

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

First, I want to thank each of you for the trust you have placed in me. I am very humbled, but proud to represent Area 15 to the General Service Conference. I want each of you, particularly the new GSR or Alternate, to please feel free to call me, or stop me in the hall - at any time. Please, always remember that I serve you. If I appear busy, talk to me anyway. I might ask if I can get back to you at another time, but I will.

Thank you District 4 for a wonderful Quarterly. Scott, Susan & Rafael: you and your committee have done a wonderful job. Thank you. It is always wonderful to be back at the Hyatt. I would like to thank Simone for a wonderful & spiritual talk Friday night. Gayle, thank you for a great talk last night and thank you for your honesty. It has been a pleasure to get to know you and your husband. I'm looking forward to working with you and all of the staff at GSO.

I want to congratulate each of our new area officers and standing committee officers. And thank you to each of the area officers for all their support during the last few weeks.

If you're not aware – excitement is in the air – it happens every 2 years with rotation, but I have never felt the level of excitement of this panel. I am quite certain that this will be an extraordinary panel and that we will put many new and exciting ideas into action.

I really need to say thank you to my alternate, Joni E. for all her assistance and to Steve P. & Beth D., Past Delegates, for being a sounding board during the last few weeks. My Delegate "Communications Kit" arrived the day after Christmas and yes, there is a lot of information to process.

For your information, I have been assigned to the Conference Committee on C.P.C., Cooperation with the Professional Community. It is too early to tell if this committee will have a comprehensive agenda, but I am excited. I have come to realize that this committee probably had more to do with my recovery than any other – I had always thought it was the Corrections Committee, but then there was the Psychologist, the Psychiatrist, the Probation Officers, the Judge, the Prison Guards, the Treatment Facility Staff and Councilors. The list goes on, so as usual, I'm right where I'm supposed to be.

Area 15 was well represented at the S.E. Regional Forum in Knoxville, TN last November. All of your officers were present, as well as many members of our Area. Many of us arrived a day early and enjoyed the city, particularly the eateries, and how could I forget – the Zoo. It was about 17 degrees that morning and then it snowed. Needless to say, we were all frozen! Our native Floridian – "Mr. Treasurer" – was quite a sight. I'm sure he'll share a picture or two if you ask. At any rate, the forum was a tremendous success, informative, and gave each of your officer's a chance to bond with each other, as well as meet many of our dedicated staff from our General Service Office. There were several Class A & B Trustees present, as well as the rotating

Chairman of the Board, Leonard B. and retiring General Manager, Greg M. Although they are absent, I think we should give them a round of applause for their dedication and service to our fellowship. We all met Phyllis H, our new General Manager at GSO. I was extremely impressed and I'm certain you will be too. If all goes well, Phyllis will be our guest next year. Again, if you have not had the opportunity to attend a Regional Forum, try to attend, I promise you, you will not be disappointed. Our next S.E. Regional Forum will be held in Myrtle Beach, S.C., December 10-12, 2010.

The theme for the 59th General Service Conference is "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action". Please keep this theme in mind when planning your events over the next year.

As you know, the 2009 Preliminary Conference Agenda has been distributed to all your District Chairs, Area Officers and Standing Committee Chairs. The District Chairs will distribute the agenda to the DCM's and District Standing Committee Chairs. The DCM's will then distribute to their GSR's for their groups discussion and ultimately their group conscience.

The 2009 Final Conference Agenda will be sent to all 93 Delegates in the U.S. and Canada approximately the 2nd week in February. At that time, I will send all District Chairs, Area Officers and Area Standing Committee Chairs the Final Conference Agenda along with the supporting background material. In turn, the distribution process will repeat itself.

The background material may come printed or by CD to the District Chairperson. PLEASE – remember that the background material is not anonymity protected and is not to be electronically copied and/or forwarded to any one, at any time. This means that the background material should not be sent via email, website or CD. The only electronic copies authorized will be from the General Service Office or the Delegate. I trust that this won't be a problem, but I would be remiss if I did not inform you.

Area Standing Committee's will present their committee's background at the April Quarterly. Other presentations, Agenda, Policy/Admissions, Report & Charter, Trustees & International Conventions/Regional Forums will be presented by your Area Officers along with the Standing Committees. You will have three opportunities to discuss the background material at the April Quarterly. They are as follows: Conference Agenda Review Meeting, Saturday from 4:00 – 6:00 PM, the Conference Agenda Review Meeting, Saturday evening from 10:00 PM until we are done, and the final discussion at the Area Assembly on Sunday afternoon following the business meeting.

The Final Agenda will contain items for discussion, review and/or consideration. Discuss or Review will not require lengthy comment on the background but Considerations will. We will follow the order of the Final Agenda. DCM's & GSR's – this may be your most important responsibility; to inform the Delegate of your group's conscience. I hope that all Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, DCM's and GSR's will be present at all 3 meetings. Remember, if we get all the information discussed and questions answered on Saturday, the Sunday meeting will go quickly and efficiently. I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation in advance.

After the Conference which ends May 2, 2009, I will be visiting every District that I am invited 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 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. I have discussed all of this information with your District Chair at the Chairpersons Meeting yesterday. They will invite me at the appropriate time if your District would like.

Okay, a few items from GSO. First, I mentioned this at our last Quarterly, A.A. Archives CD / History of Service #M-72, a double CD with talks from Bill W. and several Early timers about the writing of the Big Book, 12 Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, coming of age and Bill's last talk in Miami. Again, I think this double CD set should be a companion to the Service Manual, all for \$10.00, with shipping \$11.00.

Well, if that's not enough, how about this – "Digital Delivery". Go to www.aa.org. Click on "A.A. Periodicals - Digital Subscriptions". Register by filling in your email address and a password. Your first name and last initial is optional. You will receive an electronic version of: About A.A., Box 4-5-9, Markings & Sharing Behind the Walls – hot off the press.

I'm not done with technology, if your group is not hi-tech yet, hopefully at least one member is. We are working towards every group having an email address. The cost savings to our office is phenomenal and the speed we can exchange information is even greater. So let's get on board – I'm sure we can lead the U.S and Canada by example. Please see your District or Area Registrar for more information.

Last, but not least, I have presented a challenge to your District Chairs and now to you. If you were to ask me how I got here, became your Delegate. I would tell you that it started with a Service Sponsor – someone to guide me through the maize of what we call General Service. As a new GSR, I attended monthly meetings with my DCM. When I became a DCM, my Alternate and I had a monthly "Pizza Party" with the GSR's. Tom was great, he even made up an invitation. We had fun and we learned.

I was encouraged by my Service Sponsor to have one job, do it well for 2 years and then rotate to the next position. 20 years later and I have the privilege of serving as your Delegate. I am no different than anyone here. We just do our best, rotate and move on... Thank you again for the trust you have placed in me...

So, here is my challenge:

- Service Sponsorship – that all Trusted Servants have a Service Sponsor.
- DCM Meetings with GSR's – let's encourage monthly meetings.
- Spirit of Rotation – let's encourage this principle and hold an occasional Workshop to share our experience.
- Most of all – Let's have fun!

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