

2018 February Committee Meeting Delegate's Report

Aloha kakou!

Here we go again! First let me thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Panel 67 Delegate. You'll note I'm the Panel 67 Delegate and the upcoming General Service Conference is the 68th. That means I'm a second-year delegate. This has been the most fantastic journey I've ever been on and I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity. Thank you.

I also hope that you, like myself, are having it a bit easier this year. By the time we have our current jobs down cold it'll be time to rotate. I'm looking forward to sitting in the back of the room. But not just yet. In fact, before I can do that, I'll have one more opportunity to report back in each of your districts what I saw, felt, and did at the 68th General Service Conference. It's not too early to begin planning on when you'd like me to come. I've already been asked by districts on Hawaii Island and will once again be reporting back at their Founder's Day events. Please don't put off your planning. We have a tight schedule this year as we also have a [Pacific Regional Forum](#) coming up in San Jose this September and, yes, our Elections Assembly this coming October.

The 68th General Service Conference background material is out. We have a full set of materials on USB Drives for you to use in assisting our GSRS to get their topics. It's also available online on our website with password access. And, as in the past, we'll be handing out some printed materials in case you need to get topics to those who do not have internet access.

But before we get to that, I have a number of important items to discuss. The first, is that lawsuit over the printer's copy of the manuscript is drawing to close. Both parties have agreed to terms. As I said in my last report, we have withdrawn our claim. In the letter I just received from Greg T., the GSO manager, he states that:

"The parties have reached an agreement and believe this to be in their best interests. The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous has approved a settlement and mutual release agreement in order to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty of continuing litigation. As the result of the agreement, A.A.W.S. waives any claims to ownership of the Manuscript and will pay \$135,000 to reimburse a portion of the holder's out-of-pocket costs, expenses and legal fees associated with the action."

I don't want to spend more time on this here. I'm sure you have questions, as do I. There will be a lot of discussion about this at the Conference. Currently, though both parties have agreed to terms it has not been finalized and so there's not much more the GSB can tell us. I'll be bringing back a much fuller report.

Again, I want to state that, in my opinion, whether entering into this lawsuit was a mistake or not, I do not believe that our GBS acted in bad faith. They pursued a course they thought best and if the outcome wasn't what we wanted, or if we thought they never should have done this in first place, they did it out of concern for the fellowship.

Moving on, the GSB is looking for a non-trustee appointed committee member (ACM). Here are some details:

The trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Profession Community/Treatment and Accessibilities of the General Service Board has an opening for a non-trustee appointed committee member (A.C.M.). We are searching for a suitable individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations. Some of the qualities most desirable for this appointed committee member are

1. A background in the Armed Forces (United States or Canada).
2. A firm understanding of communication channels within the military.
3. Experience in A.A. service, especially involving military veterans and/or those currently serving.
4. Ability to strategize about how to more effectively carry the A.A. message to members and to the professionals
5. Familiarity with the Veteran's Administration.
6. Strong writing/editing skills.
7. Available time to attend the meetings of the trustees' committee to which appointed (which meet during the quarterly General Service Board meetings) and the Saturday afternoon general sharing session. Attendance at the Saturday night dinner and A.A. meeting during Board weekends is optional. Available time to attend a joint committee meeting on Sunday afternoon of the General Service Conference. Attendance at the Sunday night Conference dinner is optional. Available time for participation in subcommittees of the trustees' committee to which appointed. Completion of subcommittee projects often involves participation in conference calls.
8. At least five years of continuous sobriety.
9. The ability to work within the committee structure.

I've printed all this information and will post as much as I can as well. The resume form that should be completed by applicants for this opening and returned to the General Service Office before 4:00 PM EST on May 1, 2018.

Next up is our bid for the 2030 International Convention. Sadly, we were not chosen as one of the possible host cities. At first, I was given the impression that it was because we do not have a closed stadium. That however is only part of the story. I had a great conversation with GSO about application and I want you to know, as I said in a recent email, that we were given fair consideration. The biggest

obstacle for our bid was not the stadium but the fact that we are a premium destination. During July our hotels have no trouble filling rooms and that means we, as an organization, don't have a lot of leverage. When we say we can bring upward of 50,000 people here, the hotels chains can say, "so what, we already expect to be filled." Those of you who have worked on big events here can certainly understand. We were, however, very much encourage to try again for 2035. In the meantime, let's all save our pennies for Detroit in 2020.

Finances are, as you might expect, always a topic of interest. By now our DCMS should have received this from GSO, but I want everyone to go back and thank their groups. In 2016 it was report that 53.79% of the Area 17 groups listed with GSO contributed to GSO. For 2017 57.93% of our groups did so. It may seem like small gain, but it's significant. We'd love it to be 100%, but all gains are wonderful and to be applauded. If your group isn't contributing to GSO, please remember it isn't just about the amount, it's about participating in AA as a whole.

Before we get to Agenda distribution, I want to say a few more words about AA as a whole and what it is we are doing here. I know we often hear that the most important person in the room is the newcomer. I know we often hear that "this is a selfish program." I know that we, that I, often think the whole point of AA is so that I can be sober.

None of that is why we are here today. I took a look at the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) most recent data for Hawaii. Did you know that we are among the states with the highest percentage of excessive alcohol use and binge drinking? We know not every binge drinker belongs in these rooms. Many excessive drinkers may not be alcoholics of our kind. But it's also true that for each of us in these rooms, there are many, many more who have never once been to a meeting; who have never heard our message of hope.

We may not even be here today for them.

We are here to ensure that the generations of alcoholics to come, our children, their children, generations of keiki not yet born, always have a way out. Can we do it? I don't know. But we can try. It is by slim chance that I am in here today. And yet I am. So are you. Today we are here to ensure that no matter who you are, no matter where you are, no matter when you reach your hand out for help, the hand of AA will always be there. For that, I am responsible. I hope you feel the same.

Mahalo nui loa.

Bob H. Area 17 Hawaii, Panel 67 Delegate