

2010 NIA Fall Area Committee Meeting **Delegate's Report**

GSO STAFF CHANGES

To better serve the Fellowship, our GSO General Manager Phyllis H. has instituted a couple of staff changes. Doug R. has been appointed to a newly created, temporary position as Director of Staff Services. Doug will have oversight and management responsibility for the ten staff members and coordinate services that support this group. He will also work closely with both Phyllis and the General Service Board to support their activities. Phyllis receives over 300 emails per day, handles approximately 50 phone calls and conference calls, oversees all services and finances, manages the GSO employees with department heads reporting directly to her and travels extensively.

Rick W. has been appointed to serve as Staff Coordinator/Web Services. Rick's new position will include responsibilities from Doug's old position as Staff Coordinator and additional responsibilities for communicating with the Fellowship through the AA website and oversight of the exploration of ways to make literature and other services more readily available through e-technology.

CURRENT AREA ACTIVITY

ETech Survey

The GSO began distributing a questionnaire about digital services at the International Convention. At the Summer Area Committee meeting, I made copies of this questionnaire available for distribution throughout the districts. Our Web Administrator also placed it on the Area website. As requested by the GSO General Manager, earlier this month, I prepared a report summarizing the Area 20 responses to the survey. That report is attached to this one and will be added to the Area website.

Of the 57 responses by members of the Northern Illinois Fellowship, 38 said they were interested in reading AA literature on a mobile device or computer. Not surprisingly, the two books most often mentioned were the Big Book and the 12 & 12. Among other literature mentioned were pamphlets providing information for newcomers, on sponsorship and the AA group. Members also wanted the following online services: local meeting info (including a service for handheld devices that would allow locating meetings within a defined radius), online literature ordering, and a Q&A forum for newcomers.

Grapevine Survey

As you are aware, to support the efforts of the Grapevine Board, the 2010 General Service Conference Grapevine Committee reached out to the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship to gather information with respect to the value of the AA Grapevine to them, the use they make of it and possible changes to the magazine. I and our Area Grapevine Committee distributed a survey covering the four questions posed by the Conference Grapevine Committee and eight additional questions adopted for use by at least 69 of the 93 Delegate Areas in the US and Canada. I have compiled the input from the first 170 NIA responses to this survey on a

spreadsheet. On October 4, I passed that spreadsheet on for inclusion in an ongoing effort to gather and collate the survey responses. As of that time, there had been over 2500 responses with an additional 2500 anticipated. On November 1, I will compile the additional responses that I continue to receive and pass them on. When this part of the process is completed, it is my intent to prepare a written report based on all the NIA responses, pass it on to the Conference Coordinator for appropriate treatment and distribute it to the Area for your consideration.

Corrections

Earlier this month, GSO Staff Corrections Chair Jim M. asked Area Corrections Committees (via email) for the sharing of local solutions AA members may be using to resolve perceived differences between correction facility rules and regulations and what AA is and is not. This request was initiated by the Trustees Corrections Committee to follow up on action at the 2010 Conference. I forwarded Jim's email on to our Corrections Chair John R., as well as to my Alternate Rich H. and Past Delegate Marcia S. because of their ongoing work behind the walls.

This effort is designed to share experience among Corrections Committees throughout the US and Canada concerning prison regulations that may conflict with AA's traditions and, more importantly, solutions that AAs have found in their Area that have made it possible to resolve any perceived differences. If you or someone you know has experience in this regard, please contact John or me so that we may pass it along.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIDEO

The new young people's video "Animations" is currently available for viewing on the AA website (www.aa.org). This video has been made by young people in AA for young people in AA. To view the video, simply go to the AA website, select your language option and click on the "Videos and Audios" tab at the bottom of the Home page. Scroll down and click on "Young People's Video Animation." For the hearing impaired there is a closed caption button.

To learn more about the ongoing Young People's Project, after watching the video, you can click on the very next tab.

For those here, the important question about this video, the other Young People's videos and videos such as "Hope" and our Public Service Announcements is what use we make of them. These videos are tools to be used by our service committees at all levels within Northern Illinois to carry the message into the schools, to professionals and to the public to let them know we are here and what we are about.

Respectfully submitted

Ray M.
Delegate
Panel 60/Area 20
(Northern Illinois)