowed scanning and turned into audio for a blind GSR. The work was done for the Special Needs background in one Area.
- Two Class B Trustees and the Trustee-at-Large for Canada were elected. Richard P. (Area 43 / Panel 60) from New Hampshire, Northeast Region; Yolanda F. (Area 68 / Panel 50) from Texas, Southwest Region; and Scott H. (Area 70 / Panel 61) from British Columbia, Trustee-at-large Canada.

2015 Inventory

There were 3 sections of questions, each having 5 groups of 8 or 9 members per group. A full report of the entire inventory process will be available this year. I have ordered these reports and will distribute them in the same manner that the Final Conference Reports are done, that is with each District receiving a number for them to distribute, along with copies for the Area Committee Members. At this point I do not know the timing of the distribution of these reports. For all I know I will have two pallets of reports delivered to my house at the same time. Yikes!

One of the presentation topics this year at the Conference was *Inventory – Looking Back to Move Forward* and It was offered by Cathi C., Area 23, Southern Indiana.

She made of point of saying that it is up to ALL of us to use the information gained from this inventory to make any necessary changes. I’d like to share a couple quotes that I think are relevant, although her entire presentation speaks to what now comes.

“But the inventory by itself is mere information - an account of the Conference's assets and liabilities. What happens when the inventory is over is critical to the current and future success of the Conference. To paraphrase the Big Book, "having made an Inventory of the General Service Conference, what shall we do about it? Is the Conference's work then done?" If the General Service Conference Inventory is to have any true impact in helping us move ahead, it must be followed by action.”

And

"Knowing that solitary self-appraisal is insufficient, we will gain much by sharing the report throughout our interconnected circles of love and service. We will benefit greatly by discussing our shortcomings with trusted servants at all levels of our structure. It will give everyone who is willing the opportunity to help create plans for the betterment of our Conference. Let us involve and inspire our leaders of tomorrow as they continue the challenging assignment we have only just begun."

Nontrustee Appointed Committee Member Opening

The trustees' Committee on Corrections of the General Service Board has an opening for a nontrustee appointed committee member. We are searching for a suitable individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations. Resumes are required by June 1st. Some of the qualities most desirable for this nontrustee opening are:

1. Expertise in corrections work.
2. Available time to attend the meetings of the trustees' committee to which appointed and the Saturday afternoon general sharing session. Attendance at the Saturday night dinner and A.A. meeting during Board weekends is optional. Available to attend a joint committee meeting on Sunday afternoon of the General Service Conference. Attendance at the Sunday night Conference dinner is optional. Available for participation in subcommittees of the trustees' committee to which appointed. Completion of subcommittee projects often involves participation in conference calls.
3. At least five years of continuous sobriety.
4. The ability to work within the committee structure.
5. Experience in A.A. service.

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.

Currently there are registrations for 36,344 people as of March 1st and climbing with 90% registering on-line.



Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee