

**South Florida Area 15
Delegate's Report
April 11, 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.

Happy spring!

Thank you District 2 for a wonderful Quarterly. Ron & Richard: you and your committee have done a wonderful job (*applause*). Thank you for all your hard work.

I would like to thank Cory for a great talk Friday night. Please don't lose your enthusiasm.

Don, thank you for a wonderful talk last night. On behalf of Area 15, thank you for joining us and thank you for all of your service and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous. I will enjoy working with you over the next year.

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.

Annie and I would like to thank all of the officers and many members of area 15 for their sympathy and prayers during my family's recent loss. You're the best...

Last quarter, I reported the incredible journey of our fellow and friend, Molly L. who resides in Haiti doing relief work. I am happy to report that Molly is doing well, although weary from the long hours and difficult circumstances. Molly attends the meetings at APAAC which are held daily in French Creole and has started an English speaking meeting at APAAC on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 PM. I believe the website for Haiti will be in the new International Directory. It is <http://sites.google.com/site/aainhaiti/home>.

I have asked 6 individual Districts to "Adopt a Group" in the Bahamas. All of the groups have been contacted and our chairpersons are exchanging ideas. It was discovered that District 16 has a website that is now listed on the "Find a meeting" page of our Area 15 Website @ www.area15aa.org. With some perseverance, I am confident that we can assist the groups in the Bahamas to have representation here at our area business meeting.

Last quarter, you voted to admit the groups of the Cayman Islands to join Area 15 from the International A.A. community. I can report that there has been a flourish of activity and that each of the 7 registered groups should have received a “New Group Kit” welcoming them to the U.S. and Canada Conference.

The 54th FL State Convention and 66th Southeastern Conference will be held in Miami next August. 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 new General Service Office General Manager, Phyllis H., our new Trustee-at-Large, Don M. and our new Southeast Regional Trustee, El N. I can't wait, I'm all registered. Who else is registered? *Raise your hands* 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 had a lengthy discussion on the recommendations from the ad-hoc committee at the Delegates Get-Together in February.

Our S.E. Regional Trustee has also appointed an ad-hoc committee to investigate the current Southeastern Conference Guidelines and establish a clear understanding of how the Southeast Region arrives at a group conscience if and when that is necessary. The committee's report and recommendations were also discussed at the Delegates Get-Together in February. The S.E. Region Delegates will vote on matters concerning these two items at the Delegates luncheon at Southeastern Conference in Miami this summer. More shall be revealed...

I have posted on the Area 15 website, information for the *2010 International Convention - Frequently Asked Questions - Registration, Hotels, Transportation, and Volunteering*. Just click on the Alamo icon. This will be an extraordinary event. If you have not registered already, rooms are on a first come, first serve basis. As of the April A.A.W.S. Board report, registration was at 35,000. Although the core downtown rooms are sold out, additional rooms are available in the outlying areas. Shuttle service will be provided at no charge to registered attendees.

If you would like to see an Advance Program for the convention, go to www.aa.org or www.area15aa.org and click on the Alamo Icon. You will see a link for the Advance Program on the left.

Now, I would like to let you know who will be speaking at the International Convention. *Read List.* Is there anyone speaking that I am not aware of, please come to the mic? I believe we may post this list on our area website and will have the speaker list available at the Florida hospitality room at the International Convention.

I have the privilege of serving as the Chairperson for the Conference Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community for the 60th General Service Conference. As one of 12 chairpersons, I started this quarter with a trip to the January A.A.W.S. Board Meeting. This “Board Weekend” goes from Wednesday until Monday. This might give you a clue as to the amount of business that these dedicated servants, both Class A & B, review, discuss, recommend and take action on. I was quite impressed with all of the Trustees and the Delegate Chairs that will serve during the 60th General Service Conference next week. All of the Conference servants are well prepared, diligent, enthusiastic and transparent. I trust that our fellowship is in capable hands.

Class A Trustee appointments: I believe there were 6 candidates at the January Board meeting. I had the opportunity to speak with each candidate. They emphatically stated how honored they were to have been selected for the possibility of serving our fellowship. Michele G. and John F., M.D. have been selected to serve as Class A Trustees.

The Trustees Committee on Public Information has announced an opening for a Nontrustee Appointed Committee Member. Some of the qualities desirable for this position are: 1.) expertise in media communications. The new ACM is needed for the continuing “A.A. Videos for Young People Project”, part of a broader project to involve young people in our P.I. mission. 2.) Available time to attend the meetings of the trustees’ committee. 3.) 5 years of continuous sobriety. 4.) The ability to work within the committee structure. 5.) Experience in A.A. service. Resumes are due before 4:00 PM April 15, 2010. If you are interested, please see me for a resume form ASAP.

The Trustees Committee on Public Information reports that GSO is receiving 1,000 complaints a week regarding anonymity breaks on social media sites such as Facebook, MySpace & Twitter. The winter edition of Box 459 has a wonderful and informative article on this subject. Go to www.aa.org and click on Box 459. GSO has developed a set of A.A. Guidelines on the Internet (MG-18).

As presented in the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity”, regarding anonymity online, the collective conscience of the A.A. fellowship, as expressed through its Conference-approved literature, suggests that “Publically accessible aspects of the Internet such as Web sites featuring text, graphics, audio and video ought to be considered another form of ‘public media’. Thus they

need to be treated in the same manner as press, radio, TV and films. This means that full names and faces should not be used.”

Scheduled as a 2010 goal, our General Manager has held an initial planning meeting for the G.S.O. E-technology team to define team content, objectives and timelines. This team will address potential use of digital, web and e-technology tools and methods that are found to be effective in communicating with our fellowship in the new decade.

The On-line member contribution website was viewed by the General Service Board and Conference Committee Chairs. There were many questions that were answered. This secure system for groups to contribute on-line will be rolled out in May after the General Service Conference. I think you will be impressed.

The “Conference Early Bird Edition” of Box 459 is being replaced with the Summer Edition of Box 459 which will still include highlights of Conference Advisory Actions plus condensed board reports and reports of the trustees’ Conference committees. As delegate, I will have advance copies which I will mail to all DCM’s around the middle of May.

Regional Directories will be printed in 2010. I cannot stress enough, the importance of District Committee Members updating group information and transmitting that updated information to their District Registrar and ultimately the Area Registrar. Although the deadline for updated information is upon us, DCM’s are responsible and ought to be updating group information on a continuing basis.

The 30 millionth copy of our Big Book, “Alcoholics Anonymous”, will be presented to the American Medical Association at the 75th International Convention. A commemorative edition of “A.A. Comes of Age” will be presented to Father Sam S.’ daughter at the 75th International Convention.

Group Contributions are at 43% of registered groups in the U.S. and Canada. The “Green Card” (F-42) is available from GSO and expresses the spiritual connection we feel when we place our money in the basket. I hope that every DCM will be certain that their groups are aware of this service piece and hopefully utilize it. Again, the “Green Card” (F-42).

I am not going to spend time on all of the financial information from the General Service Board, however, it will suffice to say that sales and revenue are relatively flat from 2008 to 2009. The Board projects a profit for 2010 of \$1,042,955. Once again, our boards and the General Service Office continue to practice prudence; offering more services with less dollars. I hope that each of us will remember to say “thank you” to our General Service Staff at any and every opportunity.

And please remember to thank your class A & B Trustees. They serve us diligently, tirelessly and humbly... .. and then... they say thank you to us.

As you may know, our Grapevine is in serious financial difficulty and has been operating in the red for the last 3 years. This year's deficit is \$246,000. Subscriptions are down, the order entry system is in dire need of updating, an additional employee is needed and we keep asking for more of a magazine that has no advertising revenue. For your information, 800 magazines and newspapers folded last year. We are not in jeopardy of losing the magazine, but the corporation is in trouble. The Grapevine has presented two comprehensive plans to re-structure to the General Service Board. I am certain that the Conference will have considerable discussion on this topic next week.

What do we want from the Grapevine? The Grapevine will not survive as a printed piece. Is an electronic version the answer? Do we want the magazine to fall under A.A.W.S? Please discuss these questions. What can we do? If you want the Grapevine to survive, please subscribe.

The 60th General Service Conference follows this assembly next week - April 18-24, 2010. The Conference preparation is quite an experience. For those who may not be aware, 45 sets of background material were prepared with 957 pages each; indexes & CD's. Again, the Vero Beach Post Office opened an hour early to take our mailing! The electronic "Delegates Dashboard" worked flawlessly this year. With all the help, we were able to have the background in your hands in record time again.

I must thank my helpers. Your Treasurer coordinated pagination; your Finance Chair prepared 50 CD's. Your Registrar helped me with price quotes, postage costs, going to the printer, labeling, packaging, creating a display cover and the index. Thank you for all your love and dedication. *Applause.*

Now for all of you. You came prepared by reading the background. You studied, read some more, asked questions, read some more. You attended the sharing sessions, participated, asked questions, raised concerns and offered solutions. I am very proud of your efforts. We'll do it again this afternoon. And I thank you in advance for sticking around and being a small part of such a great whole. I am certain that Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well in Area 15... and I'm excited to bring your conscience to the Conference.

You have prepared me extremely well. Each position, each committee, each responsibility that you have taught me, has prepared me for this Conference. I want to thank each of you for your interest, your dedication, your passion and your enthusiasm. You deserve a hand. *Applause.* After the Conference which ends April 24, 2010, I have been invited, and will visit, every District in Area 15 to give the Delegates Report. You will have the opportunity to hear first hand about

my experience in bringing forth your group conscience to the whole of Alcoholics Anonymous – the Conference. I will share the collective experience of the Conference and you will have the opportunity to ask questions again. Why did the Conference vote that way? Maybe your conscience suggested I vote a certain way and I voted the opposite. I will explain the process that led me to that decision.

Now, as you know, we will be reviewing all of the Conference background this afternoon. We have 5 “Loaner Notebooks” of Conference Background. My Alternate Joni, and I, will have those notebooks at the dais this afternoon. If you are a GSR or DCM, and would like to have a copy of the 60th General Service Conference Background to keep, and you will stay and share that notebook throughout the afternoon session, please see Beth at the back table. She will give you a piece of paper to write your name on. Return that paper to Beth and I will draw 5 names at the start of our afternoon session.

The theme of the 60th General Service Conference is “Practicing A.A.s Principles – the Pathway to Unity”. As I said last quarter, I could not think of a better theme that exemplifies the spirit of Area 15. I trust that we will continue to practice these unifying principles in the year ahead. We have done together, what we could not do alone.

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

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

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