

DELEGATE REPORT - AREA 15

April 4, 2014

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 alcoholico. 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 you folks and at the General Service Conference for this second year. I will continue to put my whole heart and passion into everything I do for the Area and Alcoholics Anonymous. We want to encourage every member of our team, Panel 63, to be full of enthusiasm and willingness in furthering our moving and fascinating adventure.

First, I want to thank District Two for hosting a great Quarterly Assembly with lots of fun and spirit. We have over 700 folks registered for this Quarterly. We want to thank our hard working volunteers who deserve our appreciation. Let's give them a round of applause. We also want to thank our speakers for great talks. The Hospitality Room has been great and we want to thank all of those groups who served and helped everyone out. The Volume II, Second Printing of The Willing Times, a two page summary of my report, is available up front here and on the tables.

Second, I was invited to the Cayman Islands to help them with their spirit and enthusiasm become even more willing than it already is. I had the privilege of sharing my General Service Conference Report and my story at four different meetings and met a number of very active service folks. We were able to review a number of the opportunities to grow in the Caymans and I was able to make some suggestions to help them carry the message even better.

Third, I had the opportunity to conduct a Group Inventory with the Big Pine Key Group which went very well. I want to thank Gina, Victor, Jo and everyone else for allowing me to share and help in this great spiritual growth experience. I also want to thank Joanie and all of the folks in District 12 for inviting me down to give my Conference Report and my story while attending two different meetings with our friends in the Upper Keys at the Islamorada Group.

Graham and I attended the Delegate's Get-Together in Atlanta where there was continuing discussion about the Southeastern Conference and SSAASA and what the future of each should be. We met the new Panel 64 Delegates from the Southeast Region and heard the Area Highlights from those folks.

Also, we had a huge success with the First Florida Alcoholics Anonymous Workshop February 14 and February 15. It was hosted by our own Archives Chair, Karla, and Area 14 and their Archives Chair. The GSO Archivist, Michelle and the former Akron Intergroup Archives Chair, and current Board of Trustee Member of Dr. Bob's House, Gail L., presented three different talks, and our District Six Chair, Carol H., did a great job doing an Old-Timer Interview

with our current Southeast Regional Trustee, Chet P. I also did a talk on Copyright, including the pictures of the last house Dr. Bob lived in at the University of Michigan with the “Parrothead Party Headquarters” banner strung along the back porch.

I am also preparing for the 64th General Service Conference coming up in three weeks. This year our theme will be “Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World.” I need to make an amends to the Area for the mistake I made. Somehow, while we sent out 42 letters and 25 boxes in two days, the copy of the Background Materials was printed without the page numbers on them. I am sorry for making that mistake. Fortunately, I discovered it the day after we sent everything out and I sent an e-mail to the District and Committee Chairs asking them to number their pages before they distributed them to their committees and members. Once again, I apologize for that mistake. We also prepared this sheet with the first page numbers for each Section to make it easier to number the pages.

I was elected to serve as the Alternate Chairperson for the Trustee’s Committee. I have also been asked to open the GSC Session on Monday, April 28, at 1 PM. I was also selected to be the Moderator for the 2014 Inventory Group C. I look forward to these opportunities to lead our fellow Delegates and to carry this message at the conference.

I have set up numerous dates to give the General Service Conference Reports to the Districts upon my return from the Conference. If we have not set a date for the report to your District, please see me as soon as possible so we can to set up a date for your District.

The 75th Anniversary Big Book is about to go on sale for the low price of \$12. Our good friend Michelle, the GSO Archivist, tells us the pre-order books will ship any day now and they hope to have all of the pre-orders shipped by April 15, 2014. The actual publication date of the First Edition Big Book was April 10, 2014.

The February GSO Board Meeting Minutes and the A.A.W.S. March Meeting Highlights reviewed the current financial figures, and AAWS had gross sales of 2.1 million through the end of February. They also have received more than 100,000 preorders for the 75th Anniversary Big Book. The General Service Board is doing a self-assessment and strategic planning sessions with two working groups focusing on four questions:

1. What is the mission of the GSB?;
2. Who should the GSB provide services to?;
3. What is valued or needed by those we serve?; and
4. What are the results of the GSB?

The two working groups will continue their work on these four questions and then consider the fifth question – What is our Plan?

To the end of the year, literature sales generated \$12.8 million in gross sales, with the bulk order site bringing in \$5.1 million itself, together with another \$182,587 for personal sales. Digital sales are increasing with Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Apple iTunes stores with the Big Book and 12 + 12. December was also the highest month ever for group contributions, totaling

\$850,000, leaving contributions 3% over budget and 5.2% over 2012. The Grapevine subscriptions were down to 77,126 for last year, down 6,132 from last year, while eGrapevine subscriptions totaled 5,175 for the year. LaVina circulation had 10,145 subscriptions, with a yearend loss of \$142,544, \$15,490 more than budgeted.

The new Box 459 Spring Issue has great stories on the 2015 International in Atlanta, Vancouver being selected as the 2025 host of the International Convention, A Walk Through G.S.O.'s Archives, Behind the Walls in Area 81, Carrying the Message One Alcoholic At a Time, and articles about Special Needs and new E-Books from AAWS. Box 459 is now available on the aa.org website for free.

2014 CHALLENGES

Now, the question you have all been waiting for:

ARE YOU WILLING?

I just have a short motivational theme for you guys today. Bo Schembechler, the famous Michigan coach, discussed the way he motivated his teams. He gives us several things to help us continue to carry this message and be good examples of A.A. First, he said that "Early Is On Time and On Time Is Late." He also gives us three other important suggestions:

1. "Respect Your History;"
2. "Do the Right Thing – Always;" and
3. "Listen Before You Lead."

These are great guidance suggestions since we need to respect our history, including the Traditions, the way this beautiful program developed through many mini-spiritual experiences, and the numerous lives it has saved. We also should always try to do the right thing and if we make a mistake, we admit and make amends. Third, we need to listen to our members and each other and then lead our folks based on what is best for A.A.

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