

AREA 17 DELEGATE REPORT May 19, 2012

The 62nd General Service Conference was held in Rye, NY at the Hilton Rye Town April 22nd-28th. The theme this year was “Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age.” I wish I had the words to describe to you that, while the week-long schedule is grueling, the work is satisfying and spiritually fulfilling. I think Ward Ewing, Chair of the General Service Board, put it best in his opening report, “*I have always viewed the General Service Conference as a spiritual adventure – at once exciting and a lot of hard work, but also uplifting as we seek to reach an informed group conscience for A.A. in the U.s. and Canada.*” This part of my journey is so amazing to me that anyone who drank like I drank and felt like I felt would have evolved to be a member of the General Service Conference that develops and improves ways of reaching people who are still drinking and feeling that pitiful, incomprehensible demoralization. I believe that we are all here because of the General Service Structure and our trust in the processes of the GSC. I know today that I am sober in Alcoholics Anonymous because someone took the responsibility to reach out with the hand of A.A. We hope that hand will always be there in fulfillment of our responsibility.

I am not going to give you a full report back today. I hope that each of you plan to attend a report back when I come to your district. So far ,all districts but two have scheduled dates with me, at least tentatively. (Please see the schedule at the end of this report.) I will touch on some items that were mentioned during open discussions during the Conference. We were asked to remind you that each home group is encouraged to have a Grapevine representative, who ought to register with The Grapevine, Inc. in order to receive helpful materials. However, the current Grapevine Workbook is way out of date. A plan is in place to update the Workbook, but the work has not been funded. And speaking of the Grapevine, I am happy to inform you that The Grapevine, Inc. (not including La Vina) finished 2011 with a net profit of nearly \$23K!

At the last assembly, I informed you that the conference members received an additional agenda item brought by the General Service Board to the Conference regarding the development of a plan to restructure the current Grapevine governance and structure while retaining the Grapevine’s independent voice. The purpose of the plan is to increase unity, better reach and connect Grapevine, Inc to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. So the first thing that happened was a motion made during the Delegate only dinner on Saturday night, to send the motion to committee. Following some discussion, the motion sort of died due to the fact that the conference had not officially started, and the Saturday night dinner is considered to be more of a social gathering. Once the motion was heard in the order of business, multiple “friendly” amendments were made and accepted, and over three hours of discussion ensued before the motion was, in the end approved. Please be advised that the purpose of the plan will be to improve the performance of The Grapevine, Inc. and has no hidden agenda to end the Grapevine magazine.

The theme has been chosen for the 63rd GSC: “The General Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action.” The 62nd Conference approved the presentation/discussion topics for next year:

Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a. The Triangle – More Than a Shape
- b. The G.S.C. Inventory – Why Is It Necessary?
- c. Self-Support – What Does It Mean to the Fellowship?
- d. Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message

There will be fewer presentation/discussion topics in the next three years to allow time for the inventory. The 2013 and 2014 Conferences will each consider 15 inventory questions, leaving 14 items for the 2015 Conference.

Other news from A.A.W.S.:

- ❑ International – Member in Iran have formed a small General Service Board and a GSO. They are now working on developing a Conference structure. A member in Cook Island wrote about the Maori Big Book translation: “*We are already using the Chapter 5 translated content in our meetings both in town and in the prison. It has been VERY well received by local members.*” A volunteer with the Peace Corps in Uganda reports that the literature sent by GSO is being used for the prisoners at the Uganda Government Prison-Gulu. And a member from Zimbabwe was elated with the box of literature they received, especially *Daily Reflections*.
- ❑ Ebooks – As you know, the first two A.A.W.S. eBooks were launched on a new A.A.W.S. Online Store. They are working to ensure the smooth operation of the system and sales simultaneous with the development of an App for Android and iPad. The IT group and Publications Department are addressing post-launch corrections, adjustments and communications. The next two eBooks planned for release are *Daily Reflections* and *Living Sober*.
- ❑ Reminder: *Daily Reflections* is now available on aa.org in all three languages. The page is updated daily. The new page can be reached by clicking on the “Daily Reflections” link on the upper left corner of the home page.
- ❑ Bar codes: The Publications Department will be providing bar codes on books in order to help track inventory and process purchases. The Department will also look into adding bar codes to A.A.W.S. pamphlets.
- ❑ Copyrights: A sub-committee has completed an inventory list of the status of copyrights on major A.A.W.S. works. One of the purposes of compiling such a list is so that we do let copyright expiration dates go by unnoticed.

Openings at A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

- ❑ Senior Editor for The Grapevine, Inc. – for responsibilities and qualifications, please see Spring 2012 *Box 4-5-9*. Resumes along with a cover letter are due by May 31, 2012 to resumes@aagrapevine.org.
- ❑ Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee – current trustees, delegates, and directors submit candidates’ professional resumes by July 31, 2012. For further information, please see Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* or inquire at G.S.O.

- A.A.W.S. Non-trustee Directors – Two non-trustee director positions will open following the 2013 GSC. Interested A.A. members should submit resumes by July 1, 2012. For qualifications and job requirements, please see Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* or inquire at G.S.O.
- A.A. Grapevine Non-trustee Directors – Vacancies may become available following the 2013 GSC. Resumes should be submitted by May 31, 2012. For qualifications and job requirements, please see Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* or inquire at G.S.O.
- Class B (alcoholic) Trustees – Three new trustees will be elected at the 2013 GSC. Elections will be for the East Central and Southeast Regions and for trustee-at-large/US. Resumes for trustee positions are submitted by delegates and are due by January 1, 2013. A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole. It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the GSC which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards, which meet more frequently than the GSB.

Submitted with love and service,
 Linda McD
 Delegate Area 17, Panel 61
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DELEGATE REPORT BACK SCHEDULE
 (as of May 15, 2012)

May 19, 2012	All Maui districts	Lahaina
June 9, 2012	West Hawaii	Hapuna Beach Park
June 10, 2012	East Hawaii/Puna	Carlsmith Beach Park
June 28, 2012	Windward Oahu	District Meeting Location
June 30, 2012	Diamond Head, Honolulu, Waikiki (tentative)	
July 14, 2012	Leeward District	?
July 29, 2012	Kauai	Poipu
As yet unscheduled Central North Shore and Waianae		