

**South Florida Area 15
Delegate's Report
April 5, 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 5 for a wonderful Quarterly. Henry, Cub & Chris: 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 Claire for a great talk Friday night. Graham, thank you for a great talk last night.

I have some sad news. John S, General Service Trustee, Director AAWS, passed away unexpectedly this week. Although I did not know John personally, I understand his dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous was deep rooted in principle and his service was inspiring. Please keep John, his family and friends in your prayers.

I want to thank each of you for your support over the last quarter. I want to welcome all the new GSR's. How many of you are here for your very first assembly? If you are new and really enjoying this weekend, my guess is that you're hooked on service. 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.

Speaking of Service Sponsors, who has a Service Sponsor?

Who is looking for a Service Sponsor?

Who is willing to be a Service Sponsor?

My first responsibility last quarter was to attend the Southeastern Delegates Get-Together in Atlanta, Georgia. I was joined by Joni E, your Alt. Delegate and several of the past delegates from the South Florida Area. The purpose of this gathering is mainly to prepare the incoming delegates from the Southeast Region for the Conference in April.

Valerie O. was our guest from the General Service Office. Valerie gave a wonderful talk on Saturday night and fielded many questions from the 69 delegates, alternates, past delegates and trustee's past & present. We also had the opportunity to hear a wonderful presentation on the Concepts from the experience of a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee and the immediate Past Treasurer from AAWS, Vince K.

The S.E. Region Delegates have had discussion and are proposing a regional service conference to be called something similar to SERAASA or South East Regional A.A. Service Assembly. Many areas have already voted to support this event and I anticipate that the South Florida Area will join the enthusiastic support. Joni will have more on this exciting event.

The Southeast Region seems to do a superb job preparing the 13 Delegates for Conference. For your information, I think that South Florida is one of the most informed areas in the region, and I suspect that we may be one of the most informed areas in the U.S. and Canada. I think this

weekend is a testament to our hard work and dedication to our fellowship.

At the Delegates Get-Together, I had the opportunity to practice reading my Area Service Highlights. For those who may not know, I will have the opportunity to tell the Conference about the South Florida Area. I believe this will happen on Wednesday afternoon. I have two minutes after I say my name. Would you like to hear what I have to say? Remember... two minutes after my name.

*** HIGHLIGHTS ***

Okay, that was fun!

As you know, at Conference, I will be presenting our candidate for the position of S.E. Regional Trustee, Beth D., to the S.E. Region. I will also be presenting our candidate for the position of Trustee-at-Large/U.S., Sal B. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our candidates for offering their service. Good luck and Godspeed.

The Conference preparation has been quite an experience. I am going to apply for Postmaster General after completing my term as Delegate. For those who may not be aware, 44 sets of background material were prepared. We printed 918 pages, 32 pages, 9 pages and 3 pages! We prepared a CD and mailed 40 sets – 3 times! The Vero Beach Post Office opened an hour early to take our mailing! Yes, it became a comedy of errors, but we were able to have the background in your hands in record time.

I must thank my helpers. That starts with the Past Delegates who offered much experience, a little strength and quite a bit of hope! Next is your Alternate Delegate. She was there every step of the way, and I know if I fell short, she would be right there. Your Treasurer coordinated pagination and offered many timely suggestions. Your Finance Chair prepared 45 CD's. I will be taking the CD to New York as an example. It is 10 times better than the one I received from GSO. Last, but not least, is your Registrar. For those that may not realize, we have been spending quite a bit of time together! She helped me with price quotes, postage costs, going to the printer, labeling, packaging, creating a display cover and the index. The most important thing that all of my helpers did was to share the enjoyment of this incredible spiritual process. Thank you for all your love and dedication.

Now, all of you. You came prepared. You read the background, studied, read some more, asked questions, read some more. You attended the sharing sessions, participated, asked questions, raised concerns and offered solutions. I am very proud of your efforts. We'll do it again this afternoon. And I thank you in advance for sticking around and being a small part of such a great whole. I am certain that Alcoholics Anonymous is alive and well in Area 15... and I'm excited to bring your conscience to the Conference.

I must say that you have prepared me well. Each position, each, committee, each responsibility you have taught me, has prepared me for this weekend and ultimately – the Conference. I want to thank each of you for your interest, your dedication, your passion and your enthusiasm. You deserve a hand.

After the Conference which ends May 2, 2009, I will be visiting every District 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 of the U.S and Canada, 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. For your information, I have posted the Delegates Report schedule on our website. The area website is at www.area15aa.org.

As you may be aware, South Florida is now in the rotation for the S.E. Regional Forum in 2012. For everyone's information, in the S.E. Region, typically a committee or committees from the area having a Regional Forum prepare a bid or bids for the Regional Forum. This is done in cooperation with the Forums Coordinator and the Forum Guidelines from GSO. Ultimately, the General Service Office signs the contract and assumes the financial responsibility, the Area provides hospitality. The Delegate presents the bid, or bids to the S.E. Region at the Conference in New York. With your approval, I will present the bid for the S.E. Regional Forum in 2012. Adrienne M. and Annie C. have worked for several months with various hotels and have presented a superb bid. Here is the basic information.... *** Bid *** There was no disapproval and overwhelming enthusiastic support.

I am in receipt of the February Quarterly Report from GSO. I will share some 2008 financial highlights with you.

General Service Office

Net Literature Sales	12,429,952.00
Literature Costs	3,618,917.00
Shipping/Warehouse/Supplies	<u>1,862,685.00</u>
Gross Profit from Literature Sales	6,948,350.00
Gross Margin	55.9%
Contributions	6,437,409.00
Percent of Total Revenue	48.1%
Interest Income	5,758.00
Total Revenue	13,391,517.00
Salaries & Related Costs	(8,149,676.00)
Other Expenses	<u>(5,546,717.00)</u>
Income (Loss) for Period	(304,876.00)

Reserve Fund

Fund Balance	12,270,746.00
Number of Months	9.37
Pension Liability	<u>4,948,581.00</u>
Post Pension Liability Balance	7,322,165.00
Number of Months	5.59

Literature Sales

All books, 2008	2,113,574
All books, 2007	<u>2,105,628</u>
Increase	7,946
Big Books, 2008	1,111,906
Big Books, 2007	<u>1,127,310</u>
Decrease	(15,404)

A.A. Grapevine

Paid Circulation	104,993
Sales less cost of products	1,740,417
Interest earned – regular	-
Reserve Fund	<u>66,200</u>
Total Income	1,806,617
Expenses	<u>1,901,303</u>
Income (Loss) from operations	(94,686)
La Vina magazine	(76,264)
Net Income (Expense)	(170,950)

AAWS has approved literature price increases effective July 1, 2009. For your information, Alcoholics Anonymous, “The Big Book” will increase \$2.00 to a cost of \$8.00; most other publications will increase \$1.00. I am told the price increase will result in 1.1 million dollars in revenue for 2009 and 2 million dollars for 2010. A new Literature Catalogue will be out in early June.

The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. has announced price increases effective July 1st, 2009. The cover price of the Grapevine & La Vina will be \$2.50. 10 copies or more will be \$2.25. The Grapevine will have an annual subscription price of \$27.00, or 2 years for \$51.00. La Vina will have an annual subscription price of \$12.00, or 2 years for \$22.00. 50 Packs will be available in English or Spanish for \$55.00 plus shipping.

Have you tried “Digital Delivery” since our last Quarterly? 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.

As many of you know, Remote Communities is not part of the General Service Conference. I will attend the Remote Communities Meeting on Sunday morning which will take place before the start of Conference. Remote Communities are generally understood as “Any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture or geography”. Needless to say, the Virgin Islands & the Bahamas, District 14 & 16 respectively, fall into this category.

I was notified last Monday that the committee is asking Delegates to submit articles for “The Remote Communicator” newsletter to be distributed at the meeting. They are looking for articles on what we are doing in our Area in terms of this vital Twelfth Step work - what our challenges are, what our triumphs are and what we may have in place on an ongoing basis. Reports can be any length but are subject to editing. If you would like to write an article, please see me after this meeting. I will need your final copy by April 8, 2009.

I have posted on the Area 15 website information for the *2010 International Convention - Frequently Asked Questions - Registration, Hotels, Transportation, and Volunteering*. Historically, A.A. has invited non-A.A. friends to be panel speakers at our International Conventions. In keeping with this custom, the 2008 General Service Conference recommended that “up to twenty-one (21) non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2010 International Convention at A.A.’s expense. The committee is looking for speakers that would be very comfortable sharing their own professional experience in working with Alcoholics Anonymous. The committee hopes that the suggested speakers might be professionals who could also be considered for Class A Trustees. I have the Non-A.A. Speaker Suggestion Form. Just see me. The deadline for submission is Wednesday, May 15, 2009.

I would like to take a moment to talk about anonymity. I have received several calls concerning various Districts group emailing agendas and minutes containing full names. I do not encourage anonymity within these rooms, nor do I encourage using abbreviated names in our agendas and minutes. However, the internet is considered a public medium such as film, radio and TV. When emailing, particularly to a group of recipients, please respect others anonymity and scrub your content. Also, we need to be mindful of email addresses which contain full names. The area uses blind addresses.

I would ask that each of you become familiar with Internet Guidelines, #MG-18. You may find these guidelines on AA.org. If you have questions, I have distributed a copy of the Internet Guidelines to your District Chairperson & District Recording Secretary, please see them. Please feel free to call me or one of your Area Officers also, if you have further questions or concerns. In closing, I would like to mention you’re Area Officers. Not only have each of them offered countless ideas, support and time, but I have witnessed the time and diligent effort each of your officers commits to the South Florida Area. Can we give them a hand?

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

