

Delegates Report
Spring Assembly
March 25, 2017

Hello All,

I sent out an email on February 18th that described the progress of getting all the background material from the Delegates dashboard to the individual members. I am hoping that everyone received their materials in plenty of time to discuss with your districts and committees for the Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 8, 2017. Please remember that we will not be voting on any agendas items; what I really need is to have your input for a group conscience on what you and our Area would like to see happen as far as the agenda items. Concept IV talks about the right of participation, this is for all A.A. members weather you are a voting member or not. Please plan on attending the workshop.

Besides having the background material copied to a CD, I had tried using a drop box to send the materials to the Area officers and a few past delegates, it appeared that went well. After finding out that the background material was one large file, I had also sent all the DCMs the background material with individual committee folders though the drop box. I only received one response, so I am not sure how that worked for the DCMs or even if they received it.

February 10-12 I attended the Delegates past and present conference in Perrysburg OH. I was able to present our candidates for the East Central Regional Trustee and Trustee-at-Large U.S. I also presented a final report of the State Conference and ECR conference. A big thank you to Carl and Carol for having all the needed information for me to present to the conference.

On February 18th I had a great A.A. day. It started out with me and Marilyn attending the walk though for the 2017 State Conference being held August 11-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rosemont. I then attended the Area literature and Grapevine workshop that was held at the Lord of Life Church in La Fox, which was very informative and fairly well attended. I finished up the day going the DuPage open that was at the Parkview Community Church, in Glen Ellyn. I would have to say that that was a great way to end a busy day. I got to know a little more about our Alternate Delegate Robert S. and our C.P.C. chair Eric L.

Below are a few notes from the January meeting of the Trustees and members of the General Service Board. The entire report is one hundred seventeen pages and they have not yet been approved. The Trustees' parts of the report are the items that mostly were forwarded to the conference agenda.

SERVICES

Corrections

New avenues of communication were opened between Texas A.A. and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice through a special meeting with area corrections chairs that was also attended by the current chair of the trustees' Committee on Corrections. The group discussed showing our new corrections video "A New Freedom" on closed circuit TV within several TDCJ units, with the potential of reaching hundreds of inmates with our A.A. message of hope.

International

The International desk is working with the Publishing Department to produce the 24th World Service Meeting Final Report. In addition to the print version, the W.S.M. Final Report will be available for the first time in an anonymity-protected, digital format that will be posted on the W.S.M. Dashboard. The 25th W.S.M. will be held in Durban, South Africa, October 6-11, 2018 and the theme will be "Our Twelve Traditions: A.A 's Future in the Modern World."

Literature

The Holiday issue of Box 459 (in French, Spanish and English) was distributed in early December.

Nominating

In October the Nominating assignment sent a reminder of the January 1, 2017 deadline for resumes for regional trustee candidates in the East Central and Southeast regions and for Trustee-At-Large U.S. to area delegates in the United States. The staff on the Nominating desk also assisted with the preparation of the General Service Board slate of officers.

Public Information

The newly translated video P.S.A., "I Have Hope," is scheduled for release in January 2017. A vendor has been selected to distribute and track the video P.S.A. "I Have Hope" in English and French, and to redistribute "Tengo Esperanza."

Regional Forums: The Southeast Regional Forum held in Orlando, Florida December 2-4 was the final Forum of 2016. Attendance was 433, with 254 first timers. For the year, total attendance at the four Regional Forums plus one Additional Forum was 1,804, including 1,077 first time attendees. Board members, and Grapevine staff totaled 49 trips to Forums, including 10 different trustees, five different Grapevine directors, four different A.A.W.S. directors, and eight different special workers from G.S.O. and Grapevine. Preparation is also underway for the 2017 General Service Conference and the Regional Forums site selection process for the 2020 Forum calendar that will take place at regional luncheons.

Treatment and Accessibilities

The revised Accessibilities Service Kit will be available in February for new Accessibilities chairs, and will include the Accessibilities Workbook, the revised pamphlet "Serving All Alcoholics," the revised A.A Guidelines on "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" and "A.A Guidelines for Sharing the Message with the Deaf Alcoholic," along with the new Accessibilities Checklist. The search for an A.C.M. continues.

ARCHIVES

Through 2016, Archives handled approximately 1,450 requests for information and research, as compared to 1,300 in 2015. In the coming months, Archives will begin to retrieve records temporarily stored off-site and appraise such records for final disposition. Additionally, over 50,000 pieces that are mostly utilized by staff and Archives for reference purposes will also be assessed. The goal is to preserve documents with continuing reference and historical value while eliminating material that is no longer relevant.

TECHNOLOGY/COMMUNICATION/SERVICES

The Technology/Communication/Services Committee reviewed the following:

A report on G.S.O.'s A.A website analytics from August 2016 through October 2016.

A suggestion to add an option to G.S.O.'s records for A.A. entities to be listed as either a meeting or a group.

The 30-day pending period for new groups being added to G.S.O.'s group registry, and whether information should be developed clarifying the purpose of the pending period for the Fellowship.

The committee also held a conference call with A.A.W.S. directors to discuss the future vision for G.S.O.'s A.A. website. The Board approved the following recommendations brought forward by the TCS Committee:

PUBLISHING

Gross sales

December gross sales were under budget with actual gross sales at \$1,005,674, which is a \$204,387 or 16.89% negative variance against budget of \$1,210. For 2016 through the month of December gross sales were under budget: \$13,502,905 actual sales vs. estimate of \$13,707,484, which is a \$204,579 or .15% negative variance.

Web sales

Total web sales (A.A.W.S. Online Bookstores) for December 2016 stood at \$631,577, which accounts for about 69% of total sales for the company. Sales on the 828 online store (primarily Intergroup/Central Offices and other bulk orders) for December are \$449,764 and B2C sales (individual customers) stand at \$181,813.

Digital books

Total eBook gross sales for January through December 2016 stand at \$227,611 with 58,277 units distributed.

A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Circulation, Development and Customer Service: The EEP reported the following: Grapevine's "Grow Your Grapevine" outreach effort was updated in October. To date, over 3,000 responses have been received; pricing alternatives for AAGV, Inc.'s products are being evaluated with the circulation vendor; notified the AAWS Publications Director that AA Grapevine, Inc. will put all licenses and trademarks on hold until further notice; the quarterly Grapevine & Your Group email newsletter will resume distribution to group contacts from the FNV in March 2017; continuing successful e-renewal efforts; the auto renewal test showed negligible results on existing subscriptions but will be applied to all new subscriptions.

Grapevine Editorial Report: The senior editor reported that recent issues of the Grapevine magazine have included Atheist and Agnostic AA Members: Fellow alcoholics share their experience, strength, hope and challenges, how they get active and stay sober in AA (OCT 2016); Classic Grapevine: Articles from our Story Archive, featuring stories from the new GV book "Our Twelve Traditions" (NOV 2016); and Remote Communities: Stories by AA members in remote communities and those who do service in that area. Also includes sober holiday stories (DEC 2016). Recent publications include the new GV book "Our Twelve Traditions" - Print & eBook.

Grapevine Web Report: The senior editor reported monthly web traffic is averaging at 42,000 unique visitors and 196,000+ page views.

La Vina Report: The senior editor reported that recent issues of La Vina have included AA in Prisons: Stories of experience, strength and hope inside and out of jail (JULY/AUG 2016); The Third Legacy in the Hispanic AA Conventions (SEPT/OCT 2016), and Carrying the Message/Holiday, featuring a special section of stories from the winner of the 2015 LV Subscription Challenge (NOV/DEC 2016).

A few events coming soon to the East Central Region.

The East Central Regional Conference this year is combined with the 64th Annual Indiana State Convention which is being held July 14th – 16th, at the Grand Geneva Convention Center in Fort Wayne Indiana. If you are interested in going I have a few Pre-Registration forms that were sent from GSO or you could go to <http://area22indiana.org/StateConvention2017.html> the Convention site.

Also, the East Central Regional Forum is held in Springfield, IL November 17-19th, 2017 at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. More information can be found on the aa.org web site @ http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_EC_registrationform_2017.pdf

If you have never attended a regional conference or regional forum both of these are very close. I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy this weekend at the conference, if you are not registered yet you still can. See everyone again April 8th.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Kelly L.
Delegate
Area 20/panel 66
Grapevine Committee