

Delegate Report

October Committee Meeting

Hawaii Area 17/Panel 59

October 10, 2009

Elizabeth M.

As we meet for the last time in 2009, I reflect on this past year of service with a deep sense of gratitude, awe and amazement. It seems like just yesterday we held our Election Assembly, and yet in terms of spiritual experiences and growth, it seems like eons ago. I am so grateful for and in love with Alcoholics Anonymous! Like I often say, no sacrifice is too great or small for the program that gave me a design for living that really works.

I have the Final Conference Reports from the 59th General Service Conference, along with Birthday Contribution Envelopes for everyone; please see me during the break.

I need to mention that I had sent out an email asking DCMs how many copies of the Final Conference Report each District needs, and I think 3 people emailed me back. I also recently emailed a memo with a request for input from the fellowship, requesting confirmation that the email was received, and I think I received 2 replies.

I would like to lovingly ask you all to check your Area email on a regular basis if you would like to be informed and in the loop. I hear a lot that people didn't get this or that information in a "timely" manner, or that we don't have enough time to do this or that. If something is emailed to you a month ago, and you just checked your email last night, do you think that may be the reason why? If anyone here is NOT email friendly, please speak to me directly, I will call you, fax you or snail mail you the information that I frequently send out via email.

Preparation for the 2010 General Service Conference

Partially in response to comments heard at the 2009 April Assembly, and partially because I am gaining experience as a Delegate - I have been trying to gather as many items as possible that we know are going to be on the 2010 GSC Agenda so I can get them out to the Area early as possible. I would love to hear these items discussed at the group level!

Reviewing the Final Conference Report with Linda, we compiled the following for sharing with you all.

The theme for the 2010 General Service Conference is “Practicing A.A.’s Principles-the Pathway to Unity”.

The presentation / discussion topics at the Conference will be:

a) Practicing These Principles in All Our “Service” Affairs:

1. What is the Difference Between General Service and Service in General?
2. Love and Tolerance is Our Code.
3. Setting an Example – Attraction to Service.

b) Unity Through Inventory:

1. Our Common Welfare Should Come First.
2. This We Owe to A.A.’s Future.
3. What Happens After Inventory?

c) General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process:

1. How it Works.
2. Collective Participation.
3. Communication – The Key to an Informed Decision.

I have hand outs with these discussion items, and we will be having three round table discussions at the Inform the Delegate Assembly in March in Kona. Please share these with your GSRs, groups, and other interested members.

The Workshop Topic for the 2010 GSC will be “Discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process” and the background provided to the 2009 Agenda Conference Committee will be forwarded to all Conference members for review in preparation of the workshop at the Conference. I am making this material available now to everyone via email. My hope is to have some discussion fellowship wide between now and the March Assembly. This cannot go up on the web, due to confidentiality considerations. Please share with your GSRs and Groups.

Like I talked about earlier, I recently emailed out you all a memo requesting fellowship input for the trustees Finance Committee, specifically asking 2 questions:

- a) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit?
- b) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?

This input is due on to the Trustees' Finance Committee on January 15, 2010, which is before we meet again, so I would appreciate everyone, especially DCMs, to hold some type of discussion over the next 2 months, and emailing me a summary of your discussion prior to January 12, 2010. I brought 150 hard copies, but unfortunately did not print out the background info to attach. However, this was included in my original email and I will get this up on the website for your reference.

Many of you will recall that this is a follow up request to last year's discussion about group services being partially funded by monies from literature sales. The 2009 GSC Conference Committee on Finance made a recommendation at the Conference, which passed and thus became an Advisory Action.

Next, there was an Additional Consideration from the Conference Committee on Corrections for sharing from the Fellowship on issues that may be involved in A.A. members complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing sponsorship agreements or legally binding documents. The Trustees Committee has not yet come out with any formal request, but since this is my Conference Committee, I want to be pro-active and gather input early. I have a handout with specific discussion questions that I am requesting be discussed by districts and groups. The handout is in survey form, so people can write directly on them in response if so desired. I brought 50 copies with me today, and will also post this on the web.

The floor action to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous was referred to the 2010 Conference Committee on literature, so this will be an agenda item in some form for the Conference Committee on Literature. As many of you will recall, this, in part, originated from a proposal from a group in our Area. I am sure this is and will be of special interest to many in our Area. Please share with your districts and groups. There is no specific request for input at this time, most likely it will come out of the Conference Committee on Literature as some type of action item at the Conference.

An Advisory Action that “A Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc.” passed, and on September 17, 2009 I sent an email out forwarding the request for submission of stories for this pamphlet.

I would like to share with you all that the officers have discussed alternative ways to distribute and assimilate information for our Inform the Delegate process, and have come up with a couple ways to improve the process, but did not agree on a substantially different manner.

PRAASA 2010

What is PRAASA? The United States and Canada are divided into 8 regions. We are a part of the Pacific Region. The Pacific Region consists of Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. PRAASA is the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. The Assembly meets once a year at different locations within the Pacific Region.

The PRAASA Preamble: “The Purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, Areas of the Pacific Region, to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences: and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of A.A. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of A.A.”

The PRAASA agenda usually parallels largely with the Agenda items to be discussed on the General Service Conference in New York and is an excellent opportunity to be more informed on a personal, group, district, and Area level about A.A. and to learn about how other Areas do things, conduct business, and find solutions to of some of our common challenges.

PRAASA 2010 will be held March 5 – 7, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel at LAX in Los Angeles, CA. I brought with me 50 informational fliers. I also have this available in email format, if you would like one emailed to you let me know.

If you are planning to attend, please reserve your room now, as the host hotel always sells out. It does not cost money to make a reservation, and they have a liberal cancellation policy. I will

have a signup sheet at the January Assembly for people who are going. As always, I will need a list of pre-registered attendees to put forth to the committee as possible presenters, readers, round table facilitators and timekeepers. As you all know, Hawaii Area will be hosting PRAASA in 2011, and planning is well under way.

International Convention 2010

I know many of us are already registered for the International Convention in San Antonio, TX July 1-4, 2010. I brought hard copy registration fliers for you all to share.

Over 20,000 people registered for the International Convention already. However, this does not necessarily mean a larger attendance just that folks are registering early. Tying hotels to registration on a first-come, first-served basis really got us off to a busy start.

September 1, our initial block of hotel rooms virtually sold out in less than two weeks. Most of the downtown core hotel rooms had been reserved within one week. These numbers are unprecedented. While we were able to respond to the demand and almost immediately add rooms and some new properties downtown, these rooms also sold out right away. This total number of rooms, over 8,000, is not historically reserved until the February before the Convention.

We continue to expand the selection of rooms in the outlying areas. There are rooms available through the Convention Housing Bureau, and new rooms are added to the reservation system as they come online. We do not expect to have additional rooms downtown available in our block.

We will provide shuttle service at no charge to registered Convention attendees. All of the housing booked through the Convention Housing Bureau will be included in the shuttle service.

News from AA US / Canada

GSO has selected 2 new Staff members, Jim M. and Mary C. Jim's first day was September 1 and his assignment is Corrections. Mary begins her first day on October 5th on GPC.

The Treatment video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous", which was approved at the 2009 General Service Conference has been delayed. There are many Delegates who are greatly disturbed

with this, and there is a passionate discussion currently taking place. No official reason was given by the General Service Board, however a Delegate forwarded a Concept 5 Appeal from a Delegate in the West Central Region, which was then backed by their regional Trustee. The concern is the matter of actors using full faces portraying alcoholics in the video. There are many good points on both sides of the discussion. I personally feel a deep concern that the Trustees would hold off on an action that was approved by substantial unanimity at the Conference. Although the Trustees are directly responsible to those they serve, they also have the Right of Decision, and I am eager to hear their response to the Conference members to the direct questions of their reasoning. What a beautiful thing, this society of Alcoholics in action! I absolutely know deep within my soul that every voting member at the Conference: Delegates, GSO Staff Members, Trustees and non-trustee directors all have AA's best interests at heart. More shall be revealed, and I will report back to you on this matter.

A memo was sent to Conference members informing them of our current construction project involving lease-required work including expansion of the Archives and the addition of an employee break room. The Archives will be closed to all visitors and researchers for the next few weeks until work is completed.

Our "contributions online" project is on schedule with final testing and revisions to our "going live" date the end of April 2010. Plans now are to have a complete review by the A.A.W.S. Board at our October meeting, a showing to the General Service Board in January, and to members of the 2010 Conference.

A letter was sent from the Nominating assignment to the 51 Class A trustee candidates whose resumes we currently have on file. This letter outlined the time commitment required of Class A trustees and asked for a response to indicate current interest with a deadline of September 7, 2009.

The PI desk reports that the trustees' P.I. Committee is currently accepting resumes for a non-trustee Appointed Committee Member (ACM) position. The deadline is December 30, 2009. The P.I. desk continues to receive questions and complaints about the use and possible misuse of A.A. trademarks and copyrights on social networking web sites, in addition to questions about A.A. Traditions on these sites (predominantly regarding anonymity).

At the request of the trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/ Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities, a letter was sent to all General Service Conference Members and Special Needs Committee chairs in the U.S. and Canada requesting submission of stories from A.A. members with various special needs. This is the first step in a process begun by the 2009 General Service Conference Advisory Action "that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc." Anyone who knows of such members is encouraged to let them know of this project and, if necessary, help them submit their stories.

The A.A.W.S. Board approved the A.A.W.S. Services Committee's recommendation that "Website Policy" be amended to read, "Oversight of the Website shall be the responsibility of the A.A.W.S. Board of Directors, acting through its Services Committee *and in accordance with the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous*" (language change in boldface italics).

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee recommended that the A.A.W.S. Board approve a loan in the amount of U.S. \$3,500 to the General Service Board of South Africa to reprint the existing translation of the Big Book in Afrikaans. The General Service Office in the U.S./Canada will coordinate the terms of the loan with the South African General Service Board. The A.A.W.S. Board approved this recommendation.

A meeting request from Cocaine Anonymous with our Board and G.S.O. was reviewed. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss C.A.'s copyright and book distribution. Our subsequent meeting resulted in a mutual agreement on copyright issues while meeting their literature needs as well as furthering knowledge and good will between our Fellowships.

Publications reported that total distribution of all books through August 2009 was 1,734,512 units up 20.1% from the same period in 2008, 1,443,985. Through August, total A.A. purchases amounted to 1,274,681 units while non-A.A.s accounted for 459,831 units, or 26.5% (This percentage remains higher than normal owing to a large order received from Hazelden prior to the July 1 price increase). Through August, we distributed 986,195 units compared to 758,580 in the same period in 2008. August gross sales were budgeted at \$1,043,890. Actual sales, un-audited, came in at \$703,049 which is \$340,841 or 30.6% under budget. In the same period in 2008, gross sales amounted to \$1,059,556. We processed 1,687 pay orders and 404 complimentary orders in August. Our Mail & Shipping Department reports a savings of \$2,170

from April 22 through August 31 by networking with World Net, a company that provides shipping services in conjunction with the Post Office to get better rates.

Finance The A.A.W.S. Board had a thorough discussion on available pension plan funding options, and subsequently both the A.A.W.S. Board and the A.A. Grapevine Board agreed to the most favorable alternative. Don M. reported that through the month of August, Sales are \$252,500 over budget following the high sales in June before the price increase in July. Contributions are \$297,000 under budget noting that there were only two out of the reported eight months that contributions exceeded budget. In total, net revenue is under budget by \$44,500.

Please see me with any questions, comments or concerns. You can access this full report on our website at www.area17aa.org. Thank you all so much for my life filled with love, light and laughter and for the honor and privilege to serve you all and AA as a whole. I wish you all a happy, safe and joyous upcoming holiday season. I am because we are.

Elizabeth M.

Hawaii Area 17 / Panel 59

Delegate