

**AREA 17 DELEGATE REPORT**  
**September 24, 2011**

First I want to extend my gratitude to each of the DCMs for their efforts in hosting the delegate Conference reports. I also thank everyone who was able to attend. You were all wonderful hosts and hostesses. Mahalo for your hospitality. For those of you who were unable to attend a report back, you can find my report on our Website.

You can also find more details on the Conference in the *Final Conference Report*. There is an abundance of information contained in the report, including full wording of all Conference Advisory Actions on pages 6-10, Additional Committee Considerations on pages 64-67, and full text of all presentations and reports on pages 14-63. I would like to draw your attention to page 6 under “Agenda” where the theme for the 2012 Conference is laid out: “Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age.” The presentation/discussion topics will be:

- A. Carrying the A.A. Message
  - 1. Still Our Primary Purpose
  - 2. Social Web Sites
  - 3. Young People in A.A.
  - 4. Importance of Sponsorship
- B. Change – Essential to A.A.’s Growth
  - 1. Service: Our Third Legacy
  - 2. Spirit of Rotation
  - 3. Diversity – Let’s Keep the Doors Open for any Who May Still Suffer from Alcoholism
  - 4. Archives – Where the Past Meets the Present

The workshop topic will be “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.” We will also be discussing these topics at the 2012 Inform-the-Delegate Assembly in preparation for the Conference. You might want to refer to the presentation starting on page 23, “Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age” as it directly relates to the topics. Also described in the Report on pages 11-13 is the Conference Inventory Plan. There will be 44 questions spread out over a 3-year period starting in 2013 with Conference members being informed of the questions to be covered in the succeeding years so that everyone in the Fellowship will be well informed on the topics.

Before I leave the topic of inventory, I’d like to share some thoughts I heard at the Forum last month regarding group inventories. Many times groups have low turnout at its inventories because members either do not understand the purpose of taking inventory or they are turned off by the tedious-sounding nature of “inventory.” Instead, groups could call the session Primary Purpose Day and make the event fun. Groups could benefit from looking at its strengths and long-comings as well as its liabilities and shortcomings.

Establish group ideals and how the group can achieve those ideals. In addition, try to come up with solutions rather than pointing out problem after problem.

I brought a couple of handouts today that illustrate Fellowship Statistics and the cost of services per member and per group at the level of GSO. Of particular interest, is the gap between per member cost and per member contributions. The difference is covered by literature sales. Each of us likes to have a sense of ownership, and that extends to the Fellowship. So when we communicate the spiritual value of contributions, key points to be made could include the sense of belonging, participation, and responsibility. Contributions are a means to an end—that end being our one primary purpose. As we participate in our area budget process today, ask yourself if you are still thinking of money from a material perspective or can you see it from a spiritual perspective as something that enables us to carry out our services in reaching the still suffering alcoholic?

And while we are on the subject of the spiritual value of money, we have not talked about the **Birthday Envelope** in a while. I managed to bring a few envelopes from the Forum. They are really easy to use. Fill out the attached form and contribute one dollar for each year of sobriety you are celebrating. It's a great way to show gratitude for your sobriety.

**Highlights from the General Service Board quarterly report:**

- ❑ I also brought service material regarding “Services Provided by GSO/AAWS”. An example of one of those services is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sub Saharan Africa Service Meeting held June 3-6 in Johannesburg, South Africa with 25 delegates in attendance. Our GSO and the Great Britain GSO share sponsorship of this event.
- ❑ In response to the loss of certain copyrights in recent years, a committee was formed for the purpose of inventorying the status of copyrights on major AAWS works so that hopefully we will not lose any more copyrights.
- ❑ In response to falling Grapevine print subscriptions, the magazine is now available online in digital format. In addition, some books published by Grapevine, Inc. will be available in 2012 in digital format. You will probably hear more about that from our Grapevine Chair. The Grapevine, Inc. has heard our concerns about its short falls in recent years, and they are taking steps (!) to reverse that trend. When you see the new AAWS catalog, you may notice that for the first time two pages are dedicated to Grapevine material.
- ❑ The Trustees Archives Committee requested that the archivist prepare an informational piece on basic archival principles and procedures to be shared with local archivists per the committee consideration from the 2011 General Service Conference.
- ❑ A subcommittee was appointed to undertake a line-by-line review of the script of the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.”
- ❑ Planning for A.A.’s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Atlanta, Georgia in July 2015 is under way. GSO is currently accepting topic suggestions and would like to hear from you. Send your ideas to: International Conventions Assignment, P O Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Please do not contact GSO regarding registration or accommodations. Registration forms will be sent to all

- A.A. groups on the GSO mailing list in September 2014. Yet another reason to make sure that your group information is up to date.
- New pamphlet: “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs” is now available.
  - Revised pamphlets: “Understanding Anonymity” and “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs” are now available.
  - Just arrived: Bridging the Gap forms. There is one for AA’s on the outside to volunteer to be a temporary contact for someone who is about to transition out of a treatment setting, and there is one for folks in a treatment setting to have a temporary contact. Bridging the Gap is an important service for both people in treatment and for those soon to be released from treatment. I earnestly hope that we actively pursue this valuable program.
  - The process continues in regard to revision of the pamphlet “AA and the Armed Services” and development of the new literature that focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in A.A. 201 stories have been submitted.
  - The 2011 Membership Survey is under way. Four groups in our area were selected at random to participate in the survey: 12 Coconuts in the Waikiki District, Makakilo Hill Climbers in Waianae District, and Ho’oiki Ohana Group in East Hawaii District. The fourth group chosen is no longer meeting. I thank the groups that participated. Your service in providing the survey information is greatly appreciated. All information has been sent to GSO for compilation and will be available later in the year.

Also from GSO, is a request for suggestion for the theme, presentation, and workshop topic for the 2013 General Service Conference. I brought several copies of the request and would really like your input. You can fill out the forms this weekend and hand them to me or you can email me your input at [delegate@area17aa.org](mailto:delegate@area17aa.org). Suggestions are due to GSO by December 16, so please have your input to me by December 1<sup>st</sup> so I can compile the information. The request from GSO is also available on our Website. Your participation is yet one more opportunity to be in service.

**From Grapevine, Inc.** (Website: [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org))

- AA Grapevine, Inc. has published two new books:
  - *Step by Step: Real Aas, Real Recovery* soft cover \$10.95
  - *Emotional Sobriety II: The Next Frontier*, soft cover \$9.95
- GrapeNet, the Grapevine forum is ready for comments and participation
- Grapevine Complete subscription combining magazine and online is here.
- Have something to say? Let your voice be heard on I-Say.
- Also share your answers to the questions on I-Poll
- Grapevine’s online store now accepts PayPal.
- In order to help support the Grapevine, I encourage each home group to purchase a minimum of two annual subscriptions per an additional committee consideration at the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Service Conference. Another way to take advantage of the new online services is to buy the Complete subscription – online for yourself and the print version for a sponsee.

**E-Books from AAWS:** The first e-Books, *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* will be available to iPhone and iPad users on November 15. The Android version will follow two weeks later. Not to worry, the rest of us will not be left out.

**Corrections Correspondence Service:** GSO is in need of male members not locked up to correspond with male members who are locked up to share their experience, strength, and hope. Please contact the Corrections Desk, GSO, P O Box 459, New York, NY 10163. You can also contact the Corrections Desk at [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org).

**Coming Events:**

- ❑ The **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Convention** is going to be November 17-November 20 at Hilton Hawaiian Village. If you register between now on October 17, registration is \$65. After November 17, registration will be \$75. To register online, visit [www.annualhawaiiConvention.com](http://www.annualhawaiiConvention.com). This is a statewide event and is a wonderful celebration of sobriety.
- ❑ All the holiday alkathons are coming up so watch for news of the one you want to attend.
- ❑ **2012 PRAASA** will be March 2-4 at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, Washington and will be hosted by Area 72, Western Washington. I brought a few flyers. Online registration is up and running at [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org).

Another assignment the Delegate has is to be a voting member of the Oahu Intergroup, which meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month (The Area Chair, or her representative, is also a voting member of Oahu IG.) Unfortunately there is no longer time on the IG agenda for an oral report, but I do take a written report, which the IG reps take. I am hoping that the cooperation between Oahu Intergroup and Area 17 will increase unity. By the way, each DCM on Oahu is also a voting member of IG. Your participation would be welcome.

And finally this from the Feb/March issue of Box 4-5-9: *The groups comprising A.A. today hold what co-founder Bill W. called “the ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services.”* The entire structure of A.A. starts with a single group; and how each group conducts its affairs has a ripple effect on A.A. everywhere. So when we communicate with our groups and inform them of pending business, such as proposals, and the business conducted by area, *it is essential that the members be given all the facts relevant to the subject at hand.* Please give the facts and nothing but the facts, as Joe Friday used to say. It is not part of your responsibility as a GSR to try to influence your group. Our code of love and tolerance requires us to respect our home group members to be able to reach a fully informed group decision based on principles before personalities.

Thank you for your support.  
Submitted with love and service,  
Linda McD  
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