

DELEGATE REPORT

October 13, 2012

While Panel 61 is drawing to a close, the work of A.A. continues as always. We will soon be seeing new faces filling our area service positions. I encourage each of you to help introduce your new counterpart to his or her responsibilities and to pass on any unfinished business you may have. The Windward District 04 will host the Orientation Assembly on January 19-20, 2013, and our Pacific Region Trustee will be in attendance. The purpose of the Orientation Assembly is to help everyone get off to a good and informed start, so please encourage each new person, especially G.S.R.s to attend.

The General Service Board is working hard to explore possible restructuring of the current corporate and governance of AAWS, Inc. and GV, Inc. in response to the Advisory Action of the 62nd General Service conference. The following is a report on additional activities of the 2nd Quarter Board Meetings:

ARCHIVES: You can find two new digital web site exhibits and the Oral Histories Kit is to be revised.

FINANCE: (All figures are for the six months ended June 30, 2012.) Net literature sales were \$6,410,196. Contributions totaled \$3,105,695. Contributions come from groups throughout the US and Canada and from countries participating in the World Service Meeting to offset the costs of foreign literature translations. Total income was \$7,171,200 while total GSO expenses were \$6,981,666. Therefore, net operating income was \$189,555. That figure is slightly more than budget, but is \$235,157 less than last year for the same period.

Good news from Grapevine, Inc: income from operations for the six month period was \$138,120, which covers the loss incurred by La Vina of \$57,270 for a net profit of \$80,950. Note: Grapevine, Inc. has not taken any draw downs this year!

The Reserve Fund (prudent reserve) stands at \$15,320,737 and represents 11.2 months of 2012 combined operating expenses budget.

All these numbers may sound very big to some of us, but take note that contributions to GSO have been steadily decreasing over the last few years. In fact contributions have been decreasing everywhere over the years, not just to GSO but also to districts and to areas. Moreover, we take a double hit because expenses have been increasing. Area 17 just passed a \$34+ budget yet contributions now have dropped to below an average \$1,700 per month. In fact, we are looking at a loss situation this year, yet 7th Tradition distributions keep decreasing! Consequently, **WE** all need to look for ways to increase contributions. Our expense budget is pretty bare bones as it is, so the focus needs to be on raising contributions, not on cutting services.

INTERNATION CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS: The trustees' committee has expressed concern about ways to increase interest in regional forums. Expanded information in the *A.A. Service Manual* regarding forums will be developed and forwarded to the 2013 Conference Committee on Report and Charter. In addition, after thoughtful consideration, the trustees committee recommended that the GSB discontinue Additional Regional Forums after completion of the current cycle in 2016.

A strong recommendation has been made that during the 2015 International Convention only purveyors of goods and services that are part of, or under contract to the Convention management be permitted to operate on any facilities or grounds that are assigned or under contract to the Convention management. In other words, please don't go to the Convention to promote self in any way.

LITERATURE:

New revised or updated items:

- ❑ "A.A. and the Armed Services" (P-50)
- ❑ "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" (P-33)
- ❑ "Understanding Anonymity" (P-47)
- ❑ "2011 Membership Survey" (P-48)
- ❑ "2012 Final Conference Report" (M-23)
- ❑ "Conference Advisory Actions (1951-2012)" (M39); you can also get an electronic version upon request at no charge
- ❑ *Living Sober*, updated version in both regular and large print (B-7 and B-25 respectively)
- ❑ Also available is a complimentary literature display available for A.A. events or for committee work, etc. I ordered one this week for display at the Annual State Convention should it want to sue the display. (Zeke, please have Literature Chair call me.)

Subscriptions to Box 4-5-9 continue to be available at no charge to officers, GSR's, etc at.. However, any individual can subscribe for \$3.50 per year or \$6.00 per year for a unit if 10 so they can be available to your home group members. To receive a free digital subscription, register your email at aa.org.

Total distribution of all AAWS books for the six months ended June 30, 2012 was 902,237, down slightly from last year. Big Book sales were 483,435 or 54% of all distributions. E-Book sales since December 9, 2011 of the Big Book and the 12 & 12 totaled 6,563. Reminder: the e-Book project has been discontinued although the existing version will be maintained. Investigation into distribution by eReader vendors is under way.

Our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, is now designated by the Library of Congress as one of the 88 "Books That Shaped America."

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Two requests for sharing have been distributed in response to Additional Committee Considerations made by the Conference Committee on PI:

1. Sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the short form of Tradition 11 in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today. Please send your responses by email to publicinfo@aa.org or by mail to P.I. Desk, General Service Office, 475 Riverside Dr, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 by December 31, 2012.
2. Sharing regarding the pamphlet “A.A. Membership Survey” and how you are using the membership survey and what you thoughts are about its value. In addition to sharing how you currently use (or don’t use) the membership survey, please take a few minutes to consider these questions, thoughts, and experience:
 - ❑ How is the A.A. Membership Survey currently being used?
 - ❑ How would you ideally like to use the Membership Survey?
 - ❑ Do you ever think, “If only it said ...?”
 - ❑ Who do you use the Membership Survey with – professionals, general public, newcomers, others?

Please send your sharing to the preceding addresses by October 15, 2012. That’s Monday!

Anonymous surveys of the Fellowship by the GSO have been conducted every three years since 1968. The main purpose has been to keep A.A.s informed about current trends in membership characteristics and to provide information about the Fellowship to the professional community and the general public as part of the continuing effort to help those who suffer from alcoholism. According to an analysis of the survey, the typical member is 49 years old, has been sober almost 10 years, attends 2-1/2 meetings a week, belongs to a home group and has a sponsor.

All 5 young peoples videos can now be viewed online at aa.org. In addition, the Daily Reflections page is up on the aa.org website.

TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS-ACCESSIBILITIES: The pamphlet “A.A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs” will be formatted for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges. The Spanish and French translations of the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” are under review to be rerecorded to eliminate or at least reduce background noise which is quite distracting.

THE GRAPEVINE INC.: I am just going to tell you that you can support Grapevine Inc, by subscribing to the Grapevine magazine, purchasing books and other gift items. There are two new books published and a growing number of eBooks. I’m going to let Clifford, our Grapevine chair, fill in the details.

The topic of the general sharing session during the July General Service Board meeting was “What is an A.A. Group?” Among other aspects, a group focuses on recovery from alcoholism and avoids multipurpose activity. A trustee stressed the importance of D.C.M.s in communicating about our primary purpose and the group’s role in reaching

out. The importance of sponsors in enlightening the people they sponsor on these topics was also stressed. Out of the sharing, it came to light that there is a wide spread misunderstanding of the group service number. For clarification, I refer you to the Fall 2012 issue of Box 4-5-9.

During one of the sessions at the Pacific Regional Forum, I heard a woman share that she had trouble finding a meeting in a foreign country and was intimidated by the language barrier. Please know that if you are traveling around the US/Canada or overseas, you can access meeting information through of directories of Central Offices.

Update on Tongan translations: I have been in touch with the Publications Department at GSO. There is certain paperwork that must be completed before translation can begin. It is suggested that we begin with "How It Works." Once the translation is completed locally, it must then be sent to GSO for approval. Copyright laws must be adhered to during the process. Upon receiving this information, I delegated the local follow up to Karen, DCM District 11 where the request originated. If this project is not completed this year, I will be happy to follow up with our translation volunteer in order to provide continuity.

I brought with me today registration flyers for PRAASA 2013 in Boise Idaho. Over the years I have heard the validity of some of our regional events brought into question, so I want to share some of my understanding with you. I think a primary purpose of PRAASA and the forums is to educate and increase understanding of the services offered by the General Service Board, AAWS, and Grapevine, Inc. We get to learn how A.A. as a whole works. To me education and understanding lead to the feeling of belonging, inclusion, and involvement. I have found out that all of our service leaders, except the Class A trustees, are alcoholics like I am. We, the leaders of A.A., should be chosen with care and then be trusted to serve the A.A. community in our perspective positions. Naturally, we need always to be kept accountable.

You all know that is an election year for us [in A.A.]. Next month in Kona, we will not only be electing Panel 63 officers but we will also elect our Area Candidate for Trustee-at-Large/US. So far, we have two past delegates who have expressed their willingness to stand for the position. The final election will take place at the GSC in April, 2013.

Submitted with love & service,
Linda McD
Delegate Area 17, Panel 61