

**South Florida Area 15  
Delegate's Report  
October 10, 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 4 for a wonderful Quarterly. Rafael & Joe: you and your committee have done a wonderful job. Thank you for all your hard work. 818 in attendance – another record. WOW!

I would like to thank Kathy for a great talk Friday night. Steve, thank you for a wonderful talk last night.

I want to welcome all of our new GSRs. How many of you are here for your very first assembly? 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.

I have six extra CD's that contain the background from the 60th General Service Conference. If you would like one – the first six people to see Beth after this meeting are welcome to them. Beth, please raise your hand.

Speaking of the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, I have distributed 1,013 Final Conference Reports to your District Chairpersons yesterday. I would like to thank Howard F., Alt. Chairperson of District 6 for all of his assistance. Howard transported “the truckload” from my garage to this quarterly. Let's hear it for Howard.

I have completed 16 of the 18 Delegates Reports I have been invited to give. We have districts numbered to 19 and we do not use district 13. District 16 did not request a visit and unfortunately, district 12 had to cancel. I will be giving a Delegates Report in District 19, the Cayman Islands on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Presenting the Delegates Conference Reports has been the highlight of this position. I thank each of you for your support and enthusiasm.

I attended the 54<sup>th</sup> Florida State Convention and 66<sup>th</sup> Southeastern Conference. I could not begin to tell you the great success of these conventions. Graham, Aaron, Bruce – Beth, Kathy, Annie, – and all of you who served to make these events successful, thank you. The delegates and alternates from the southeast are still extending their thanks and their awe of our structure and how we carry the message. Although the Southeast Delegates and Alternates, our G.S.O. General Manager, Trustee at-Large U.S. and S.E. Regional Trustee are not present, I would like to thank them for their participation. I thank all you for allowing me to participate in the 66<sup>th</sup> Southeastern Conference which has been another extraordinary privilege to serve.

The Grapevine has released a new book entitled “Spiritual Awakenings II - More Journeys of the Spirit”. This book reflects on sobriety's message of miracles and redemptions and is shared with passion and humor in 74 different colorful voices. This book is item #GV23 at \$10.95 and can be ordered from the Grapevine website at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org).

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.

Another copy of the Grapevine Survey has been placed at every seat. Please fill in one and place it in the Grapevine Survey Box just outside the door of this meeting. Please bring a 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.aa15aa.org](http://www.aa15aa.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 and must be received by me on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at the latest. The email address is [grapevinesurvey@aa15aa.org](mailto:grapevinesurvey@aa15aa.org).

About 6% of the fellowship supports the Grapevine. The Grapevine requires our support to survive, please encourage your group and fellow members to subscribe.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk with you about our 6<sup>th</sup> Tradition – "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

During a 30 day period in August and early September, I received approximately 9 New Group Forms from A.A. meetings that were affiliated with outside enterprises. Two of these meetings were affiliated with outside enterprises that use internet websites that appear to be service entities of Alcoholics Anonymous. All of these situations have been resolved by the District Chairperson and/or District Committee Member with the exception of one which is still pending.

There is a third internet website, an outside enterprise that was affiliated and endorsed through announcements at the Florida State Convention. Over the last several years videotaping of the (ASL) American Sign Language Translator has taken place. I understand that DVD's of the signed talks have been made available to the deaf and hearing impaired, on a national basis, for several years, through the generosity of one of our members.

This year, an announcement was made concerning an outside entity that will post these speakers talks on a website. Although the intent of this outside organization appears to be assisting the deaf and hearing impaired within the A.A. community, the announcement of this outside entity constitutes affiliation and endorsement in contradiction with our 6<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

Although I would prefer to avoid this conversation, I have received numerous concerns; particularly regarding the announcement of an outside enterprise and the posting of 2008 FL State Convention speakers' audio and video talks on this website. These talks also appear on YouTube, another outside enterprise. The use of copyrighted A.A. literature has been questioned. These conversations have brought to light that we, South Florida Area 15, ought to have a broad conversation and an informed group conscience on this practice.

At this time, I will ask that each of you discuss this at your group, intergroup/central office, district, and area meetings. For the record, I am requesting that the Panel 61, Area 15 State Convention Chairperson put this item on their agenda for discussion of these practices and report their findings to this body. Bill writes in the long form of the 6<sup>th</sup> Tradition, "While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one." I am certain that with an informed group conscience, we can arrive at what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous.

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 will be discussing this further at the Delegates Get-Together in February. More shall be revealed.

The triennial Membership Survey due to be published in 2010, will be done in 2011 due to the fact that a Conference Agenda item failed to come forward from the Conference Committee on Public Information. Apparently this item was "lost in the shuffle" during the period when the staff person on this assignment left the office and the position was not filled due to a hiring freeze. The office has extended sincere apology.

Our General Manager at GSO, Phyllis H., has announced two Employee and Position Changes. Effective October 1, 2010, Doug R. will become the Director of Staff Services. Doug's primary responsibility will be the oversight and management of the ten G.S.O A.A. Staff members and coordination of services that support this division. Doug will continue as Assistant Secretary to the General Service Board providing support in coordinating the quarterly General Service Board meetings.

Rick W. will assume the position of Staff Coordinator/Web Services effective October 1, 2010. Web Services has been added to the Staff Coordinator position. Rick will function as the G.S.O. Website Liaison and sit on both the Interoffice Website Committee (IOWC) and the G.S.O. E Technology Team. In addition, he will become a director on A.A. World Services, Inc., and serve as Liaison to the Intergroups and Central Offices.

A.A.W.S reports they are deeply grateful for the increased amount and consistency of our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions, particularly during, as Bill W. describes, "Lean times".

The Corrections assignment updated the A.A. Guidelines for Corrections Committees with additional language regarding how A.A. members cooperate with the rules of local facilities, and a new section on Pre-release/Bridging the Gap/Temporary contacts. Additional language regarding cooperation with facility regulations and how A.A. committee might prepare members new to this Twelfth Step work will be in the next printing of the Corrections Workbook. The Corrections Desk is also seeking local shared experience about how Corrections Committees resolve perceived conflicts between facility regulations, and what A.A. does not do, particularly regarding facility regulations that involve legally binding paperwork. Please email the Corrections Desk at [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org) to pass along local experience, so that others may benefit from shared experience.

The Trustee's Literature Committee formed the following three subcommittees to address recommendations approved at the 2010 General Service Conference: Subcommittee on the Development of Literature Which Focuses on Spirituality; Subcommittee on the pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs" and a Subcommittee on the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services." The Trustees' Committee on Literature has announced an opening for Nontrustee Appointed Committee Member. Resumes will be accepted until December 15, 2010. If you are interested in this position, please see me for more information and a Resume Sheet.

The AAWS Ad Hoc E-Technology Committee met, viewed and discussed a presentation on e-book distribution possibilities. Delegate areas are sending in the e-technology questionnaires; the deadline for receipt of these is October 15. Please be certain that your groups are forwarding these to our Area Chairperson.

Roberta L., chair of the AAWS Ad Hoc Committee on Copyrights, reported on the committee's July, 30, 2010 meeting to finalize its Scope and Procedure and develop a list of additional materials needed in order to consider current policies related to A.A. trademarks and copyrights and for the development of possible future policies. The chair obtained background from the GSO Intellectual Property Administrator regarding the work she does for the office that included sample permission requests, sample response letters and examples of the final disposition of the requests that will be reviewed at the committee's December 2010 meeting.

Highlights of the Publications Report included the following activity: Total distribution of all books for the 8 months ending August 31, 2010 was 1,152,762 units down 573,222 units or 33% from the distribution of units in the same period in 2009. Through August 2010, we distributed 592,718 Big Book units compared to 982,349 units in the same period in 2009. Gross sales for July and August were \$1,087,286 and \$1,012,664, respectively. Gross sales for the eight month period ending August 31, 2010 were budgeted at \$9,711,130. Actual sales, unaudited, came in at \$8,458,302 which is \$1,252,828 or 12.89% under budget.

The Publications Department reports that they are continuing their extensive inventory of the status of documentation for licenses and U.S. copyright registration for translations of A.A.W.S. copyrighted material published either by A.A.W.S. or by the 50 countries with General Service Boards. AA's entry into the world of e-publishing continues to be a priority.

Important Deadline: Requests for Local Forums for 2012 and beyond must be received at the General Service Office by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Local Forums should avoid all Conference, Board and Forum dates by

two weeks. District Chairs, if you think a Local Forum would benefit your District, please see me for more information.

The Southeast Regional Forum is drawing near. This year it will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC on December 10-12, 2010. Forums provide an extraordinary opportunity for sharing experience and exchanging information between A.A. members interested in service, local trusted servants, and the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine. Staff from both the G.S.O. and Grapevine will be present. Please see your District Chairperson for a flyer and more information.

If you have not read the Fall edition of Box 459, it is available at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). This issue contains a wonderful cover story on the 75<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, an article on the Contributions Online project, a story on our two new "Friends of A.A." and my favorite, A.A. in Haiti. I thank you for your 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions which translate our literature for those who might not otherwise hear the message of Alcoholics Anonymous that was so freely given to you and me.

Elections are this afternoon; Kathy will announce what time to return. District Chairpersons, we will have an abbreviated roll call this afternoon. Once we open the meeting, I will call your district and ask for your vote count. Voting members must be in the room. Please remember that some people will leave after the morning business meeting, others may only come to participate in the elections, so we do need an actual count for elections. I will need 14 non-voting members to assist in the election. 8 will be Runners and 6 will be Counters.

If I can assist you in any manner, please feel free to call me or send an email. Call anyway; I may need your call after rotation!

Well, this is the last time I will be giving a Delegates Report to Area 15. I would like to thank each of you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Delegate; I am truly blessed to have served with each of you. You have touched me and I have grown...

God bless each of you.

Respectfully submitted with Love in Service,  
Ken C.  
Delegate, Panel 59