

Delegate Message September 2016

Good morning. My name is Ernie and I am an alcoholic. First, let me thank Area 16 for the privilege of being allowed to represent you at Conference on Panel 66. Thank you all for welcoming our guest Amy C., Panel 65, Area 13, Washington D.C. Because of flight arrangements, she may have to leave before Assembly is over. Again, thank you Amy.

How many First Time Assembly Attendees do we have here with us this morning? Thank you all for coming and welcome to another adventure in service. Keep Coming Back!

As this is the last Assembly of 2016, I like to thank all who have attended our Cluster Forums this year. The Forum recently in Buford was of the largest in attendees we have had this year. I would also like to thank Rebecca T., our Area Chairperson for representing Area 16 at the ALAnon State Convention in Savannah that same weekend.

While I was at the General Conference in New York in April, I received news of the passing of a very dear friend of mine and Area 16's – Miss Betty B of Savannah, GA. Betty and I traveled many A.A. miles during our years of sobriety, and the emotional support I received from the Area while I was in New York will always be remembered. Thank you now, as I was not able to discuss it at the May Assembly.

AAWS Reports:

GSO/Grapevine Renovations Finalized. During the Relocation Project reconfiguration of the 11th floor to allow Grapevine to move to the 11th floor from the 12th floor. The Friday morning AA meeting previously suspended has now started up again & offering visiting A.A.s an opportunity to walk the hallways and learn more about their service office.

ARCHIVES – Proposal for a new A.A.W.S. book on Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks from 1951-1970

FINANCIAL – Net Revenues for the first 6 months are \$345,600 ahead of budget. Contributions are \$257,200 ahead of budget, and total operating expenses are \$609,600 less than budget. Net profit is \$305,900 compared with a budgeted loss of \$897,711. As of June 30, 2016, the Reserve Fund had a balance of \$14,892,700 which reflected the \$260,000 contribution from the Grapevine in 2016 and represents approximately 9.2 months of 2016 combined operating expenses budget.

PUBLISHING – Through June, gross sales were \$6,910,677 or \$354,069 ahead of budget. On-line sales make up 63.27% of all sales. Authority was given to GSO to move forward with a price reduction, to reduce inventory of the 75th Commemorative Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.

GRAPEVINE – Through June, print subscriptions are 72,494 which is only 124 less than last year. Total income of \$931,061 and a total cost and expenses is \$892,293 for a net profit of \$39,308. There is a new book due out in the fall: Our Twelve Traditions.

LA VINA: Total circulation of 10,429 compared to 10,310 last year. Total income was \$35,495 and total cost and expenses is \$116,399 for a short fall of \$80,904. This is approximately \$5,000 greater than budgeted and \$12,300 greater than last year.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE – Site selection for the 2017 & 2018 is currently Rye, N.Y., for financial savings. The committee received concern from several Delegates noting disappointment that

Panel 67 Delegates will not have the historical/spiritual experience of actually attending the Conference in New York City. It has asked the General Manager report to the committee in October on the financial implications of moving the site of the 2018 Conference from Rye to New York City.

INTERNATIONAL – Members of the GSO (normally the trustee-at-large) and/or GSO General Manager visit other AA service structures. Upcoming trips for the balance of the year are G.S.O. visit to Havana, Cuba, and the National Conference in Costa Rica.

NOMINATING – The committee selected 3 candidates for General Service Board Chair to be interviewed by the full board in October.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.) –The committee reviewed the Conference Committee's Additional Consideration for the trustees' committee to continue discussing the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." The chair appointed a subcommittee to continue discussion on the pamphlet, "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." The committee also requested that the subcommittee continue discussion on the development of service material providing information about A.A. to mental health care professionals. The committee discussed the 2016 Advisory Action that an introductory paragraph to professionals be added to the pamphlet. The committee reviewed draft language for the pamphlet, "Problems Other Than Alcohol" and **agreed to forward** to the 2017 General Service Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, a footnote to appear at the bottom of page one with the following text: *This pamphlet is derived from an article written by A.A. co-founder Bill W. in 1958. Therefore, some of the language may be dated, but the issues addressed are prevalent today.* The committee discussed the feasibility and potential implementation of an official *LinkedIn* page for C.P.C. Committees. The chair appointed a subcommittee to continue discussion on the feasibility of the creation of a *LinkedIn* C.P.C. presence.

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES - The committee asked staff to work with the Publishing Department to develop a checklist that groups can use to inventory its accessibility to all alcoholics. The committee agreed to retain "The A.A. Guidelines on Carrying the Message to the Deaf Alcoholic" in the Treatment Kit. The committee reviewed and accepted the draft revision of the "Accessibilities Workbook." The committee noted that changes to the term "special needs" will be revised to "accessibilities" where applicable. The inventory list of all A.A.W.S. materials that use the term "Special Needs" was reviewed. The committee asked staff to work with the Publishing Department on the revision of the pamphlets "A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs" and "Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs" for review at the October trustees' meeting. In addition, the committee asked staff to send a progress report on the removal of the term "Special Needs" from A.A.W.S. literature to Accessibility chairs. The committee agreed on the edit change to the name of the committee that will be revised to trustees' Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment and Accessibilities.

PUBLIC INFORMATION - In response to a 2016 Conference Committee on Public Information recommendation that resulted in an Advisory Action that, "I Have Hope" and "J'ai de l'espoir," be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, the committee reviewed a draft Request for a Proposal (RFP) and agreed to schedule the distribution for January 2017, following the Federal Elections in the U.S. The following subcommittees were formed: A subcommittee to oversee the development of a plan to implement a *Google-for-Non-Profits* account and the scope of services to be utilized and a subcommittee to oversee the development of a plan to implement a *Twitter* account for carrying the message of A.A. to the public.

CORRECTIONS - The committee discussed the importance of making the new corrections video "A New Freedom" available to wider audiences including corrections professionals, students of criminology and

sociology, and inmates in local jails since they may be most receptive to intervention early on. The committee considered the usefulness of shorter-length versions of "A New Freedom". The staff member will gather input from members and other viewers focusing on the length of the video and its most important elements. The committee received updates on the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) and discussed strategies for expanding C.C.S. in Canada and for attracting more male A.A. members to this service since a large number of inmates are currently waiting for correspondents.

Finally, Area 16's current contributions to GSO through June 2016. For the six months ending 06/30/2016 - \$ 72,368.80 - 47.44 % of 780 groups – 370 groups contributing to GSO. In 2015 we had 45.9% contributions. If any of the DCMs wish to look at their individual districts, I have copies with me. Please feel free to see me for them.

Our Treasurer will be giving a financial status update on Area 16 a little later. Our Budget Committee has recommended that we go back to 8 Cluster Forums in 2017 as finances seem to indicate that to be a possibility. That will be decided by the DCMs at the November planning meeting in Macon. I urge all the DCMs to share the proposed budget with their GSRs so the Area will have an informed Area Conscience in November.

Our Past Delegate, Rebecca T., will be giving us an update of the SSAASA scheduled in November of 2017. This service assembly will be a valuable tool to encourage service work. I strongly urge all to attend as it will be held here in Georgia.

Again, many thanks for allowing me to represent Area 16.

Finally, I would like to thank two of our outgoing Committee Chairpersons, John L., (Treatment/Special Needs) and Tim E. (Corrections) for their service to Area 16 during the four years as Co-Chair and then Chair of their respective committee. Also many thanks to our outgoing Secretary (Debi K.) and Treasurer (Diane M.). You both have served Area 16 above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to you all!

Questions????

Ernie M.

Delegate Area 16