

Report of the Area Delegate  
Spring Assembly  
April 2, 2016

Hello Area 20 Members,

I have been busy since the Winter Committee, mostly reading and sending information out via e-mail. I attended the Conference of Delegate Past and Present which was held February 12-14<sup>th</sup>. As usual Northern Illinois 20 was well represented. There were GSRs, DCMs, Area and district committee chairs Area officers and of course our past Delegates. I would put the guess at about 20 members.

I got together with the East Central Region panel 65 and panel 66 delegates. We spent a few hours on Friday night preparing for our mock conference agenda item that was to be presented on Saturday afternoon. The seated Delegates also had Saturday morning breakfast together. Saturday after the mock conference, the seated delegates got together again to go over what was presented at the mock conference. It was good to get the chance to know the East Central Region delegates better, now I will know at least 14 people that will be at the General Service Conference. If you are doing the math I added our Regional Trustee Bill F. We also had a few regional conference calls which we were able to ask more questions. We will be having another conference call prior to the General Service Conference on April 13, 2016.

*The Response from Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Accessibilities in regards to the motion about the BTG pamphlet addition from our Area last December:*

As you know, the trustees' committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/Accessibilities met on Sunday, January 31, 2016. After a thorough discussion of the background provided by Area 20 and the Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee Considerations in the 2014 Final Report the committee arrived at the decision to take no action. The following excerpt is from the minutes of that meeting:

"The trustees' committee reviewed two requests to update the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" and took no action noting the 2014 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities committee consideration regarding this pamphlet."

I've enclosed a copy of the 2014 committee consideration for your reference.

The reference to "two request" refers to a similar requests from the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in addition to the request from Area 20. On behalf of the trustees' committee, we extend our appreciation to Area 20 for their participation in the Conference process. Thank you for your service to the still suffering alcoholic.

Clement C., secretary  
Trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional  
Community/Treatment/Accessibilities

*Committee Considerations:*

The committee thoroughly considered a proposal to revise the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity and took no action. The committee acknowledged the desire in some areas for a generic Conference-approved pamphlet about bridging the gap.

While some areas have combined corrections and treatment bridging the gap activities, they remain separate in many others.

The sense of the committee was that revising the current pamphlet to include both treatment and corrections might not adequately address the variety of bridging the gap programs that areas throughout the U.S. and Canada have developed to address their specific needs. Some of these areas have developed service material tailored specifically to explain their local programs.

At the winter committee meeting someone had asked when was the trustees' committee on CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities joined together.

"The trustees' Committees on Cooperation with the Professional Community and Treatment Facilities were combined by action of the General Service Board in April 1998. Then, in August of 2009, the trustees' committee expanded its scope to include service to Special Needs-Accessibilities Committees and oversight of Special Needs literature."

There's also a little more detail in the first few paragraphs of the History & Actions of the trustees' Committee on C.P.C./Treatment/Accessibilities. If anyone wants to have the information on the History & Actions please e-mail me and I can send it to you, it is a little lengthy.

### **Highlights of GSB weekend Jan. 28-Feb.1, 2016**

**AAWS:** Agreed to forward to Conference Committee on Report and Charter that new edition of "AA Service Manual" be published biannually beginning in 2017.

**GrapeVine:** Net income for 2015 is \$245,204 in comparison to budgeted loss of \$14,615. La Vina Gross profit is \$63,160, \$6,187 ahead of budget.

**Archives Committee:** Committee approved "deed of gift form." Discussed importance of reaching out to members who have significant historical collections of AA material.

**General Service Conference:** Board approved a recommendation that the Composition, Scope and Procedure, *procedure Number 7 be changed* from "Selecting by lot, first-term delegate members on each Conference committee, within established practices," to "Selecting by lot, within well-established practices that account for rotation, regional mix, gender mix and committee size, and the first term delegate members on each Conference committee."

Acknowledged request for changes in schedule to accommodate request from GSB. "Agreed to forward to Conference Committee on policy and Admissions "Plans for translation of all conference background, as amended."

**CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities:** Agreed to forward to the CPC committee changes to pamphlet "If You are a Professional..." "How AA Members Cooperate with Professionals," and "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" One recommendation: Composition, scope and procedure be changed to reflect current language\* (Trustees Committee)

**Corrections:** Reviewed video "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" agreed to forward to Conference Committee on Corrections after two revisions are made.

**Finance and Budget:** Gross sales were 14% less than budgeted, (\$12, 720,00), 25% less than 2014. Contributions were \$7,156,900, 2.2% greater than budget, \$256,800 or 3.75% greater than last year.

Recommendation: Approve 2016 GSO budget with a loss of \$26,691.

**International:** One recommendation that language be changed so that an alternate can be sent to the World Services meeting if one of the US / Canada Delegates cannot attend. International/Regional Forums: Agreed to move forward with the mailing of RFPs for the 2020 International in Detroit, Michigan. A short list of responses will be brought to the July 2016 committee meeting.

**Literature:** Forwarded to conference Committee on Literature a progress report on “AA and the Woman, AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”, a report on progress on development for” AAs with Mental Health Issues,” a draft pamphlet on “Inside AA”. Agreed to forward to Report and Charter a request to revise text in Concept 11. Nominating New class A Trustee nominees Hon. Christy Carpenter, Nancy McCarthy to be presented to Conference Committee. WC and W Canada regional trustees are elected at the GSC.

**Public Information:** Agreed to forward to Conference Committee on PI that a guideline be developed on “Carrying the Message Online and in Social Media,” and agreed to forward to Trustees CPC committee the exploration of the feasibility and potential implementation of an official LinkedIn page for purpose of CPC committees.

## **Brainstorming Items for Consideration By the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference**

### **Exhibit 1**

#### **1. Brainstorming ideas on improving internal and external communications**

Assuming that we undertake an effort to identify and develop a more effective internal and external communications for:

- Still suffering alcoholics looking for help,
- A.A. members,
- “Friends of A.A.,” and
- the general public,

how can that be accomplished? What should those efforts specifically include?

#### **2. Brainstorming ideas for increasing revenues**

Reflecting on the Seventh Tradition of self-support as it currently exists today, what specific changes or enhancements could be made to both increase the dollars contributed and the participation involvement by groups and individuals?

Reflecting on the AAWS literature being sold today, both in terms of variety of items being sold and their price, are there specific changes that could be made, such as the creation of additional types of literature that could be sold?

Reflecting on the magazines and other publications currently being sold by Grapevine and La Viña, what changes could be made to further enhance their desirability so that the Fellowship would be enticed to increase their subscriptions and purchases of such materials?

**3. Brainstorming ideas for reducing expenses**

Reflecting on the specific service activities provided to the Fellowship by the GSO, what specific services or items could be either changed or eliminated to reduce expenses?

Reflecting on the current organizational operating structures of AAWS and Grapevine, what back office functions could be combined to reduce operating expenses?

**4. Brainstorming ideas on structure**

Reflecting on the current organizational operating structures of GSB, AAWS and GV and without regard to either costs or efficiency, are there better structures that could be developed that would allow A.A. to better deliver its spiritual message of hope and recovery?

Reflecting on the current organizational operating structures of GSB, AAWS and GV but this time considering costs and efficiency, are there better structures that could be developed that would allow A.A. to better deliver its spiritual message of hope and recovery?

April 9<sup>th</sup> is the Pre-General Service Conference workshop being held at the Lord of Life Church in La Fox. I am hoping that district members and groups had time to look over some of the agenda items and will be able to attend. I will be leaving for New York a day early on my dime along with Jeff. The delegates did receive a preliminary Draft Agenda for the week of the conference. It is a very busy week for me, not Jeff. Sunday the opening session starts at 10:00 a.m. then Monday thru Saturday everything starts at 9:00 a.m. and goes anywhere from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and I am guessing possibly later. They are having a trip to G.S.O./Grapevine offices Tuesday afternoon. Then we get Friday evening to ourselves.

There is one district that has requested a presentation of the post General Service Conference report at their district meeting. I have been asked by the Spanish Conference Committee to do a small presentation at their conference with an interrupter. If you would like me to attend one of your district meetings or a workshop please let me know as soon as you find out the place and time. Maybe I can get to everyone that wants a presentation before December as Cheryl did last year.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Delegate to the General Service Conference.

Respectfully submitted

Kelly L.  
Delegate,  
NIA 20/panel 66