

South Florida Area 15

Delegate's Report October 25, 2009

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.

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

Thank you District 3 for a wonderful Quarterly. Carey, Andrew: you and your committee have done a wonderful job, particularly after tragically losing a trusted servant, David S. (*applause*). We will all keep David and his family in our prayers. Thank you for all your hard work.

I would like to thank Pat for a great talk Friday night. Thank you for your example of humility.

Annie, thank you for a great talk last night. You are my greatest teacher.

Both speakers are a fine example of sobriety in action.

First, I want to welcome all the new GSR's. 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.

Well, it has been a busy quarter. I started this quarter with 14 Delegate Reports behind me with one to go. I will be giving a report to District 14, the U.S. & British Virgin Islands next weekend. I am happy to report that the Promises in Paradise Convention has offered to give the District and me a 1 ½ hour time slot for the Delegates Report vs. the usual 15 minutes. Attendance at this conference to give a Delegates Report could be construed as a hardship, but someone has to do it, so I will be in attendance. I am bringing the Area Registrar, but I could always use additional help with my baggage. Any takers?

The quarter started with our July Quarterly and then attendance at the 53rd FL State Convention in Jacksonville. The accommodations were superb, South Florida was extremely well represented and a wonderful time was had by all. Chet P., the North Florida, Area 14 Delegate and I did a workshop on "Who Runs A.A." All of the workshops were taped. I got a kick out of the CD label. It said, "53rd FL State Convention, "Who Runs A.A.", Ken C. and Chet P..

For your information, Kathy, Joni and I had lunch with Liz W. and several other A.A. members from the Cayman Islands while at the FL State Convention. I have been in communication with Liz for several months with regard to the Cayman Islands request to join the South Florida Area from the International Conference. Needless to say, there have been many questions including the necessity of a District structure and their ability to send a representative to our assemblies on a quarterly basis. Should the body approve the Cayman Islands request, I will notify the General Service Office and the groups in the Cayman Islands will become part of the South Florida Area.

The next outing was the following week. I attended the 65th Southeastern Conference in Mobile Alabama. The accommodations were excellent and the fellowship was awesome. The Delegates and Trustees gave inspiring workshops on various topics. North and South Florida were well represented in Area 1, the part of FL we seem to forget about. Area 1 is Alabama and Northwest FL.

I was impressed with the number of volunteers staffing the registration table for the 54th FL State Convention and 66th Southeastern Conference to be held in Miami next August. Both conventions had a number of volunteers. It was always nice to come around the corner and see all my peers from home at the registration table conversing with new registrants.

I'm going to let Joni tell you about the FL State Convention next year. I can tell you that the Southeastern Conference will be a ball. Beth & Kathy are chairing the Southeastern Conference Committee. Traditionally the sitting delegate chairs the Southeastern Conference, however, due to the workload, Beth and Kathy offered. They will be doing all the heavy work, I'll provide input and be the voice of the Southeastern Conference. The 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? 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.

I was the guest of North Florida Area 14 a few weeks ago. What an exciting weekend. I had the opportunity to meet all of the officers and many of those in attendance, visit the various workshops, facilitate an area inventory and speak on Saturday evening. I really had a blast. The inventory was informative and productive. I was wondering if maybe the South Florida Area would consider asking the North Florida Delegate to conduct a similar inventory? I think that might take a motion, but food for thought. Your area chair and registrar were in attendance also. Kathy was manning the FL State Convention table and Annie assisted the North FL Registrar in the use of FNV. We learned that

North Florida Officers are asked to participate in district workshops and travel allowance is budgeted from the area level. What an effective use of area leaders and funds that some Districts may not have.

The *Delegates 59th General Service Conference Report, Conference Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and Recommendations not resulting in Conference Advisory Actions* are posted on the area website at www.area15aa.org. Most of the reports are posted in English, French & Spanish. The *59th General Service Conference Report* was delivered to your District Chairs yesterday - 764 in English, 146 in Spanish & 20 in French. Please see your District Chair to get your copy. I'm fairly certain this was the most exciting Conference ever, so read that report from cover to cover. Seriously, I am certain that there is something of interest to every member of Alcoholics Anonymous, so take a look and "pass it on".

As you know, the S.E. Region Delegates have had discussion and proposed a regional service conference to be called SERSA or South East Regional Service Assembly. The Southeast Region has voted in favor of this event at the Southeastern Conference. Our S.E. Regional Trustee has appointed an ad-hoc committee in order to be certain this event will be supported appropriately. The committee will develop specific written guidelines for the planning and implementation of this event. Joni may have more on this exciting event.

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 Southeastern Region arrives at a group conscience if and when that is necessary.

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. 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.

A.A.W.S. Highlights: The Kindle project which encompassed the Big Book in electronic format on the Amazon website has been terminated.

For your information, Valerie O. has been appointed Publications Director effective August 17, 2009.

The General Service Office has hired two new staff members from a pool of over 100 applicants. Mary C. will be manning the C.P.C. desk and Jim M. will be at the Corrections desk.

On September 15, employees gathered together for the GSO Employee Meeting to hear department and management reports and to receive an update on the status of salary increases which remain on hold.

The lease-required construction work including expansion of the Archives and an employee break room are underway and due to be completed shortly.

Our “Contributions Online” project is on schedule with final testing and revisions to our “going live” date at the end of April 2010.

The trustees’ P.I. Committee is currently accepting resumes for a non-trustee Appointed Committee Member (ACM) position. The deadline is December 30, 2009. Please see me if you would like an application.

At the request of the trustees’ Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities, a letter was sent to all General Service Conference Members and Special Needs Committee chairs in the U.S. and Canada requesting submission of stories from A.A. members with various special needs. This is the first step in a process begun by the 2009 General Service Conference Advisory Action “that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members be developed and that stories be solicited from members with various special needs, for example, members who are deaf, blind, wheel-chair bound, etc.” Anyone who knows of such members is encouraged to let them know of this project and, if necessary, help them submit their stories.

Don M. reported that through the month of August, Sales are \$252,500 over budget following the high sales in June before the price increase in July. Contributions are \$297,000 under budget noting that there were only two out of the reported eight months that contributions exceeded budget. In total, net revenue is under budget by \$44,500.

A.A For the Native North American, #P-21 is in print and can be ordered from GSO. *Hold up pamphlet* I think you will find this pamphlet extremely informative with a variety of stories sampling recovery from all over the U.S. and Canada.

The “Birthday Club”: *Hold up envelope* Please remember that Birthday Club envelopes are available for free from the General Service Office. Many members contribute \$1.00 for each year of sobriety; others give a penny per day. Some give more. Please remember that the annual contribution limit is \$3,000. Please see your DCM for more information. If they don’t have it, see me.

The “Green Card” on Self Support: This is #F-42 and is also available for free from GSO. *Hold up the card*

Eva S., Forums Coordinator has sent a letter asking that any area in the Southeast Region interested in holding an Additional Regional Forum in 2013 submit a bid including information on the proposed city and hotel and the goals for this Additional Regional Forum. An Additional Regional Forum may be used to supplement the regular Regional Forum rotation schedule or to address concerns of geography, language or culture.

We are in the rotation for a Regional Forum in 2012, however, we may wish to consider an Additional Regional Forum for the Spanish, Native American or Special Needs Communities, or possibly we should consider an Additional Regional Forum in the Bahamas, Virgin Islands or even the Cayman Islands should they join Area 15.

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