



March 2, 2024

Delegates Report – Spring Assembly

Hello Area 20:

Greetings Area 20

I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Assembly & Conference this weekend. It will be a full weekend of speakers, panels and workshops.

We will also spend a little time at the Assembly reviewing the Pre-General Service Conference meeting schedule, which includes a series of 11 zoom breakout meetings and our PGSC Workshop on March 23. I'd like to thank Lisa S., our Alternate Delegate for organizing, scheduling and communicating the process. You may note that the background material came out a little later this year. Rest assured, Lisa and I sent this out as soon as we received all the files. The delay came largely due to the effort this year to have all of the background material released after it had been fully translated into Spanish and French.

As I mentioned in my last report, prior to this year's General Service Conference, it will be my goal to hear from as many people as possible and gain as much input as I can from the fellowship in Area 20. I will try to be as accessible as possible and can always be reached by phone or email – please don't hesitate to contact me.

Included in the overall schedule at the General Service Conference in April, there will be a session for the Delegates to share their respective Area's input in response to the Trustees Literature Committee's questions on our Founder's Literature. In addition to the emails I have received directly, I also received a copy of the correspondence that was sent directly to the Trustee's Committee. On Saturday afternoon (April 2nd - 3:00 PM) of the Spring Conference I will be holding an additional sharing session on the topic of our Founder's Literature – reviewing how we may handle any future requests to change literature written by our founders. I welcome any additional input from our Area between now and April 12, when I leave for the Conference.

Since my last report...

Along with several others from Area 20, I attended the Conference of Delegates Past & Present in Muncie, Indiana February 9-11. I had the opportunity to visit with a few of the past delegates from Illinois and our neighboring states along with the other 13 delegates from the other areas in our East Central Region. At this event, the delegates, including myself, participated in a mock conference and

met with our Regional Trustee and GSO staff to ask questions and to prepare ourselves for the week-long General Service Conference in New York in April. I left the weekend conference feeling better prepared and encouraged by our past delegates.

On February 19th I attended an initial meeting of the **Conference Agenda Committee**, which is my Panel 74 committee assignment at the GSC. Traditionally, this committee reviews conference themes, presentations and workshop ideas. This year the Conference Inventory Plan has also been added to this committee. We will have one more virtual meeting prior to the conference.

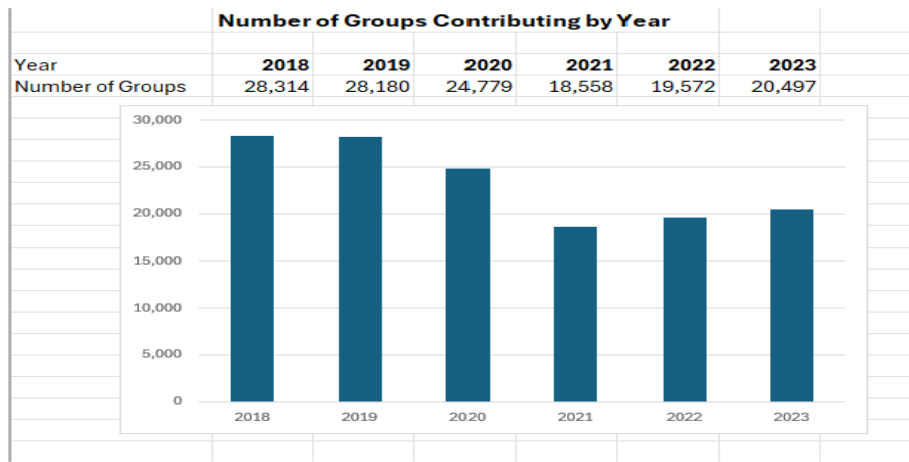
There were 2 virtual meetings, which I attended, for the General Service Conference attendees. The first of these 2 hour meetings was held on February 15th and the second was held on February 27th. These were largely informational meetings on the logistics of the GSC but also included a sharing session where delegates asked questions of the Trustees and GSO staff. There will be two more of these meetings prior to the conference, one on April 3rd, and the other sometime in March.

Some items of interest:

Late last week I received our East Central Regional Trustees [report](#) from the General Service Board’s Weekend held January 24-29. You can click on the link above to get the full report.

Here are some of the highlights I gleaned from the report:

- 2023 Member & Group Contributions totaled \$10.87 Million vs. a budget of \$10.5 Million. This was a record year in contributions.
- The number of groups contributing, while up in 2023, is still down vs. pre-pandemic levels.



- Gross literature sales for 2023 were \$14.49 Million (93% of budget). This is \$1,092,998 lower than the budgeted amount of \$15.58 Million. Cost of goods sold for 2023 was \$7,297,877, making the Literature Gross Margin \$7,191,125 (90% of budget). This is \$758,875 lower than the budgeted amount of \$7,950,000 . This is the primary contributor to the financial loss and the need to dip into the reserve fund.

- The Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the 2024 AAWS/GSB Budget with Contributions Revenue of \$10,500,000, Gross Margin on Literature Sales of \$8,492,759, Operating Expenses of \$19,025,113, Support for La Viña of \$569,512 and a net income before depreciation of \$47,734. Deducting depreciation of \$1,020,000 and the budgeted distribution from the International Literature Fund of \$30,000, the net budgeted deficit for 2024 is \$1,002,266. Note that final audited 2023 numbers are not complete yet and will be shared soon.
- Progress on the Big Book 5th edition continues. Stories are still being read and reviewed.
- The Plan Language Big Book is moving ahead and the plan is to allow the delegates 90 minutes to read and review the current draft at the Conference in April. Delegates are being asked to sign a letter of understanding (essentially a confidentiality agreement) to review the manuscript. It is possible that the Conference Committee on Literature will submit a recommendation or a committee consideration to the General Service Conference. In other words, we may vote on it's approval at this year's conference.

Future Events I'll be attending:

April 12-21 General Service Conference, Brooklyn, NY

June 7-9 East Central Regional Conference / Michigan State Convention, Grand Rapids, MI

Aug 23-25 Illinois State Conference, Springfield, IL

My expenses year-to-date are \$745.63, largely related to workshop travel and attendance at the CDPP in Muncie, IN.

Respectfully,

Erik Long

Delegate

NIA Panel 74

630-809-7789

DelegateA20NollP74@gmail.com