

## DELEGATE REPORT

February 19, 2011

What a week! I received the Final Conference Agenda last Saturday, so it has been a scramble to pull out our Inform the Delegate Assembly topic assignments. But we will get to that later.

PRAASA: I am so excited to be a small part of PRAASA 2011 in Hawaii. How many are attending PRAASA? How many are registered? There is still time to sign up, and we will have on site registration. Of course, there are still opportunities to sign up for service. We will hear more details later on today. I don't want to steal anyone's thunder!

News from GSO:

- ❖ An ad hoc committee has been established that will identify areas of efficiencies for AAWS and AA Grapevine. The ad hoc committee will report to the General Service Board.
- ❖ The Conference Committee forwarded to the 2011 Conference Committee on Agenda a request to consider reducing the number of presentations/discussion topics planned for the 2012 Conference Committee and to the 2011 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions a request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference agenda items to "adequately allow for distribution and discussion by groups and districts." As you see later on, this is one of the topic assignments for our April Assembly.
- ❖ One of the topics discussed during the Fall Board Meeting was "How can we best utilize our GSO AA Website while considering the impact Worldwide? The Website can have a real impact by reaching more suffering alcoholics from a wider range of vantage points. However, the ability to protect anonymity on the Internet requires unique technological approaches, but the possibilities on the Internet are endless. It is time for AA to leverage technology to reach a generation of people who have "grown up with keyboards attached to their fingertips and to reach people with limited mobility, who are geographically isolated." However, AA does not move too fast down any path or jump on any trendy bandwagon, so we proceed with caution. Remember, a knee jerk reaction in AA takes about 3 years!
- ❖ In response to a request from AAWS Board, GSO put together an ad hoc committee to begin looking at a possible redesign of GSO's A.A. Website.
- ❖ Another ad hoc committee, this one on E-Technology, has researched plans to create and distribute AAWS publications in digital form, pending budget approval by the trustees' Finance and Budgetary committee. GSO will develop the necessary technology infrastructure to convert AAWS publications into eBook format and make them available online for members to purchase and download. The current project timeline calls for availability of the Big Books and the 12x12 in English, French, and Spanish in the second half of 2011.

- ❖ Our Pacific Region Trustee, Rod B., has been recommended to the General Service Board to serve as trustee director for a 2-year term on AAWS, Inc. following the 2011 Conference.
- ❖ AA Grapevine, Inc.: Prepaid subscriptions had fallen nearly \$73,000 during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2010. Last month a 68-page black-and-white perfect-bound issue to La Vina was issued featuring stories about spiritual awakenings. The Grapevine is moving forward with a digital edition of Grapevine and La Vina and E-book editions. Later this year, Grapevine will publish a Step by Step book.
- ❖ A new printing of “A.A. Volunteers in Correctional Facilities” and “How local A.A. service committee can help A.A. volunteers have been approved by the trustees’ Committee on Corrections and will be incorporated into the next printing of the Corrections Workbook. Information about the additional text has been included in the most recent Corrections Desk Activity Update. Two sections in the A.A. Guidelines on Corrections Committee have also been updated, one under the section “Basic Functions of Corrections Committees” and one under the newly titled section “Prerelease/Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contacts, etc.”
- ❖ The winter issue of “*A.A. Around the World*” is now available in hard copy and on the GSO’s Website. This issue provides a historical account of co-founder Bill W.’s vision of providing a forum where countries from all over the globe come together to share experience, strength, and hope.
- ❖ Distribution of all books published by AAWS for the 11-month period ended 11/30/2010, was over 1,500,000, down over 500,000 from the same period in 2009. Non-AA purchases accounted for about 15% of sales. Gross sales for same period of 2010 were \$11,487,557, which is 13% under budget. Contributions for the first **nine** months of 2010 were \$4,408,620. Adding in income from sales of \$6,332, 770, total income was \$10,741,390. For the same 9-month period, GSO expenses were \$10,240,256. Net income was \$501,134. Grapevine, Inc. sustained an operating loss of \$194,965, and La Vina had a loss of \$64,807 for a total loss of \$259,772.
- ❖ The International Convention contributed \$858,910 dollars to GSO.

I want to remind everyone that contributions to GSO can now be made online. There are two methods of payment, e-check or credit card. Please take this back to your GSRs who can then inform the homegroup members, especially the group treasurer. Anonymity is fully protected by state-of-the-art encryption technology. To access the system users must create a confidential user profile, which allows each member to define a user ID and password of their choice.

Our 2011 General Service Conference is May 1-7 in New York City. Following the conference on May 21, I will share my experience, strength, and hope at our Committee Meeting on Maui. I would like the districts that have not already scheduled dates for the Delegate Report-Backs, to do so as soon as possible. So far, the districts that have scheduled are Kauai, West Hawaii, East Hawaii, and Puna. I encourage districts to work together in order to be fiscally prudent. For those districts to which I must incur air fare costs, the district is responsible for one-half the cost. Not only does working together promote unity, it’s just more fun!

Now the time has come to choose our district topic assignments. Each topic is taken from the 2011 Final Conference Agenda. Our area officers and standing committee chairs have special assignments that tie into the theme of the Conference, "We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us." I have prepared the topics along with the background material for our 14 districts. The background material ranges in length from 31 to 0 pages. If you receive a topic that does not have any background material, please do your research using our A.A. literature. In fact, some topics directly effect existing literature, so you would want to have a copy of that piece of literature. Time constraints prevented me from obtaining copies for you. In addition, I have CD's available that contain all the background material for the conference. We have not yet worked out the time frame for each presentation, but plan on a presentation time of no more than 10 minutes. Your presentations may be in any form you wish: skits, panels, or straight forward speaking. Following each presentation will be a short period for comments from the floor. More specific information will become available as we get closer to the assembly. If you have any questions regarding your topic, please feel free to call me for clarification.