

# DELEGATE RPT - AREA 15 – THE WILLING TIMES

January 13, 2013

Hello everybody and good morning, my name is Don F. and I'm an alcoholic. Thank you.

Buenos Dias, mi hombre is Don F. e jo soy um alcoolico. Gracias.

Bonjour, tout le monde, je m'apel Don F. et je suis Alcolic. Merci Beaucoup!

I am a member of the Tuesday Night Step Group and my sobriety date is January 5, 1979. I am privileged and honored to serve as the Delegate, Panel 63, Area 15 – South Florida, The Bahamas, U.S. and British Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, Antigua, and The Cayman Islands. I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve and I will put my whole heart and passion into everything I do for the Area and A.A.

We want to encourage every member of our team, Panel 63, which is everyone here, and back home in your groups, to be all inclusive in everything we do, just like Alcoholics Anonymous is. That is the reason I introduced myself in all of the three languages used by GSO and our Area. This way we can try to make everyone feel a part of our Team, Team-Panel 63. It will help us to make our moving and fascinating adventure better and better the more we practice these principles in all of our affairs.

## General Service Conference Information:

1. I was chosen to be on the Trustee's Committee. It reviews the resumes of the proposed Trustees, Officers and Directors of the General Service Board, the boards of A.A. World Services, Inc., and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., and appointed committee members, and expresses disapproval, if necessary.
2. The Preliminary Agenda Items are out and on the Area 15 website.
3. January 15 - all proposed Agenda items must be delivered to New York
4. January 28 - Area Highlights due from all first year Delegates. If anyone has any suggestions for items to include in the Area Highlights, please let me know either in person during this Quarterly Assembly or by e-mail after the Quarterly.
5. February 2-4 - General Service Bd. meets, finalizes the General Service Conference Agenda.
6. February 14 - GSO sends out Conference Committee Background Materials
7. February 15 – GSO sends out entire Conference Background Materials, we will immediately distribute the CDs to District Chairs and Committee Materials to the Committee Chairs.
8. April 12-14 Quarterly Assembly - Review Agenda items, obtain Area's positions, opinions on Agenda items.
9. April 20-27 - God willing, I attend the General Service Conference
10. May – July - Conference Reports given to Districts – District Chairs Need to Fill Out Request for Delegate Rpt

GSC Theme: "The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory- Our Solution in Action." Form

-The presentation and discussion topics include Spiritual Principles for World Service:

- a) The Triangle – More Than a Shape;
- b) The General Service Conference – Why is it Necessary;
- c) Self-Support – What Does it Mean to the Fellowship?; and
- d) Primary Purpose – Carrying the A.A. Message.

2011 A.A. Membership Survey - Average member is 49 years old, sober 10 years, attends 2 1/2 meetings a week, has a home group and sponsor. Also, men outnumber women 65% to 35%. The pamphlet, A.A. 2011 Membership Survey, is available on-line in the "For the Media" section at aa.org.

A.A. Website - added Box 4-5-9 issues back to 1980, and hyperlink lists for service committee kits, resources for GSRs and DCMs, and list of International GSOs, intergroups, and answering services.

Finances - A.A. Publishing sales 1.6 % less than budgeted, with print book sales of 1,329,000 books, and 244,920 non-A.A. purchases or 18.4 % of sales. Revenues through September 30 were .2 less than budgeted, but 1.2% higher than last year. Operating expenses were 1.8% less than budgeted, but 3.25 % greater than last year. Significantly, GSO

changed the retirement benefit plan for new hires to a defined contribution plan, like a 401(k), while current employees keep their current defined benefit plan.

A.A.W.S. - Finalized policy on which A.A.W.S. literature requires conference consideration and which doesn't, and sent it to the General Service Board. The Board drafted a "Fair Use Policy," Intellectual Property Committee will revise it and send a draft to the Board for approval.

General Service Board - On October 28 discussed questionnaire results on the structure of the three corporate Boards, how services are provided, literature and magazines are produced, and websites supported. The Board found the problem includes the structure, the Grapevine business plan, set up two groups to review improving practices and possible structural changes, they will send proposals to the GSC in April. The Board also sending an A.A.W.S. proposal for selling A.A. literature through Third-Party vendors to the GSC and created an Agenda item to consider changing the Agenda Item submission deadline to December 15 instead of January 15. The Board also recommended that Terry Bedient be elected to serve as the Chair of the General Service Board at the April meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Southeast Regional Forum - 647 registrants, including 276 who came to their first Forum.

### NEW YEAR'S CHALLENGES AND LOVE AND SERVICE

We are starting a new year together as one team, Panel 63. As such, I would like to challenge everyone here to pull together as one team to further two important goals:

First, the carrying of this message to the alcoholic who still suffers; and

Second, to do what's best for A.A.

Just as I have never seen an alcoholic fail who has thoroughly taken all twelve steps, I have never seen Alcoholics Anonymous fail to meet any challenges put before it. I would like everyone to keep these goals in mind when deciding to take an action on behalf of the Area or A.A.

There are a few other important thoughts we need to consider. First, there are no stupid questions except the questions not asked. If you do not know something, please ask me or another member of our Team-Panel 63. If we do not know the answer, we will find out. Second, we intend to have a great time while meeting these challenges since, as the Big Book says, we are not a glum lot and we are absolutely sure that God wants us to be happy, joyous, and free.

Now, to the heart of the matter, as you know, I have only one question for you:

### **ARE YOU WILLING?**

If so, we will try to ignite a contagious spirit of enthusiasm and willingness to have our Area do what's best for A.A. and to carry this message to the alcoholic who still suffers. We need to do this within the spirit and the scope of the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts, and the A.A. Guidelines on the various issues we have opportunities to grow on. Within this framework, let us ask what we can do for A.A. and not what A.A. can do for us.

One of the best ways we can encourage this super enthusiasm is to be passionate about these matters and show it is by **putting our whole heart into everything we do**. A favorite quote of mine gives us **the reason leaders, like us, should have passion** while using a favorite A.A. slogan:

**LET'S START WITH FIRST THINGS FIRST: *PASSION*. BECAUSE WITHOUT THAT, NOTHING ELSE I'M GOING TO TELL YOU IS GOING TO BE WORTH A DAMN... BECAUSE THE FACT IS YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO LEAD OTHERS EFFECTIVELY UNLESS YOU PUT YOUR WHOLE HEART INTO WHAT YOU ARE DOING. -Bo Schembechler.**

We also want to remind everyone about Dr. Bob's last talk at the First International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Cleveland, Ohio in 1950. At the time, Dr. Bob was dying of cancer. However, he took the time to remind us to keep it simple and to try and be all about love and service:

**ONE IS THE SIMPLICITY OF OUR PROGRAM. LET'S NOT LOUSE IT UP WITH ... THINGS THAT ... HAVE VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH OUR ACTUAL A.A. WORK. OUR TWELVE STEPS WHEN SIMMERED DOWN TO THE LAST, RESOLVE THEMSELVES INTO THE WORDS 'LOVE' AND 'SERVICE.' WE UNDERSTAND WHAT LOVE IS AND WE UNDERSTAND WHAT SERVICE IS.**

In honor of Dr. Bob and Bill, let's try to have and show heartfelt passion, let's keep it simple, and also let's be all about love and service in everything we do in Alcoholics Anonymous, General Service, Area 15, our Districts, and our lives these next two years.

This new Chapter of our wonderful and fascinating adventure is rapidly taking shape as our train is rocketing out of the station. Let's hit the ground running as we head for new and great spiritual frontiers while we trudge this Road of Happy Destiny together.

Once again, I want to thank you all for the privilege of serving you folks as your Delegate. If I can be of any further service to any of you, please let me know. May God bless you and keep you forever. Thank you.

In Grateful Willingness, Love and Service,

Don F.,  
Delegate, Panel 63, Area 15 – South Florida,  
The Bahamas, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands,  
St. Maarten, Antigua, and The Cayman Islands