

South Florida Area 15
Delegate's Report
July 18, 2010

Good Morning! I'm a member of the Vero Beach Step & Traditions Group in District 6.

I have the privilege of serving as your Delegate, Panel 59, Area 15, South Florida, the Bahamas, the US & British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten & the Cayman Islands.

My name is Ken C. and I'm a grateful recovering alcoholic.

Thank you District 9 for a wonderful Quarterly. Gary & Adie: you and your committee have done a wonderful job. Thank you for all your hard work. I would like to thank John for a great talk Friday night.

Thank you to all who participated in the skits. I'm sure you will be a big hit at the Florida State Convention.

Chet, thank you for a wonderful talk last night. On behalf of Area 15, thank you for joining us and thank you for sharing your experience, strength & hope at our workshop yesterday. I hope you have enjoyed your trip to South Florida Area 15 as much as I enjoyed my trip to North Florida Area 14. Let's give Chet a round of applause.

I want to welcome all of our new GSRs. How many of you are here for your very first assembly? *Raise your hands.* I hope that each of you will get a Service Sponsor and ask a lot of questions; you are the life blood and future of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The 60th General Service Conference was held April 18-24, 2010. To date, I have completed 14 of 17 Delegates Reports. I will be doing two reports in the Keys at the end of September and then I will do my final Delegates Report in October in District 19, the Cayman Islands. As reported, this was a wonderful Conference and chairing the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community was another great privilege. Once again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your delegate.

The “Conference Early Bird Edition” of Box 459 has been replaced with the Summer Edition of Box 459 which includes highlights of Conference Advisory Actions plus condensed board reports and reports of the trustees’ Conference committees. I have copies up on the corner of the dais. Box 459 is available electronically at www.aa.org or on our Area 15 website at www.area15aa.org.

The Conference desk reports that the 2010 Final Report of the 60th General Service Conference should be available sometime in August. I will notify all District Chairs on receipt. They will be able to coordinate arrangements to pick them up, or I will bring the Final Reports to our October Quarterly.

I attended the 2010 International Convention – Alcoholics Anonymous’ 75th birthday celebration in San Antonio. 53,000 recovering alcoholics in one place; San Antonio will never be the same.

I hope that many of you had the opportunity to watch the Opening Flag Ceremony on our website – it was spectacular. 5 countries from South Florida Area 15 were represented. It was reported that 96 countries were present and that Alcoholics Anonymous is in 180 countries and the Big Book has been translated in 58 or 59 languages.

The souvenir for the International Convention was a commemorative soft cover edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age". A limited number of copies are available from G.S.O. through the normal ordering process on a first-come, first-served basis. Quantities will be limited to one case (20 copies) per order.

I feel privileged to tell you that Haiti was represented for the first time at the International Convention. Our friend Molly carried the flag for Haiti for the first time in native costume. Valerie O., Publications Director, presented Molly with a draft pamphlet translated to Creole – "Is A.A. For Me?". (*Hold up pamphlet*) to bring home to her group in Haiti. Since the International Convention, Molly has reported that another meeting has been formed in Haiti. Your 7th Tradition contributions are hard at work.

The 30 millionth copy of our Big Book, "Alcoholics Anonymous", was presented to the American Medical Association at the 75th International Convention.

The Florida Hospitality Room was a huge success. I would like to thank all the volunteers and particularly Joni and Cecelia. Bill W. and Dr. Bob were available and greeted all of Florida's guests. Photo opportunities were on a first-come, first serve basis.

The Grapevine Search Committee will conduct a preliminary interview of potential candidates for the Publisher/Executive Editor position next month. I have reported to you about the financial condition of the Grapevine and the Conference Committee on Grapevine's recommendation that "To the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board that, in order to reach the broadest spectrum of the Fellowship, sharing on the following items be

gathered from the General Service Conference delegates on behalf of the 2010 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine:

What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you?

How do you use the Grapevine magazine?

What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine?

What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be?

Note: Responses are to be submitted to the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board by 12/31/2010 and included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the A.A. Grapevine.

Two copies of the Grapevine Survey have been placed at every seat. Please fill in one and place in the Grapevine Survey Box just outside the door of this meeting. Please bring the 2nd copy home, duplicate if possible and pass them on to your fellows within your groups.

The Grapevine Survey has been posted in a fillable PDF on the Delegates page on www.area15aa.org. Please let your fellow members know where to access the survey. Surveys can be mailed or emailed to the addresses at the bottom of the survey through the beginning of November. The email address is grapevinesurvey@area15aa.org.

About 5% of the fellowship supports the Grapevine. The Grapevine requires our support to survive, please encourage your group and fellow members to subscribe.

The 54th FL State Convention and 66th Southeastern Conference will be held in Miami in a few weeks. The FL State Convention will be focusing on the Steps; the Southeastern Conference will focus on the Traditions. For those who have never attended a Southeastern Conference, the Delegates from the 13 areas will do workshop presentations. You do not want to miss these presentations done by a truly remarkable set of trusted servants. We will have workshops, skits and many other exciting events presented by the southeast region. We will all have the opportunity to meet and hear presentations from our General Service Office General Manager, Phyllis H., our Trustee-at-Large, U.S., Don M. and our Southeast Regional Trustee, El N..

I can't wait, I'm registered. Who else is registered? The committee is setup right outside the door. I'm sure they need volunteers as well. Please register and offer your service at the registration table right outside this meeting.

As you know, the S.E. Region Delegates have had discussion and proposed a regional service conference to be called SERAASA or South East Region of Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. The delegates of the Southeast Region have had several lengthy discussions on the recommendations from the ad-hoc committee at the Delegates Get-Together in February and again at the Regional Luncheon at the Conference last April. The S.E. Region Delegates will discuss this matter at the Delegates Luncheon at the Southeastern Conference in Miami in a few weeks. Then the Southeastern Conference body may be asked to cast a vote on any recommendation(s) that may or may not come forward from the Southeast Delegates.

The "Corrections Correspondence" pamphlet (F-26) is free. We are in need of A.A. members on the "outside" to correspond with A.A. members in

correctional facilities. The pamphlet contains guidelines & a correspondence form.

In May, the C.P.C. desk mailed out the Spring 2010 edition of *About A.A.*, our newsletter for professionals, that focused on the topic of “A.A. as a Resource for Drug and Alcohol Court Professionals.”

Public Information reported that the annual Anonymity Letter to the Media went out via email and postal mail.

In March, Warren S. on the International desk and Jo-Anne L., trustee-at-large Canada, attended the 34th Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Central America held in Guatemala City, Guatemala where they met with General Service Board members from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Warren also attended the 20th Anniversary Celebration of A.A. in Belarus in May in the capitol city of Minsk along with members from Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine where he participated in workshops on A.A.’s 7th and 11th Traditions.

The Western Canada Regional Forum was held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, May 14-16, 2010 with 250 registered attendees including 156 first-time Forum attendees!

The Contributions Online project has come to fruition. An A.A. member or an A.A. Group can make a contribution to the General Service Board online using their checking account number or a credit card. Go to www.AA.org, click on the Contribution Online link. I think you will be impressed. Please

remember that you can make an annual Birthday Club contribution in the same manner.

Highlights of the Financial Report included the following expenses for the first quarter ended March 31, 2010 – pending final auditor work: Unaudited results for the first three months of 2010 reflected net sales of \$3,315,000, contributions of \$1,498,000 and total revenue of \$3,646,000. Unaudited net income for the first three months of 2010 of \$626,000 compared with \$351,000 budgeted income and was approximately \$335,000 greater than the \$291,000 profit reported for the same period in 2009.

Highlights of the Publications Report included the following activity: Total distribution of all books for the five months ending May 31, 2010, was 740,813 units, down 22.7% from the same period in 2009, 947,818. Through the month of May, 2010, we distributed 374,945 units of all editions of the Big Book compared to 516,814 units for the same period in 2009. Gross sales for the five-month period ending May 31, 2010 were budgeted at \$6,207,630. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$5,429,456, which is \$778,174 of 12.6% under budget. In the same period in 2009, gross sales amounted to \$5,760,651, or 2.5% under budget. Last year's gross sales budget totaled \$13,900,000. The 2010 projected gross sales budget is \$14,300,000 (\$400,000 higher than 2009 budget).

The A.A.W.S. Publishing Committee approved the pricing of the following new formats of existing A.A.W.S. items: French CD Format – Abridged Fourth Edition Big Book - \$18.00; French and Spanish Videos – “Carrying the Message Behind These Walls” - \$10.00; French and Spanish DVDs – “Markings on the Journey” - \$16.00; French and Spanish DVDs – “Your A.A. G.S.O., the G/V and the General Service Structure” - \$10.00.

Two newly formed Ad Hoc Committees of AAWS, the AAWS Copyright Committee and the AAWS E-Technology Committee, met for the first time. The AAWS Ad Hoc Committee on Copyrights will consider current and future policies related to A.A. trademarks and copyrights. For the first meeting the Committee met with Intellectual Property attorneys who provided key information regarding trademark and copyright use and protection.

The AAWS Ad Hoc E-Technology Committee serves as an oversight Committee involved in short/long term goals and in support of the GSO E-Technology Team in the development and delivery of electronic formats of A.A. literature and other means of electronic communication.

The AAWS Board approved two recommendations from the AAWS E-Technology Committee. The first gave full support for GSO to begin developing e-publishing as a digital format that will enable electronic delivery of our literature.

Full support was also given for the GSO to move ahead with a questionnaire that requests feedback from the Fellowship on preferences for digital devices and e-delivery. Distribution of the questionnaire will begin at the International Convention at the A.A.W.S./G.S.O. booth located in the Registration Hall. Further distribution will be through our Conference structure, Forums and other AA related events.

I would like to thank each of you for the privilege of serving as your Delegate; I am truly blessed.

If I can assist you in any manner, please feel free to call me or send an email.

God bless each of you.

Respectfully submitted with Love in Service,

Ken C.

Delegate, Panel 59