

DELEGATE REPORT

November 17 2012

My report to this assembly is blissfully short. Following our October Committee Meeting, the 22nd World Services Meeting met October 21-25 in Rye Brook, N.Y. The following weekend, the General Service Board met, and then Hurricane Sandy came blowing through and shut everything was for about a week. As a result, communications from GSO have decreased, and I have not yet received the Board report.

However, I received an email from Phyllis H., our GSO manager, on November 6. She wrote “Many of you have written wanting to know how you can be of help to GSO and the Fellowship in our area in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. We deeply appreciate your reaching out to us in this way and do want you to know that our employees are safe and we are extremely grateful that no major injuries have been reported. Many suffered damaged property, some homes were destroyed and most experienced extended loss of power, heat, and transportation. G.S.O. reopened on Monday, November 5 and folks who are able are returning to work. Together, we are meeting each day, supporting one another and thankful to continue the services and communication with each of you and with your Areas.” I sent out an email to the Area All list that outlines what we can do in response to disasters. By the way, Phyllis’ assistant was able to attend our Hawaii Annual Convention, as planned.

As I said earlier, most of the support we, as individuals, can offer is fiscal. For example, GSO will freely replace lost literature as part of the recovery process. We can support that service with the generosity of our 7th Tradition distributions. In fact, these are hard times for most of us. I know my Social Security check does not stretch as far as it used to, but I have managed to increase my contributions because I realize how much our service centers – districts, IG’s, Area, and GSO – are struggling. Our future is up to all of us, not some vague “them” out there somewhere.

During the October Committee Meeting, “The Final [Conference] Report” was made available to all committee members with copies taken by each DCM for distribution to GSR’s. The publication contains invaluable information about business conducted at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Many of you were unable to attend your districts’ report backs or perhaps your district has not yet had a report back, so the report is especially pertinent to you. Highlights of the report include all conference advisory actions (some of which we discussed way back in April at our Inform-the-Delegate Assembly), text from presentations and reports, additional committee considerations, and financial information. I refer you especially to pages 6-7 that report on actions recommended by the Conference Committee on Agenda. The theme for the 63rd GSC will be “The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action.” The presentation topics are laid out as well as the inventory items for the next three years.

Tuesday, I received a copy of the winter issue of “Box 4-5-9.” Articles of special interest include the following:

- ❑ The purpose and importance of Regional Forums. Our Area Chair has been pursuing putting together a bid on holding our first ever Regional Forum in Hawaii a few years hence.
- ❑ The retirement of two long-time GSO employees, including Publications Director, Valerie O.
- ❑ An extremely helpful and informational article “About Those A.A. Group Problems.” Most of the information is based on the pamphlet “The A.A. Group,” yet another valuable resource.
- ❑ A shared experience from the Corrections Correspondence Service.

“Box 4-5-9” should be on the A.A. Website in case you did not receive one by mail. I urge you to check it out and share it with your home group members.

And that reminds me of the importance of keeping your group information and your group contact information current. It’s taken me several years in general service to see how some of the pieces of the puzzle fit together. For example, our Area Registrar works all panel to keep our records up to date so that information in the A.A. directories is correct and inclusive and so that mailing lists are accurate. It’s not just about you and your group but also about how we relate to A.A. as a whole or the General Service Structure.

In a few minutes we will begin the election process. I am confident that we will have enthusiastic, efficient, and effectual leadership in Panel 63. Remember that God doesn’t always call the qualified but qualifies the called. Thank you for allowing me to be your student.

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