

AREA 17 DELEGATE REPORT

January 22, 2012

Happy New Year to each of you. Welcome especially to any new GSRs and other assembly members. The groups comprising A.A. today hold what co-founder Bill W. called the ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world service. The entire structure of A.A. starts with a single group; and the way each group conducts its affairs has a ripple effect on A.A. everywhere. The direction of the group is essentially determined at its business meeting...It is essential that the members be given all the facts relevant to the subject at hand in a neutral tone. According to our Concepts, we avoid undue concentration of money or personal influence in any of our service groups or activities. That's one of the beauties of rotation. Even GSO staff members rotate desks every two years. It is important that we hold each other accountable while trusting those servants selected to serve us.

G.S.O. and A.A.W.S. have been busy at work, as always. Some of the international service events include the 9th Asia-Oceania Zonal Service Meeting in India, the 17th Zonal Meeting of the Americas (REDELA) in San Salvador, El Salvador, and the 16th European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany. During REDELA, a request was made by the delegates of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia that the Big Book be translated into Quecha, the ancient language of the Inca, spoken today by about 8 million people. The request was forwarded to the International Desk to be sent to the A.A.W.S. Publications Department.

The A.A.W.S. board meets monthly to hear progress reports on ongoing projects, to consider new requests received by groups, and to tend to other pending business. The following are some highlights from the last three months.

- ❑ **The Treatment Committee** appointed a subcommittee to review the script of the video "Hope: Alcoholic Anonymous" taking into consideration concerns expressed by the 2011 Conference Committee. After discussion on the report submitted by the subcommittee at the October board meeting, the committee agreed that the concerns expressed by the 61st Conference Committee did not warrant the cost to remake the video or remove any single line of dialogue. In addition, the committee reviewed an area suggestion on a possible piece to carry to A.A. message into treatment settings for those who have mental illness. The Publications Department will prepare a draft of the material to bring to the January 29 meeting of Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities.
- ❑ **The Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)** put out a request for male A.A. members on the "outside" to correspond with male members in correctional facilities to share their experience, strength and hope. To participate in this service, contact the Corrections Desk (corrections@aa.org) or write to Corrections Desk, G.S.O., P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163. You can also call (212) 870-3400.
- ❑ **The Literature** committee continues the valuable work on literature that focuses on spirituality. The current process is to review and prioritize the 201 stories submitted.

Progress has also been underway on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services” with the intent of including new stories, stories previously published by the Grapevine magazine, and a few stories from the current pamphlet. Revision of *Living Sober* is going forward as well. A new request was made by an area to add the Twelve Concepts for World Services to the current edition of *the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Different variations in this regard are also being discussed. I would look for this to be included in the 2012 Conference Agenda. A Navajo translation of “How It Works” will be sent to the Publications Department Director for authentication and to ensure that the translation maintains the spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous. All translations go through this necessary process.

- ❑ **A.A. Regional Directories:** work is planned for the 2012 Directories. In order to be included, a group must provide a name and phone number for the contact person. The deadline for the new Directories in May 11.
- ❑ **2011 Membership Survey:** last year, three groups in Hawaii were chosen at random to participate in the triennial survey. The more than 10,000 surveys completed are currently being tabulated. The 2011 Membership Survey pamphlet should be on hand for approval at the 62nd General Service Conference.
- ❑ The board received a **Copyright and Reprint Report**, presenting an overview of policies, practices, and information. Included in the report is an inventory of the status of copyrights on major A.A.W.S. works. The report will be a valuable tool in the review of intellectual property issues.
- ❑ A new proposal was submitted for posting **Daily Reflections on G.S.O.’s A.A. Website**, with an optional e-mail delivery service. The recommendation was approved with the following conditions:
 1. The subscription service is one-way communication.
 2. There is an unsubscribe function.
 3. Anonymity for the A.A. member who subscribes to the daily e-mail as it relates to the sender’s e-mail address.
- ❑ **eBooks:** the Fourth Edition of the Big Book and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* are now available in eBook format for certain Apple devices – iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. In order to download the books, you must first go to the Apple App store and get the AA eReader app for free. You can then purchase the books through the A.A.W.S. Online Store for \$6 each. The eBook project is ongoing with plans underway to offer the books to Android users and which books to make available. The priority in planning has been to maintain control of the sale of eBooks by A.A.W.S. and to ensure to protection and integrity of the A.A. message. For more information, go to aa.org and click on “e-Books.”
- ❑ **Website:** aa..org was launched nearly 16 years ago. Since then the Website has expanded to embrace evolving technology. You can now read the Big Book and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* online, make contributions online, and subscribe electronically for newsletters. Currently, the board is considering revision to the

Website policy to delete reference to the prohibition of online sales, such as described above.

□ **Grapevine:**

- *The Language of the Heart* in English is now available at the aagrapevine.org Store, which will take you to the respective vendor for purchase. The eBook is in iBooks, NOOK Books and Kindle formats. The Spanish version will soon be ready.
- AA special price of **\$42 for two gift subscriptions of the Grapevine print magazine is good until 1/31/12.**
- The board acknowledged with gratitude the purchase of over 600 online subscriptions by ICYPAA to some of its attendees at their 2011 conference.
- I am happy to report to you that the Grapevine board is conscientiously seeking ways of reducing costs, one of which is cost sharing with A.A.W.S. where it does not affect the independence of each entity.
- Please remind your group GvRs that they can register with the Grapevine online.
- One of the features on aagrapevine.org is I-Say, where you can participate in the I-Poll questions and be heard by other A.A.s.
- Grapevine can help with the complimentary information and materials to support **your local convention and events.** Go to aagrapevine.org “Resources/GVR” tab and then click on “Tools and Resources” for downloadable handouts.
- A.A. Grapevine, Inc. is **currently seeking a senior editor** in its NY office. The senior editor is responsible for developing editorial content of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and for overseeing the publication of the Grapevine and La Vina magazines and Grapevine or La Vina items both in print and digital, and for leading a creative, committed team. In addition, the senior editor participates in the General Service Conference and various A.A. events. The position reports to the Executive Editor/Publisher. Requirements: Five years of equivalent editorial and management experience; demonstrated writing and editing skill; B.A. or equivalent; and a working knowledge of the Steps and Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous; six years of continuous sobriety. Proficiency in Spanish is a plus. Interested members may forward their resumes and cover letter by March 30, 2012 to: resumes@aagrapevine.org.

At the 62 General Service Conference, each year, a workshop topic is chosen in which all conference members participate. We break up into small groups that meet in separate conference rooms to discuss the topics. This year the workshop topic will be **“Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.”** The workshop topic relates to Tradition One, which states, “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a greater whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows closely afterward.” Three questions have been posed, which are intended to facilitate a full and fruitful discussion:

1. How can we make our Home Group a welcoming and accessible place?
2. How can sponsorship aid keeping our meetings safe?

3. In keeping with Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as:
 - a. Conduct that disrupts the meeting
 - b. Illegal activity
 - c. Inappropriate behavior towards vulnerable new members (e.g. “13 Stepping”)
 - d. Emergencies, such as injury, accident, fire, etc.

I am hoping that we can have our own workshop on these topics at our April Inform-the-Delegate Assembly.

Announcements:

- Final forum reports for the “Additional” Pacific Region Forum held last August in Woodland Hills, California is posted on the aa.org Website. To access the material search for “Pacific Region Forums.” Forums are an amazing way to meet other members of our Region and staff from G.S.O. in an informal setting.
- The **2012 Pacific Region Forum** will be September 14-16 at the Westmark Hotel Fairbanks in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- **Reminder:** Do not call GSO regarding registration or housing for the 2015 International Convention. The information is not available. Registration forms will be sent to all A.A. groups on the G.S.O. mailing list in September 2014. Information will also be posted on the aa.org Website as it becomes available.
- **PRAASA 2012:** March 2-4 in Bellevue, Washington. You can still register online at praasa.org. Hotel rooms at the host hotel are in short supply before Friday night. However, overflow rooms are being offered. I am circulating a signup sheet for those planning on attending this year. The committee is looking for readers, timers, moderators, and presenters. If you have questions, please see me some time today, as I will be submitting the list this coming week.

Financial Data for G.S.O. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.: I have attached a summary report for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Please note that the figures have not been audited. The Reserve Fund Investment for as of September 30 had a balance of \$14,473,825, which represents approximately 11.3 months of combined operating expenses.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Submitted with love and service,
Linda McD
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