



May 18, 2024

## **Delegates Report – Spring Committee Meeting**

Hello Area 20:

Well, the General Service Conference is over! It was quite an interesting week in Brooklyn April 14-20. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve our Area!

In preparing for the conference, our Area held 11 zoom breakout meetings and our PGSC Workshop on March 23. I'd like to thank Lisa S., our Alternate Delegate once again for organizing, scheduling and communicating the process. I also appreciate the input from multiple folks from our Area outside of these scheduled meetings and I particular the kind words of encouragement from our past delegates. I must also add that while I felt quite prepared going into the conference, the experience itself is really something you can't quite wrap your head around until you are there. The conference does seem to evolve over the course of the week and you are never quite sure how the discussions will flow.

The experience of the conference was at times exciting, frustrating, tiring and hopeful. It was very nice to see some familiar faces from our East Central Region as well as some of the staff and board that I had met on previous occasions. However, in an effort to reduce the cost of the conference this year, a few things were deleted from the agenda, notably the delegate meet and greet on Saturday evening. I heard from many of the Panel 73 delegates that this change resulted in an abrupt start to the conference as we jumped right into the business at hand without much opportunity to fellowship before the conference started. To make those necessary personal connections, you kind of had to work the room and change your seat through the week to get to meet people, which I did. It was during our many meals that had the opportunity to chat with the other delegates. Additionally, I did enjoy working with my assigned committee (Agenda) as we spent several hours working together on our Agenda items. Incidentally, I was elected Chair of the Agenda Committee for the next conference.

I do look forward to reporting back and have had the opportunity to share a little bit with a couple of Districts already. To All DCM's, please let me know if you would like to schedule a presentation in your District.

While I will be giving my full report at the Summer Assembly on June 22, I'd like to share some highlights of the conference with you today, focusing particularly on the Financial report and the key takeaways from the conference.

I will be covering the Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations in detail at the Summer Assembly, but here are the complete summary of those items per the links below. As a reminder, Advisory Actions are recommendations that came out of a Conference Committee which were voted on and passed at

the Conference. Committee Considerations are essentially suggestions to the Trustees Committees and/or the General Service Board. These items were discussed at the conference, but no vote was taken. They are really items that the committee is referring back to the Trustees for additional work, to review, or consider for future action.

- [Conference Advisory Actions \(Click link to open\)](#)
- [Conference Committee Considerations \(Click link to open\)](#)

### **Some highlights of the conference:**

#### **Finance**

- Final audit of the 2023 numbers was completed and approved.
- 2023 Results:
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition of Self-Support – \$10.84 million up 2.8% from \$10.55 million in 2022
  - Gross literature sales for 2023 were \$14.64 Million (92% of budget).
  - Cost of goods sold for 2023 was \$7.73 Million, making the Literature Gross Margin \$6.76 Million (85% of budget). 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 \$8.49 Million, Operating Expenses of \$19.0 Million, Support for La Viña of \$569,512 and a net income before depreciation of \$617K.

#### **Board Inventory Report**

Our Interim General Service Board Chair, Mike L. gave a report on the Inventory the Board took following a 73<sup>rd</sup> GSC Advisory Action.

For a full copy of the report - [General Service Board Report](#)

As a reminder, this action of the board taking their inventory was a result of the communication around and handling of our previous board chair's resignation. I would say that not only did our board show great humility in taking and sharing their inventory, it was very reaffirming that our program works. In addition to acknowledging what went wrong, the board has developed a list of actions and follow-ups to improve communication and avoid this situation in the future.

## **Location Plus Report**

Relocation Studies of the General Service Office have been conducted approximately every ten years to determine if it is the most viable venue for its operations and provide recommendations on fact-based relocation analysis, as well as subjective considerations that could impact GSO's ability to effectively render services to the A.A. Fellowship. The final conclusions and recommendation resulting from this most recent Study was:

1. The reduction in recurring costs that might be realized in another location (i.e., Indianapolis) is overshadowed by the substantial one-time costs associated with a move.
2. They looked at 116 other locations, narrowed it down to 11, then 5, and then the final three, Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Philadelphia.
3. The implications of moving GSO to another city, regardless of cost savings, are significant, considering the history of the office in New York. Based on these conclusions (and consistent with all previous studies), the recommendation was for the General Service Office to **remain in its present New York City location**. Based on their in-depth methodology, the consulting team recommended "a stay decision and renegotiation/ renewal of the 475 Riverside Drive lease." Furthermore, the consulting team concluded that "On balance, the business case to move does not appear supportable at this time." The final decision was to **stay at 475 Riverside Drive**, get rid of the 8th floor, renovate the 11th floor to accommodate the employees on the 8th floor. This renovation has been projected at \$1.4M.

## **Plain Language Big Book – A Tool for Reading the book Alcoholics Anonymous**

This item was discussed for well over 6 hours and seems to be of particular interest to our fellowship. In my full report I will detail the process the Conference took to discuss this item. I will simply say that the Literature Committee sent this item to the Conference for approval, and it was indeed approved. I voted Yes, in approval after hearing the discussion and primarily after reading the book myself. Suffice it to say, I believe this translation tool will help people get sober and I would encourage you to read it as well.

Additional events I attended.

May 1 – ECR Virtual Meeting

May 8 – Delegate Chair Virtual Meeting

May 11 – District 62 Delegate report at ODAT Workshop in Plano

May 15 – District 12 delegate report in Lake Forest.

Future Events I'll be attending:

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 \$846.43, largely related to workshop travel, attendance at the CDPP in Muncie, IN and delegate presentations. Note that the expenses for attending the Conference are paid directly to the GSB from Area 20 and I was reimbursed for my travel expense by the GSO.

Respectfully,

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Delegate

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