

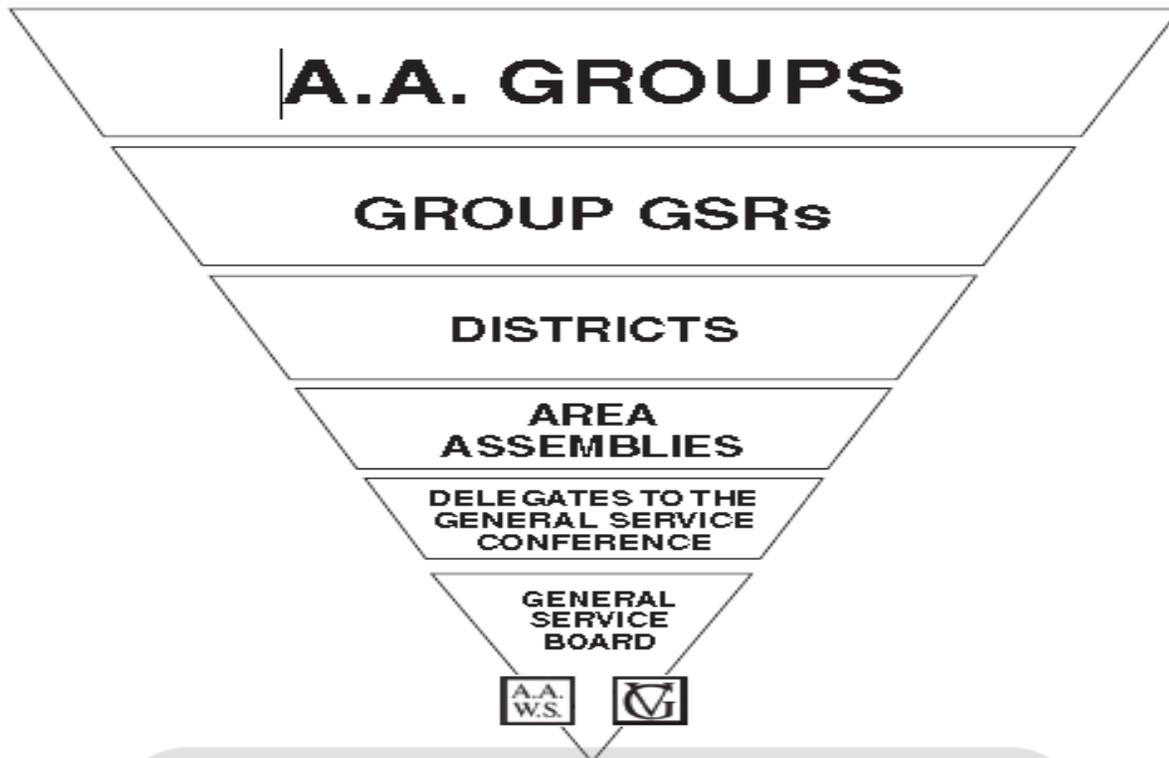
REBECCA – PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS YOUR DELEGATE ON PANEL 64

WHO IS HERE FOR THEIR FIRST ASSEMBLY?

I LOVE JANUARY ASSEMBLY WITH THE START OF A NEW YEAR, THE START OF NEW OFFICERS AND ESPECIALLY NEW GSR'S AND DCM'S. WE ARE EXCITED YOU ARE ALL HERE!

IN ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS THE ROLL OF THE GSR IS IMPORTANT TO CARRY THE VOICE OF THE FELLOWSHIP. ON THE SCREEN IS THE “STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE”.

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE (U.S. and Canada)



I CONTACTED GSO ARCHIVES TO OBTAIN SOME HISTORY OF THE INVERTED TRIANGLE. FROM GSO ARCHIVES, “RESEARCH SHOWS IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN OUR HISTORY, THE CONCEPT OF THE FELLOWSHIPS “UPSIDE DOWN,” STRUCTURE WAS FORGED EARLY. MANY YEARS LATER THE INVERTED TRIANGLE WAS CONSTRUCTED. ONE OF THE EARLIEST REPRESENTATIONS OF THE INVERTED TRIANGLE IS FOUND IN THE 1ST PRINTING OF THE 12 CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE ILLUSTRATED PAMPHLET IN 1986.”

I DO NOT KNOW OF ANOTHER ORGANIZATION WHERE THE GROUPS HAVE THE VOICE AND THEY ARE THE TOP OF OUR SERVICE STRUCTURE. JUST AS VITAL TO THE VOICE IS AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE.

AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE IS ARRIVED THROUGH A PROCESS. A QUOTE FROM DR. BOB, JULY 1944 FROM AN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED IN THE GRAPEVINE ON CULTIVATING TOLERANCE “TOLERANCE FURNISHES, AS A BY-PRODUCT, A GREATER FREEDOM FROM THE TENDENCY TO CLING TO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND STUBBORNLY ADHERED-TO OPINIONS. IN OTHER WORDS IT OFTEN PROMOTES AN OPEN-MINDEDNESS WHICH IS VASTLY IMPORTANT-IN FACT A PREREQUISITE TO THE SUCCESSFUL TERMINATION OF ANY LINE OF SEARCH, WHETHER IT BE SCIENTIFIC OR SPIRITUAL.”

ALSO, IN AN ARTICLE FROM LANGUAGE OF THE HEART – BILL W. STATES REGARDING TRADITION TWO IN JANUARY 1948 – “SOONER OR LATER, EVER AA COMES TO DEPEND UPON A POWER GREATER THAN HIMSELF. HE FINDS THAT THE GOD OF HIS UNDERSTANDING IS NOT ONLY A SOURCE OF STRENGTH BUT ALSO A SOURCE OF POSITIVE DIRECTION.”

THESE 2 QUOTES FROM OUR CO-FOUNDERS EXPRESS THE SPIRIT OF THE GROUP CONSCIENCE, OPEN MINDEDNESS AND POSITIVE DIRECTION.

WHEN I WAS NEW I HEARD THE OLD TIMERS TALKING ABOUT TRUST THE PROCESS AND TIME TAKES TIME. I CAN TELL YOU I WOULD GET FRUSTRATED AND WANT TO MAKE A DECISION AND MOVE ON. I HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS THE BEST WHICH THE GOD OF MY UNDERSTANDING WANTS FOR ME COMES IN HIS TIME. ALSO, LISTENING TO WHAT EVERYONE HAS TO SHARE IS HOW WE CAN COME TO INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE. WHAT OTHER FELLOWSHIP OR SOCIETY DO THE MEMBERS GET TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION? AND THE GROUPS VOTE?

SUBSEQUENTLY, I HAVE BEEN PART OF A HOME GROUP, SEVERAL COMMITTEES AND LIFE IN GENERAL WHERE THE PRINCIPLE OF OPEN MINDEDNESS WAS VITAL TO ACHIEVE THE VERY BEST FOR THE SITUATION. DOES THIS MEAN I AM A SAINT AND NEVER WANT MY WAY? OF COURSE NOT! I HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF TRUSTING THE PROCESS.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE LAST APRIL OUR 2 CORPORATE BOARDS AND THE TRUSTEES WENT TO WORK ON THE ADVISORY ACTIONS AND THE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.

I RECEIVED HIGHLIGHTS FROM A.A.W.S. FROM THE BOARD WEEKEND IN OCTOBER & DECEMBER.

***GENERAL MANAGER PHYLLIS H., REPORTED THAT 61 DELEGATES REPRESENTING 41 COUNTRIES AND ZONES TRAVELED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE AT THE 23RD WORLD SERVICE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 12-16, 2014 IN WARSAW, POLAND.**

PHYLLIS ANNOUNCED HER RETIREMENT BY OCTOBER 2015. IN DECEMBER PHYLLIS H. REPORTED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2015 CONFERENCE HAVE MOVED CENTER STAGE WITH THE FIRST CONFERENCE PLANNING MEETING TAKING PLACE ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014. PLANNING FOR THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IS STARTING TO MOVE AT AN ACCELERATED PACE. THE 11TH FLOOR CO-LOCATION PROJECT (AAWS & GRAPEVINE TO BE IN THE SAME OFFICE SPACE) IS ON TRACK WITH THE 2015 SCHEDULE.

***STAFF COORDINATOR REPORTED - THE CORRECTIONS DESK HAS RECEIVED 4,870 LETTERS AND 2,742 E-MAILS THROUGH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2014. DURING THESE NINE MONTHS, WE LINKED 651 MALE ALCOHOLICS AND 237 FEMALE ALCOHOLICS FOR A TOTAL OF 888 THROUGH OUR CORRECTIONS CORRESPONDENCE SERVICE.**

***SERVICES - G.S.O.'S GROUP SERVICES COORDINATOR ATTENDED THE 29TH ANNUAL INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE/A.A.W.S./AAGV SEMINAR IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ON SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2014 WHERE G.S.O. HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR DETAILED, SHARED EXPERIENCE FROM LOCAL A.A. OFFICES ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS ON THE FRONTLINES OF A.A. SUPPORT SERVICES. TAMERA ALSO ATTENDED THIS MEETING.**

***PUBLISHING - EBOOKS SALES HAVE CONTINUED APACE. PRICES HAVE NOT BEEN INCREASED FOR OUR EBOOK TITLES. *A.A. COMES OF AGE* (ENGLISH) IS NOW AVAILABLE AS A DIGITAL BOOK ON THE THREE MAJOR PLATFORMS: KINDLE, APPLE AND NOOK; THE TRANSLATIONS INTO FRENCH AND SPANISH ARE BEING WORKED ON. *AS BILL SEES IT* IS AVAILABLE AS OF**

NOVEMBER 25. FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 2014 WE SOLD \$49K IN EBOOK SALES. THROUGH OCTOBER, WE HAVE SOLD 175,148 UNITS OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EDITION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, WITH AN ESTIMATED PROFIT OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,010,000, WHICH INCLUDED COSTS FOR A LARGE REORDER RESULTING IN EXCESS UNFINISHED INVENTORY OF THE COMMEMORATIVE EDITION. WE EXPECT A CHARGE OF APPROXIMATELY \$474,375 WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE FINAL FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2014. AS PART OF A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE REMAINING UNSOLD INVENTORY, THE A.A.W.S. BOARD AGREED TO EXTEND SALES BEYOND THE ORIGINAL END DATE OF JULY 2015.

***FINANCE - THE UNAUDITED G.S.O. FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE 10 MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2014 SHOWED:**

NET SALES	\$ 15M
GROSS PROFIT (LITERATURE)	\$ 9.5M
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 5.5M
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$12.9M</u>
YEAR TO DATE PROFIT	\$ 2M

IN OCTOBER IT WAS NOTED, DESPITE A SLIGHT DROP IN CONTRIBUTIONS THIS QUARTER, WE ENDED THE QUARTER \$1,2M OVER BUDGET DUE TO INCREASED SALES BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1, 2014 LITERATURE INCREASE. IN DECEMBER IT WAS NOTED THAT FOR THE TEN MONTHS, REVENUES WERE 8.8 PERCENT GREATER THAN BUDGETED AND 21 PERCENT GREATER THAN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF LAST YEAR AS WELL. IN ADDITION, OPERATING EXPENSES WERE 2.8 PERCENT LESS THAN BUDGETED AND 3.6 PERCENT GREATER THAN LAST YEAR.

IMAGINE WHERE WE WOULD BE IF EACH OF US GAVE 1 MORE \$1.00 TO REDUCE OUR RELIANCE ON LITERATURE PROFIT?

IN DECEMBER I RECEIVED MY COMMUNICATION PACKET FOR THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE IN APRIL. IN MID FEBRUARY I WILL RECEIVE THE BACK GROUND MATERIAL TO PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE. THE PROCESS IS ONGOING. WOW, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE WE ARE ALREADY HALF WAY THROUGH JANUARY!

ANOTHER PROCESS WHICH WE WILL GET TO BE PART OF THIS YEAR IS THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. WE WILL CELEBRATE "80 YEARS – HAPPY, JOYOUS AND FREE!" AT THE VOLUNTEER MEETING I ASKED JULIO, GSO STAFF, WHAT WAS THE PROCESS TO SELECT ATLANTA FOR THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL? SEE TIMELINE

***THE PROCESS STARTED BACK IN 2002 WITH A 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AREA DELEGATE BID QUESTIONNAIRE.**

***IN 2002 & 2003 JOHN D. WAS SERVING AS OUR DELEGATE.**

***FEBRUARY 2003 THE TRUSTEE'S COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION/REGIONAL FORUM SENT CITY CONVENTION BUREAU BID QUESTIONNAIRES TO 10 CITIES.**

***AT THE APRIL 2003 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE THE CONFERENCE APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATION OF 3 CITIES – ATLANTA, INDIANAPOLIS AND VANCOUVER. SITES VISITS WERE MADE TO ALL 3 CITIES.**

***NOVEMBER 2003 ATLANTA WAS SELECTED TO BE THE SITE OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.**

IN 2004 I WAS A GSR AND IT WAS ANNOUNCED ATLANTA WAS SELECTED TO BE THE SITE FOR THE 2015

INTERNATIONAL. IT REMINDED ME OF WHEN ATLANTA WAS SELECTED TO HOST THE OLYMPICS. WHAT AN EXCITING TIME AND ASSEMBLY. WHAT AN HONOR TO BE SELECTED AND THE NEXT THOUGHT WAS THAT IS FAR OFF, BUT I WANTED TO BE A PART OF THE CONVENTION; ALSO, WHAT A PROCESS TO SELECT A CITY. YESTERDAY PATTY L. GAVE MORE DETAILS HOW SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER. NOW WE NEED YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.

GRANTED THERE IS A LOT WHICH GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES FOR GSO TO PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE. ALSO, THE SAME IS TRUE FOR THE CORE COMMITTEE AND THE SUB COMMITTEES FOR US TO VOLUNTEER AT THE INTERNATIONAL. THE CORE COMMITTEE STARTED MEETING EARLY 2014 AND THE SUB COMMITTEES STARTED MEETING SEPTEMBER 2014.

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT. I LOOK FORWARD TO US WELCOMING THE WORLD TO GEORGIA!

WHICH BRINGS US TO THIS MORNING; TOM – OUR AREA CHAIR - WILL GUIDE US THROUGH THE PROCESS OF THE MOTION WHICH IS ON THE FLOOR AND THE REST OF THE BUSINESS MEETING. THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF WORK WHICH HAS GONE ON BY SEVERAL COMMITTEES TO GET US TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

AS TRADITIONAL TWO STATES “ FOR OUR GROUP PURPOSE THERE IS BUT ONE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY – A LOVING GOD AS HE MAY EXPRESS HIMSELF IN OUR GROUP CONSCIENCE. OUR LEADERS ARE BUT TRUSTED SERVANTS; THEY DO NOT GOVERN.”

**TODAY MAY WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND, SEE THE SOURCE OF
POSITIVE DIRECTION AND TRUST THE PROCESS.**

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

**THANK YOU
REBECCA
PANEL 64/AREA 16**