

Good Morning Area 15

My name is Joni E and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is Feb 8, 1987 and I am a member of the All Ages Group in District 1.

I loved hearing Phyllis and Gary this weekend and of course I am always happy being here in District 8, you have done a fine job as usual. Thank you to Cathy, Kim and Donna & Lisa and the ready squad especially for their help. I thank Ken for the phone message at 1 minute after midnight New Years Day, reminding me that rotation had occurred. I very much appreciate the efforts Ken made in helping me be ready for this position thru the last 2 years as his Alternate. . Ok looks like you are really going to let me do this Delegate thing. So lets get into it.

I participated in my first Conference call with our SE Regional Trustee El N. when she reviewed the 3rd Quarter Trustees committee report.

El reported the exciting events taking place in our fellowship. A lot of this new effort is in the digital area. So many of our members rely on computers, social networking, kindles, nooks, blackberries, I~ phones and all the rest in this age of paperless living so; A new Intellectual Properties Team has been formed to develop methods to maintain our Traditions in this new media. Any requests for use of; or problems with copy write protected material, now goes to this team. The e~Tech team at GSO has been given a lot of work to do and have been asked to submit their proposals for moving into e~ publishing that so many have requested. The survey that 174 of you participated in recently will help make those decisions. As we know the wheels of AA roll slowly and we need to be just as careful now, if not more so, to insure that what ever we do in the name of AA is carefully done and is respectful of the conscious of our fellowship, rather than in response to outside influences. Moving in that direction: We now have öMarkingsö an online only newsletter from the Archives with an e~subscriber list of over 6000. You can subscribe electronically to öBox 4-5-9ö, öAbout AAö, or öMarkingsö and have each issue delivered to you via email. The service is free and is intended for the use of A.A. members and friends of Alcoholics Anonymous

As we keep hearing, we have a Troubled GV, the financial losses are expected each year, but they keep growing and money is repeatedly being taken from the reserve fund to make up these losses. We hope that Ami B. the new Executive Editor/Publisher, will be able address this and make the decisions that will allow our öMeeting in Printö to go forward in a healthier manner. Ami was selected from among 120 applicants and has amazingly impressive credentials. Along with hiring a new CEO: actions are being taken and changes made.

The Chair of the Finance Committee has assigned an ad hoc committee to oversee the development of a cash flow statement from the GV with projections month-by-month for 3 years in order to monitor projected cash balances, oversee remedial activities, and bring an end to negative cash balances and consequent Reserve Fund draw-downs as soon as possible. The Grapevine has changed fulfillment houses. This action should result in approximately \$100,000 savings next year. Other savings have come from moving the Planning meetings out of New York City. The gatefold in the GV magazine has been eliminated and a specific circulation initiative has been postponed. Some money was saved in Editorial salaries this year. Expenses not in the budget however included fees for the consultant and a severance agreement for the previous CEO Robin B. who resigned with our grateful thanks for her efforts on your behalf. Thank you for the great participation with the GV survey this past year; 8,000 surveys were received and processed by 2 Delegates and a team of data entry volunteers. This 43 page long report was forwarded to the Conference as was requested last year. 62 Areas responded including over 100 in Spanish with 1016 English and 14 Spanish coming from Area 15. This was a huge effort which will assist the new GV CEO, the editorial staff and the Trustees' committee, making the changes needed with your Group Conscious in hand I placed copies of the new pricing for the GV on your tables; please share this information with your groups. We now have 4 methods of getting the GV. The ever improving print copy, the Audio version and the new Digital subscription and the Digital Archives. There is currently a special package price to encourage subscriptions. At the regional Forum we heard many ideas shared on what groups can do to help, I love our District 4 group that has Purple cans collecting dollars, and raffling a GV subscription for every \$27 collected. NFL Area 14 does this with a raffle each quarter, they had 14 subscriptions raffled in October. Let's get creative and see what we can do to help.

AAWS report for the 3rd quarter of 2010: Total distribution of all books through Sept. was down 29% from last year at the same time. Gross profit from literature sales was about \$15,000 less than last year. Some of this was due to large orders placed to get ahead of the price increase and the hope is that this will even out now.

Contributions were 3.2% greater than last year

Resulting total revenue (gross profit from literature, contributions and interest earned) was \$10,566,500 which is 3.9% less than last year at that time. After deducting all operating expenses, AAWS has a profit of \$917,000 compared to \$1,026,000 last year at this time.

GSO/AAWS saved over 1/2 million dollars by cutting costs almost across-the board in first nine months of 2010.

The Reserve Fund had a balance of \$12,065,500 which represents 9 1/2 months of combined operating expenses.

AAWS and the full Board voted to schedule the GSC in Rye, NY in 2012 as a cost-saving measure. This would be a savings of \$160,000 by going to Rye rather than the Crown Plaza in NY. The expenses for each delegate for conference week, is about \$5800 We currently send the minimum requested amount of \$1200. There are some areas that send the whole \$5800 and about 25 areas that send between \$4500-\$5800. I asked the Finance committee to look at this going forward for us.

The final report shows a \$858,910 profit on the Int'l in San Antonio. Given the state of the economy at planning time, the best-guess projection of attendance was 41,000 as a break-even figure. No one could have imagined that 53,000 people would show up. While the plan of the Int'l is to break-even, it is a welcome profit in light of general finances. At the end of the year the auditor reviewed the cash on hand and transferred any excess over the working capital to the Reserve Fund.

Locally, Ken has kept me involved in the recent complicated matters of attempts to register groups with other affiliations. This is an on going situation and I wish I could say it was resolved easily but it is difficult to ensure our primary purpose when people with good motives attempt to affiliate us with others.

We had great cooperation from the Martin Co. Intergroup Website where anonymity was being broken; they reviewed our requests and made the changes suggested immediately.

Ken forwarded on behalf of our PI/CPC committees, a request for a change in the wording of ðA.A. At A Glanceö, adding ðor how to find AA Meetings on the home page of our website www.aa.org. “ as many people don't even know what a telephone directory is anymore. I received a request from a District 1 member, requesting the Trustees Literature Committee: *To consider publishing a pamphlet outlining anonymity at the level of internet and social networks*. I passed this on to our Literature committee and it was sent to the Trustees Literature committee. The cut off date for requests this year is Jan. 15th and any member, group, District or Area may make a request to be considered by the conference committee for inclusion in the agenda.

I tried to stop in at every committee yesterday, both to introduce our GM and to make sure they know how to find me if they need me. I handed out forms to each District Chair asking 2 things, 1: how many copies of the final report will be needed and 2: when do I get invited to visit you and give my report this year. The conference is the 1st week in May. I will make sure my reports are posted on the Area website with full financial reports as soon as possible

We attended the Regional Forum and I sat in on a planning meeting for the next SE Regional which will be held here in Boca, in fact in this very hotel November 9-11, 2012. I hope you can all attend this event; it was a chance to meet several of our GSO employees, and some Trustees both past and present Class A & B.

So many questions were asked and answered, so much material handed out and great workshops, it is a definite plus for any one interested in service, and a way to find out who "THEY" really are .. I expect we will pack the house.

You have copies of the Preliminary Agenda to review and in February, I will be sending the Back ground materials for the 61st GSC to your District Chairs, Area Officers and Area Committee chairs, please respect the request of GSO that this material NOT be transmitted electronically. That means no websites, no emails, noí you get the ideaí í this material is NOT scrubbed and contains the names address and contact information for some members providing background or submitting requests. I will mail CDs to each Area Officer, Area Committee Chair and each District Chair, as soon as I get them copied. I also will mail to each of those same people, a copy of the printed materials on request. In April we will have a long day on Sunday, as it is the day to review the conference materials. I will contact each person invited to present a section of material, and I am going to ask each District to take a closer look at the Report & Charter section as that is the committee I have been assigned to for the 61-62nd conferences. We will concentrate on items to be considered which indicates to be voted on, not on those being reviewed or discussed. This will help make the process go as quickly as possible with all having a chance to give me their input.

The theme of this years conference is: "We are responsible for AA's future! Let it begin with us" Tommy D a Panel 16 Delegate, reminded me that this is the message behind the Responsibility Statement we repeat so often. She was present when this statement was adopted in 1955. The writer of that statement was stressing the need for the financial support of all of our Service entities. Do we think about the message in that statement? I am responsible for the health and well being of AA. So that when any one needs AA I want THIS AA always to be there, so that makes ME responsible to do what it takes to make sure it is there for the future newcomer.

Thank you for the enormous privilege of being at the bottom of your Area service Triangle. I hope to serve you well.

With Love in service Joni E Delegate Area 15 Panel 61