

Delegate Report October 30, 2011

Good morning Area 15. My name is Kathy G and I am an alcoholic and privileged to serve as your Delegate for South Florida, the Bahamas, the US and British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten, and the Cayman Islands. Thank you to District 3 for hosting the Quarterly this weekend and doing a great job.

I was privileged to share the Conference report with Districts 18 and 14 during the past quarter. I am scheduled to travel to District 19, the Cayman Islands, the first weekend in December. The Final Reports from the Conference have all been distributed. If you need a copy, first ask your District Chair in the event that he or she has additional reports. Otherwise, you can request a copy from the General Service Office by contacting our Southeast liaison, Gayle SR, at literature@aa.org.

We will have a guest staff member from GSO at our January 2012 Quarterly as per current practice. Eva S will join us and will participate in some of our meetings on Saturday. It will be a great opportunity for everyone to meet one of our longtime staff members face to face and get to know her.

67th Southeastern Conference

I attended the 67th Southeastern Conference (SEC) in Raleigh NC from Aug 11 - 14, 2011 along with our Alternate Delegate, Don F. Our Southeast Regional Trustee, El N., reported to us on the July 2011 General Service Board meeting at the regional luncheon on Saturday. Later that day she chaired the Southeast Region business meeting where we discussed several topics including the idea that the SEC to become the venue for a service assembly. I'll report to you on both the Trustee's report and the business meeting.

At the business meeting I presented a motion requested by another member of our Area. The motion was to have the Southeast Regional Trustee appoint a secretary for the Southeastern Conference business meeting. Though our region has conducted regional business for many years at this business meeting, there have never been any minutes taken. The motion passed unanimously and our sitting Regional Trustee, El N., appointed, you guessed it - me, as Secretary for the immediate Southeastern Conference. She later appointed me to serve as secretary for future business meetings to coincide with the remainder of her Trustee term.

There was a good deal of discussion regarding making the SEC a service assembly. The content of the SEC agenda would change significantly if we decide to move ahead in this direction. There was a lot of discussion on whether or not the SEC would continue to be held in conjunction with a State Convention, as has been the

custom in past years. Several people felt that by adding all of the service assembly workshops to the agenda, it would be far too busy a schedule to conduct in conjunction with a State Convention. However, other Areas who are more financially challenged indicated that the only way that they could host the SEC and include a service assembly was if they did have it as part of a State Convention. There was a lot of discussion on this topic, but ultimately the motion to have the service assembly as part of the SEC failed. At least for now. The full minutes of the 67th SEC are posted on the Area 15 website so that you can read the details if you so wish.

Southeast Trustee's Report

Our SE Trustee El N gave her report of the July 2011 General Service Board meeting at the SE Regional Luncheon. As a Trustee, El sits on numerous committees under the GSB. She chairs the Conference Committee, and is vice-chair of both the Trustees' Nominating Committee and Corporate GV Board. She sits on various other committees as well. I have a full listing of all of the Trustees' committee positions for anyone who is interested.

The Corrections Committee reported that the staff is collecting shared experiences from the fellowship for updates to the Corrections Workbook. There was discussion on the content appeal of the pamphlet *Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell*.

CPC-Treatment-Special Needs has a subcommittee that will review line-by-line the "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" script. A report is expected in October with an associated budget. The committee discussed obtaining clearances in non-correctional facilities. CPC approved a draft service piece about La Viña and GV for inclusion in the CPC kit and will ask GV for magazine copies to include in the kits.

The Literature Committee reported progress on several items currently under development.

Pamphlet on Spirituality: As I mentioned last quarter, the content of the pamphlet is in the hands of the Trustees' and Conference committees on Literature. At the SEC I spoke with a member of the Trustees' Literature subcommittee. She shared with me that she and the other members will be reviewing the 201 stories that were submitted by the fellowship. She as an individual is committed to choosing stories that reflect the message of AA and is not at all interested in using the pamphlet as a platform for any cause. I spoke with her again last week to see how the subcommittee is progressing. They are rating stories and keeping those with

higher ratings for a planned second reading. She commented that the stories receiving the highest ratings are about spirituality and the program of AA, not about pushing either atheism or theism.

Remember that the full Conference only sees the selected stories when both the Trustees' committee and the Conference Committee have recommended that the pamphlet be approved. Having witnessed the Conference in action, I am inclined to trust the Conference process and trust our Delegates in the US and Canada to uphold our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts when voting on the pamphlet.

I will be sure to pass on to you any progress reports that I receive from A.A.W.S. about the Trustee Literature committee's work on this project.

The pamphlet "AA and the Armed Services" and the booklet Living Sober both continue to be under revision. The committee took no action on a request to add a sponsorship appendix to the Big Book.

The Public Information Committee received two requests to update Tradition 11 that the committee will discuss at the October Board meeting. The pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" is now available with updated material specifically addressing the internet. The Membership Survey was conducted this year and the updated pamphlet will come before the Conference for approval in 2012.

The Trustees' Conference Committee received a request to reaffirm that the General Service Conference is the guardian of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and that no AAs within the US or Canada can change the 12 Steps without written consent of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the known groups worldwide. This request was deliberated with full consideration prior to the vote to take no action. The decision was based on the fact that the material in the Current Conference Charter was well disseminated, fully describes the process to be used to change the 12 Steps, and did not need to be reaffirmed. Although it was recognized that there may be a problem with some groups, it was not clear how the reaffirmation would resolve the problem. The committee agreed that the process is in place for changes however there are no 'AA Police' to make sure that this does not occur and how reaffirmation would make a difference. It was thought that the best method of addressing the problem would be at a local level where it was recognized. Questions arose as to how or when the problem may come about: within the 30 days of review of a new group application or after a group number has been issued and the group changes the Steps. *I will be sending out background*

information on this request for a Conference Agenda item and asking for your input.

The Finance Committee recommended that the GV reduce its budget by a third immediately. However, this was replaced with a motion that the GV have a balanced 2012 budget.

The Finance committee is still looking for 7th Tradition Stories that will help humanize the impact of the Tradition. If you would like to share your experience on how the 7th Tradition has had an effect on your recovery or how you have seen recovery in general affected by the 7th Tradition, please send your story to the Conference staff member at conference@aa.org or send it to me a delegate@area15aa.org and I will be happy to forward it for you.

The Finance Committee recommended that the GSB undertake a study to address utilization of social networking/media in alignment with the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

AAWS/GSO adjusted the 2012 budget by \$40,000 to include a culturally sensitive Spanish-language PSA per Conference Advisory Action 23. AAWS did not budget for e-sales for 2012 because they did not know the price of the eBooks yet. They should be closer to a finalized budget after this weekend's board meeting.

The unaudited G.S.O. seven months financial report (ended July 30, 2011):
Net sales were \$58,000, or .8% greater than budget.
Contributions were \$103,700, or 2.9% less than budget.
Total operating expenses were \$211,600, or 2.6% less than budget.
Net income for the seven months was \$491,200, which is \$167,400 greater than budget.

The General Service Board approved a \$50,000 rent abatement for Grapevine for 2011 due to unused space. The Grapevine Corporation had a midyear budget adjustment of \$8,000 for this year based on Advisory Action 7: "A.A. Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies..." The puts the 2011AAGV budgeted loss at \$102,000. Keep in mind that La Viña budgeting is separate. The 2011 budgeted loss for La Viña is \$59,655. The bottom line at mid-year for AAGV is a net loss of \$22,500. However, there has been sufficient capital to avoid a draw down from the reserve fund. Though a third quarter draw was anticipated, that was also averted. AAGV does expect a need for a fourth quarter draw down.

Our Trustee, El sits on the Oversight Committee for GV Cash Flow. GV noted that it was not using Google ads, Facebook, or other technologies to drive traffic to the GV site. There is an anticipated cash shortfall because the “GV is culturally incapable to take steps as planned in the optimized scenario”. What this means is that the GV staff has been told not to move forward with social media e-technology to garner more web traffic because of the question of Traditions raised through numerous emails and letters (many of them from our Area.) This does not prohibit the GV from implementing the GSC Advisory Action 7: “In the spirit of being self-supporting, while also protecting our Traditions of attraction, anonymity, and non-affiliation, AA Grapevine be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies...”

The Grapevine Board is currently undertaking an inventory on the size and composition of the GV Board. It may move forward to develop a pool of individuals: experienced on Boards; knowledge of strategic planning, problem solving and implementation; understanding current media (paper and technology); financial acumen; and an AA member.

The General Service Board is undertaking an inventory in at this weekend’s Board. The chairman of the GSB will appoint a committee to address Advisory Action 8: “The AA Grapevine Board, in consultation with the AA World Services Board and under the guidance of the General Service Board Chairman, continue to investigate what efficiencies and objectives can be accomplished by combining services and sharing resources, including reviewing Concept XI, while still maintaining editorial and corporate independence.”

E-Technology Project

The A.A.W.S. eBook project is nearing completion of its first phase. Several of you have asked what the difference is between the PDF versions of the Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions that is available on the GSO website and the upcoming eBook releases. The essential difference between a PDF and an eBook is one of reading style and convenience for those using mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets. Although PDFs can be read on those devices, the reading experience is somewhat impacted because of the formatting of the PDF which is geared more to the larger display that would normally be found on a computer. eBook files are read with specially developed software, an eReader, that allows for a more book-like reading experience. Additionally, eReaders allow the user to create notes at specific points in the text.

Some of you have other inexpensive versions of the Big Book or and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions on your mobile devices now. Remember that those eBook

sales do NOT support Alcoholics Anonymous as they are from companies in the U.S. who have taken advantage of the loss of copyright in the United States of the 1st and 2nd editions of those books. Those versions also do not contain the full version of the Big Book (i.e., no member stories.) The A.A.W.S. release of our eBooks will contain the full 4th Edition Big Book. You cannot get the current edition or the stories in electronic format anywhere else.

At the A.A.W.S. board meeting in September the board approved pricing for both eBooks at \$6.00 (in English, French and Spanish). Upon launch, the A.A. eReader App will be available at no charge from the Apple App Store, followed by availability in the Google Marketplace (Android) approximately two weeks afterwards. A.A.W.S. wants to evaluate the process before launching for additional phones to address any issues with the process. The Google launch will then be followed by availability for Blackberry. Readers will be able to purchase the books through the A.A.W.S. Online Store. Information about the eBooks is now posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. web site, and the link to the Online Store is expected to go live in mid- to late-November.

The eBook budget over two years (2011-2012) is \$411,000, with expected expenditures for 2011 at \$245,000. However, to date AAWS has spent only about \$147,000 and is likely to spend very little for the remainder of this year.

Offering the Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions as eBooks will ensure the integrity of the AA message and will help us in our efforts of self support through the sale of our own literature in electronic format.

A.A.W.S. Update

There are numerous free publications available online at the www.aa.org website - "*Sharing from Behind the Walls*", "*Markings on the Journey*", "*Box 459*". I hope that you all will avail yourself of this information and share it with your groups and others in AA.

Archives

Archives expressed gratitude to the A.A. member who generously gifted a 2nd and 3rd printing of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. These two printings complete the GSO Archives collection of printings of this book.

Literature

GSO management submitted a proposal for posting *Daily Reflections* on G.S.O.'s A.A. web site, with an optional daily e-mail delivery service. The

A.A.W.S. board approved the proposal and a progress report will be brought to the October board meeting that will include the costs of email service delivery.

The *fall 2011 issue of Box 4-5-9* included a story about the revised and currently available pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.” Links to *Box 4-5-9* in English and Spanish are on our Area 15 website. The revised pamphlet is also up on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site.

The revised “Understanding Anonymity” pamphlet was mailed to all P.I. chairs. The new pamphlet “*A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs*” is available and has been mailed to the Area Special Needs chairs. The pamphlet will also be posted on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site.

Corrections

New staff member Tracey O. has begun her rotation on the Corrections assignment, starting training as a staff member and becoming acquainted with the services provided by G.S.O. from her desk.

Other Services

Our new Southeast Regional GSO contact is Gayle SR. Gayle also sits on the Literature desk at GSO. The full staff assignment list for 2011-2013 is on the Area 15 Delegate’s web site page. Be sure to visit for updated information at www.Area15AA.org and select the Delegate’s page.

Thank you to all groups that completed the *2011 A.A. Membership Survey*. Your participation is important in this process to provide professionals with information they can use to help alcoholics and their families. Mary C sent a thank you from the PI desk as well.

Intergroup/Central Office

A.A.W.S. approved the concept of *online sales to include the following shipping charges*:

<u>Amount of Order</u>	<u>Shipping and Warehousing Charge</u>
Up to \$50	\$10
Over \$50 and up to \$249	19% of order
Over \$250 and up to \$500	16% of order
Over \$500	No charge

Note that the shipping price changes will not take effect until online ordering is implemented (estimated timeframe is June 15 – September 15, 2012.)

The Publishing committee expressed their ongoing commitment to providing A.A.W.S. material in English, French and Spanish when feasible and

appropriate. The committee voiced their wish to continue an *annual review of A.A.W.S. materials not available in all three languages.*

Special Needs

The committee reviewed an inventory of *Publications Department unfunded projects*, and advised moving three projects forward for inclusion in the 2012 budget. These items are:

- ASL and CD formats for the new pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs”
- Large print formats in French of the Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*
- Conference Advisory Actions Summary Booklet (1989-2011 only) in French and Spanish.

Around the World – Remote Communities

The committee reviewed sample *customized illustrations* for the pamphlet “Is A.A. for Me?,” for use in fledgling A.A. communities such as Haiti, Samoa, Marshall Islands and Fiji, where they have a special challenge in reaching out to alcoholics who live in nonurban settings. The committee requested that a draft policy for approval of culturally appropriate illustrations included in translations other than French and Spanish be developed for review and possible forwarding to the General Service Conference.

Area 14 Assembly

I was invited to attend the Area 14 North Florida Assembly in mid-October to chair their bi-annual Area inventory. There were eleven questions and one hour allotted for comments. It was an enjoyable process with no black eyes or fights and not even a raised voice. I was also invited to share my experience, strength, and hope on Saturday night and was grateful for that opportunity.

Southeast Regional Forum

Southeast Regional Forum will be held in South Florida at the Boca Raton Marriott November 9-11, 2012. Let's remember to spread the word to our groups, sponsees, and districts that the next Southeast regional Forum will be held right here in South Florida next year, November 9-11, 2012. GSO staff members set the agenda for the forums and will be available for face to face question and answer discussions. This is the first time in over 30 years that South Florida has been able to host this forum. Don't let the opportunity pass by for yourself or your AA friends and sponsees to meet the GSO staff members. We will talk more about this event, providing more detail throughout the coming year.

Other Important Dates

- The Southern States AA Service Assembly will be held Nov 4 - 6, 2011 in Fairfax, VA.
- The 2012 Southeastern Conference will be held in Metairie, LA Aug 9-12, 2012.

Future Southeastern Conference rotations are planned as follows:

- 69th SEC Aug 8-11, 2013 (weekend before Additional Forum in WV), Columbia SC at Double Tree Hotel
- 70th SEC 2014 SEC Charleston WV at Marriott Hotel
- 71st SEC 2015 TN, in planning stage

Conference Agenda Submissions

If you plan to send a request in for Conference consideration on any topic, please consider sharing the idea at your Group, District, and Area to gain additional insight and possible widespread support for your idea. Regardless of whether you share the idea widely before submitting it to the Conference Coordinator, Eva S, take the time to investigate the topic in light of our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts to help ensure that you believe that the idea is in the best interest of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. I welcome the opportunity to hear your ideas and input on any topic related to AA. Please do not hesitate to approach me, call me, or email me with ideas or questions.

I will be sending out information on some proposed Conference Agenda items for your review and input. One of the items was submitted by Area 62, South Carolina regarding reaffirmation of our protection of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. The other items are ones that I plan to submit for consideration and am asking for your input. I will ask for a sense of the members during our January business meeting.

Thank you for allowing me to share this information with you. Please know that you can contact me at any time for any A.A. related question or comment. I am here to serve you.

Love in service, Kathy G, Panel 61/Area 15 Delegate