

December 12, 2015

## **2015 WINTER ASSEMBLY DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

If I thought last year was quiet at this time of year, this year is more so. I have one more Delegate's report to deliver at the District 73 meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Gary has given me the option that if it's snowing I can cancel. I hope it isn't.

The majority of my time since our last Assembly and Committee Meeting has been in service to the Panel 64 & 65 Delegates. I have served them this last year as their communication hub. Receiving e-mails from Area Delegates and forwarding them out to the full list in the US and Canada. Rotation has brought more requests in this job because many Delegates send word of welcome out to announce newly elected Delegates and their Alternates. Ours was sent out before I even left the Assembly in September.

I attended the East Central Regional Forum in Milwaukee on November 13-15. Northern Illinois Area (NIA) was well represented. Being basically in our own back yard, that was good to see. My guess is that only Southern Wisconsin had more attendees. I saw a couple newly elected DCMs from our Area there, along with past Delegates and some of our new officers. The best part is seeing our GSRs in attendance. I believe the next Forum location will be discussed at the Conference of Delegates Past & Present in February. I also understand that Southern Wisconsin placed a bid for a local Forum to be held with the focus to be on linguistic meetings.

### **Highlights from AA World Services Board (AAWS) meeting September 25, 2015**

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

General Manager Phyllis H., reported that the first two phases of the G.S.O.-A.A. Grapevine Co-location construction have been completed. Phase 4 demolition/construction will begin on Monday, September 28, 2015. It was noted that the construction project is on track budget-wise, and slightly ahead of the timeline. (Pictures and further information can be found in Box 459.)

There are two new G.S.O. Staff Members: Jeff W. who will be on the Corrections assignment effective October 5, 2015; and Sandra W., assigned to the Literature desk on November 2, 2015. We look forward to the many contributions they will bring to the office, Boards and the Fellowship

AA World Services (AAWS) has created a new piece called The Seventh Traditions Fact Sheet. It can be found on the web at [http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-203\\_en\\_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-203_en_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf) This piece speaks to what the dollar in the basket goes to when sent along to the General Service Board (GSB). I will send this piece along in an e-mail. While I found it on the web after some digging, it is not easy to find. Nor does it appear to be something that can be ordered. I have sent a suggestion to the Board Secretary that a link be placed somewhere that this could more easily be found.

### **Highlights from General Service Board (GSB) meeting November 2, 2015**

Following a motion and a second, the Board approved a recommendation to adopt the General Service Board Mission – Vision – Action statement.

The new PSA “Doors” has been released and is in use. One of the locations mentioned is in airports including O’Hare and Midway. So if you’re traveling anytime soon, watch for it.

Total web sales (AAWS Online Bookstores) for January-September 2015 stand at \$5,842,558 which accounts for 61.8% of total sales. Overall sales are at \$9,636,360 for the same period.

Donations to date are down at \$1,167,046 at the end of September. Total operating expenses were \$820,668 under budget.

AA Grapevine for nine months realized an income of \$1,506,638 and expenses were \$1,298,777. La Vina income was \$100,282 with expenses of \$47,263. Currently the Grapevine is offering free shipping until December 30<sup>th</sup>. So if you can figure out what to get the sponsor or sponsee as a gift, this might be an option. The Grapevine Board approved translation of Language of the Heart into Finnish.

The Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference reviewed the draft report by the Subcommittee on the Conference Agenda Process. This included the request regarding delegate chair voting privileges and participation in the selection of Conference agenda items. This is a topic that has been discussed for as long as I can remember. Plans continue for the translation of the basic information given to Delegates before and at the Conference. In 2016 there should be at least one item on the Conference agenda regarding moving forward with the process of translation of ALL background material for the Conference.

There seems to be some discussion regarding the creation of an Armed Services trustees’ committee, Conference committee and Staff position. I look forward to hearing more about this from our newly elected Delegate, Kelly, in the future.

The 80<sup>th</sup> International Convention had nearly 57,000 attendees, resulting in revenues of \$5.9 million. However expenses for the event were \$6.1 million.

As of this time over 220 stories have been submitted for the three pamphlets approved by the 2015 Conference for update. These pamphlets are “AA for the Woman,” “AA for the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,” and to develop literature for AAs with mental health issues.

Items are being forwarded on for consideration to be placed on the agenda for the 2016 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. Some of these include:

Archives: a request to explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories.

Cooperation With the Professional Community (CPC): recommendation to retire the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.”

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities: a suggestion that “Special Needs” be removed from their committee name and throughout their Composition, Scope and Procedure.

Literature: a proposal for the development of a plain language version of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## **Delegate's Sharing**

There's been a distinct slowing down in requests for sharing between the Delegates. One was for Archives displays which I shared with Ray. Sharing has started regarding the translation of background material for next year. This will be an ongoing voluntary effort until the Conference make s a final decision on how and when this will happen. One request went out regarding Central Offices and Intergroups. That compilation has not yet come back.

In light of our Sharing Session today regarding Area reimbursement for Groups or Districts involving Area members, here's a brief compilation of the information I received from the other Delegates. The full information is available to any who request it.

Of the 93 Areas, 22 Delegates responded. The questions asked were:

1. When it comes to workshops, what does the Area pay for? (rent, coffee, literature, etc.)
2. If it's an all day workshop, does the Area cover the cost of lunch? Or is that paid for by attendees?
3. Does your Area distinguish between an Area sponsored workshop and one sponsored by a District? If so, how? In the event of this distinction, does the Area provide any funding?
4. And finally, if an Area trusted servant attends a District workshop, what expenses are reimbursed?

Half of these responded that workshops are basically only held at standard Area events such as Assemblies. Fifteen of them responded that if a District or Group hosts an event they are responsible for all costs associated, and 6 of those responded that they also are asked to pay for the travel expenses of the visiting Area member. In terms of meals for the events, only 2 Delegates said that the Area would cover the cost of food at the event by passing the hat. The rest were divided between attendees paying for their food (such as we do here at Assemblies), people were on their own to utilize local venues, or they would have a pot luck event. A few of them mentioned that there was a registration fee for attending events.

## **Upcoming Events**

The Conference of Delegates Past and Present will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin February 12 through 14. Any and all are welcome to make the drive and attend. I would encourage anyone who thinks they may someday stand for Delegate to consider attending.

Planning is well underway for the Spring Conference Assembly; to be held in Rock Island, Illinois on April 1-3, 2016.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Illinois State Conference will be hosted by Northern Illinois Area in conjunction with the East Central Regional Conference. Hosting it will be Districts 10, 11 and 28. It will be held at the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles August 12-14.

## **Rotation**

In 2013 the General Service Conference (Panel 63) made an addition to the AA Service Manual with a section specific to the Principle of Rotation. You'll find it roughly on page S23 if you want to read it in it's entirety. It's short, only four paragraphs, yet contains so much. As with anything in AA it doesn't dictate, but guides us to think about a bigger picture beyond ourselves.

In part it says “To step out of an A.A. office we love can be hard.... But it can be a real step forward in growth – a step into humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.”

After 6 years of sitting at the front table I will now return to the tables with all of you. These last two years as Delegate have been life changing. To be one of the 32 people to date who have served in this role is a privilege. I came to service with the idea that I could never repay the debt I owe to Alcoholics Anonymous. It seems now I owe even more to you for giving me this honor. I will forever be indebted to AA and to you for my life and all that I have. I have truly been blessed beyond measure.



Service? WooHoo!  
Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V  
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate  
Literature Committee