

March 11,2022

## **2022 Spring Assembly Meeting**

### **Delegate's Report**

#### **Welcome to the 2022 Spring Assembly!!**

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Panel 72 Delegate to the General Service Conference. I look forward to working with you all as I strive to fulfill my primary purpose while striving to gain the viewpoints and group consciences from the entire Area. As your Delegate I am responsible for bringing with me to the conference the entire Areas' group conscience and I hope to fulfill that responsibility to your satisfaction. I trust that many of you will help me in that endeavor and will also offer counsel should I stray too far from that objective.

During my reporting time I will try and concisely and transparently report to you on matters that come to my attention. I receive a tremendous amount of material from the General Service Office and am trying to find the best way to convey this information back to the fellowship without simply forwarding everything without an explanation. It is difficult to know what you are all interested in so I will attempt to hit what I believe are the high points and include additional information where needed. In that vein these reports may be quite lengthy as I try to meet these objectives however rest assured, I will not read the entire report to you, but it will be available in its entirety on our website for review and for any questions you may have. Since the report will be posted on our website, I will be mindful of anonymity concerns and will not be using members full names. I have also tried to create a simple PowerPoint presentation that I will use to accompany this report which will be the focus of my reporting to you. All the information in the PowerPoint will be included in this report along with more detailed information (and direct hyperlinks when possible) for your review.

## **Preparation and activities at the 72nd General Service Conference**

The 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference will be held in Brooklyn New York on April 24-30. The theme of the conference is **“A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service”**. The workshop topic for Tuesday afternoon is **“The Warranties- Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World”** and the three presentation topics will be

- How Do AA’s go to any length to Recover, Unify & Serve?
- Going beyond Fear
- How to reach Anyone, Anywhere.

I’m looking forward with nervous anticipation, humility and just the right amount of fear as I make my travel arrangements for the trip. I will be flying out (with the Area 19 delegate) on Thursday April 21 (2 days early) and will be returning on Sunday May 1. This will allow me to attend the Saturday Delegates Only meetings along with other “unofficial” activities that are happening on Saturday.

## **Conference Committee Assignment**

I have been assigned to the Conference Finance Committee as my primary committee and will also serve on the Conference Archives Committee as a secondary assignment. The respective Delegate Chairs of both committees (along with their Trustee counterparts) reached out in early January and as separate committees; we have already had several calls to discuss breakout meeting protocol along with general sharing sessions to get to know one another better. We do not discuss current agenda items at these meetings. Kevin Prior (Class A GSB Treasurer is the Chair of the Trustees Finance Committee and Al Mooney (Class A trustee) serves as chair the Archives Committee. Our AA archivist Michelle M also serves on the Archives committee.

## **Area Service Highlights**

In past conferences first year Delegates were asked to read their 2 minutes **“Area Service Highlights”** aloud to the entire conference, however that has now been eliminated and the highlights are instead only being included in the final report. I have included a copy of my written Area Service Highlights below-

## **Area 20 Service Highlights-**

*Illinois (Northern): Area 20 encompasses all Northern Illinois except for Chicago and includes many of the suburbs surrounding the city including such large cities as Aurora, Naperville, Joliet, Rockford, and Elgin (where I live). These suburban “concrete communities” account for 2/3’s of the Area’s 26 districts, 3 of those being Hispanic linguistic districts. Also contributing to the flavor of Area 20 are districts which span outward to the Wisconsin and Iowa border, connected via the familiar “grid patchwork” of open farmland. The Area has no intergroups or central offices, but many Districts have robust and informative websites which often draw from the Area website where various reports are posted, and event notices and communications are consolidated. We embrace technology in Area 20 utilizing existing platforms as much as possible to better carry the message from one end of the Area to the other. The most recent data from data from Fellowship Connect reports we have 1149 active groups and 924 registered GSR’s!*

*Area functions include 3 one day assemblies (all with Spanish translation), 4 committee meetings, a weekend Spring Conference and Assembly, and a one-day Pre-General Service Conference Workshop aimed at providing the Delegate with the informed group conscience of the fellowship. We rotate hosting the Annual State Conference every three years with the other Illinois Areas and host a one-day Big Book Conference which has led to a blossoming relationship with Area 87 in Montreal, as they begin their own tradition of hosting a similar 1-day event.*

*Since the Covid outbreak in March 2020 all Area events have been 100% virtual, though a recent Assembly motion will now allow for hybrid Committee meetings and Assemblies in the future, when we return to in-person meeting. In normal times we have a deep pool of trusted servants to lead our Area and Service Committees which for the most part align with the committees at the conference. It is truly an honor to be able to serve Area 20 as its Delegate.*

## **Additional Activities & Background Material**

As Delegate I am given access to the conference dashboard which is a repository for all related conference documents, forms, and other notices. One of the more important group of documents there is the Delegate Communication Kit which contains several To-Do checklists, forms, and other advance preparation documents. I have filled out all the requested advance forms including delegate data, travel arrangement scheduling, billing reimbursement forms and quantities

of Final reports to be delivered to Area 20. I reduced the amount ordered to 500 hard copy reports and 50 Spanish copies as the report is now available via electronic version and because we have accumulated and disposed of several hundred reports over the past years.

The final preparatory action is of course to receive and disburse the [Final agenda items](#) and background material. To that end I would like to thank our Alternate Delegate Erik L. for his help in compiling much of that data and then also thank our Area Registrar Chris E. for his help in updating the roster to ensure the material got out to everyone in the Area. The links provided for the background will take you to a Goggle drive (last year we used Dropbox) where you will be able to see the entire background in (1) huge file or view the background by individual committee. You will also be able to drill down into the separate committee sub-folders to select individual background PDF files for specific agenda items. Also included are sub-folders that include summary documents for the agenda items, which are documents that include a short 1-paragraph synopsis for each agenda item. These summary documents were provided to all the delegates on behalf of the delegates in Area 50 (W.NY), Area 06 (AZ) who took the time to write the synopsis for each item. The summary documents from Area 06 are also available in Spanish. There are several interesting and thought-provoking items on this year's agenda, and I look forward to hearing your input on these items. The accompanying PowerPoint has more info on the background material and upcoming Pre-General Service Conference Workshop on April 9.

### **Pre-Conference Activities**

Since January there have been several opportunities for me to join video calls with the conference committee members, partake in East Central Regional calls, and attend a few events in person. Below is a sample of those activities-

- **Finance Committee Calls – (5) calls to date.**
  - To acquaint the Finance committee members with the conference process and discuss how our committee will function while at conference. We also had a call that included the GSB Treasurer prior to the January Board Meeting.
- **Archives Committee Calls – (4) calls to date.**
  - Similar in format to the above but for the Archives committee.
- **East Central Regional Trustee Virtual Breakfast**

- Cathi C. our East Central Regional Trustee has begun having regional delegate calls once a month to allow the regional delegates to share on their conference preparatory activities and allow the Panel 71 delegates to share their experiences from last year's conference.
- **Attended the Conference of Delegates Past & Present (CDPP)**
  - I traveled to Appleton Wis. a couple weeks ago with our Area Chair to attend CDPP. It was a jam-packed weekend with all the currently seated Delegates (and several alternates) from the East Central Region in attendance. As the name implies, there were of course several regional past delegates there as well, although attendance was stifled a bit due to the pandemic. At this event (which Kelly L. was the chair of) we try to mimic the General Service Conference as best we can by having the seated delegates participate in a mock committee meeting on Friday night and then presenting that item on Saturday to the "conference" (or those in attendance) as would happen at the GSC. The experience is an invaluable learning aid to prepare delegates for the conference experience. In addition to presenting my Area Service highlights (the only time I'll get to read them), I also presented a report on East Central Regional Conference coming up to August in Lisle. I was asked to ask for participation from the other Areas for panel presentations at the conference and am happy to report that delegates from ALL other 13 Areas stepped up and volunteered to host a panel or workshop! Thanks to the Illinois State & East Central Conference committee members who provided information to me so I could make that presentation.
- **Attended D22 GSR meeting to discuss the background material-**
  - Thanks to Dave F. (DCM D22) for the invitation to attend their district meeting and present General Service Conference process and the agenda items and background material.

## **Updates from the Quarterly Board Weekend- (Jan 27-31)**

*The following paragraphs are excerpts from our East Central Regional Trustees report sent out on February 10, 2022. The complete 19-page report is available upon request.*

The General Service board, A.A.W.S & Grapevine board all met (hybrid) at the end of January. In addition to the corporate board meetings mentioned above, General Service Board committees (CPC/Treatment, Archives, Finance, etc.) also meet. It is from these meetings that the FINAL AGENDA ITEMS for the General Service Conference are finalized. These are the final agenda items that were sent out on Feb. 9, 2022. Delegate chairs from the various Conference committees also attend.

### **From the General Service Office-**

The Return to the Workplace Taskforce meets weekly to discuss all topics related to a full return to the workplace. Staff at GSO will be notified two weeks before they are to return to in-office work. Meanwhile, most staff members have a hybrid schedule and work 2 or 3 days a week in the office and the rest of their schedule from home. GSO remains closed to visitors.

### **Group Services-**

There is a new "New Group Form". It offers the option to list a meeting as in-person or virtual per the advisory action, "The U.S./Canada General Service Structure recognize online groups and encourage their participation, listing those groups who ask to be listed within the group's preferred district and area, with the default option being the location of the group's primary contact."

### **Financial – A.A.W.S. Financial Results-**

*Note: the following partial financial statements were prepared on January 18, 2022, for the January Finance Advisory Body meeting and January Board and Committee meetings. They contain only final unaudited 2021 revenue information. Complete 2021 unaudited financial statements are scheduled to be finished on February 4 and will be distributed to all Board members at that time. To date, I have not received those statements.*

Contributions are \$10,782, 983, exceeding the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 by \$782,983 (8%) and are \$526,296 more than last year. **This is the highest annual**

**contributions total in G.S.B. history**, breaking last year's record of \$10,256,687. Also, breaking a record, 29% of 2021 contributions were received online. Contributions averaged \$898,582 per month compared to a budget of \$833,333 per month.

Gross literature sales are \$11,700,254, exceeding the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 by \$300,254 (3%) and is \$2,538,846 more than last year. Gross sales averaged \$975,021 per month compared to a budget of \$950,000 per month.

As of December 31, the reserve fund balance is \$12,822,286, which represents 8.49 months of 2021 A.A.W.S. and AAGV expenses, or 7.5 months of projected 2022 expenses. (Target is 9-12months.) The balance includes the \$250,000 the G.S.B. voted in July to transfer to the reserve fund.

### **Financial – AA Grapevine / La Vina Financial Results-**

Unaudited year end results for the period ending December 31, 2021 show paid circulation of the Grapevine magazine was 56,081. This compared with a budget of 60,970 and 2020 actual of 63,397. Total income for the year was \$1,738,097 which is \$274,463 more than budgeted and \$122,337 more than the \$1,615,760 achieved in 2020.

Total costs and expenses of the magazine for the year were \$1,712,588, which were \$105,270 lower than budgeted and \$201,871 less than the \$1,914,459 in 2020.

After adding interest earned, there was a net income for the period ending December 31, 2021, of \$25,509 compared to a budgeted net loss of \$354,225.

La Viña - Unaudited results for the period ending December 31, 2021, show average paid subscriptions for La Viña were 6,312 compared to 5,597 budgeted and 7,205 in December 2020. Income from magazine sales was \$41,163 compared with a budget of \$24,813.

After deducting the costs and expenses of \$429,810, a shortfall between revenue and expenses of \$388,646 resulted for this service activity. This compares with a budgeted shortfall of \$401,970 and a shortfall of \$385,772 for 2020. The shortfall for the La Viña service activity has been funded by a transfer from the General Fund of the GSB.

## **Staff Services and Human Resources**

Eileen A. accepted the position of G.S.O. staff member and began February 7 on the Corrections assignment. An additional staff vacancy was announced – with the strong preference for a bilingual candidate. Clorinda V. has accepted the position of director of Communication Services and will begin on February 22.

A complete roster of the staff members is shown in the accompanying slide deck.

## **Pre-General Service Conference Breakouts & Workshop**

The PGSCW is scheduled for April 9 in LaFox. It will be our first in-person event in over 2 years, and I look forward to hearing the Areas collective group conscience on the agenda items. This workshop will be your opportunity to share your group's or service committee's experience with your Delegate with respect to the Final Agenda items for the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference.

The final agenda items list has been sent out and I have highlighted several items that I'm particularly interested in hearing your thoughts on. The specific items have been highlighted yellow on the final agenda items list. Additionally, our Alternate Delegate has sent out information regarding the (11) breakout sessions that we will have via Zoom prior to the workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Erik L. for his help in creating that! You are ALL invited to attend as many of the individual breakout session as you care to, or all of them! More information of the exact times can be found in the slide deck.

Respectfully submitted-

Chris D.  
Delegate  
Panel 72/Area 20  
(Northern Illinois)