

## ***May 2014 Assembly Delegate Report***

Thank you for the privilege to serve as Panel 64/ Area 16 Delegate. The week was amazing and long. I was pleased that Shari was willing to join me as my guest and she was great!! When I needed a few things, all I had to do was ask and she was more than willing to get it for me.

Why do we need a General Service Conference? According to the late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairman of the board in 1954, “ We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A that rebirth that brought us back to life. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services. We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not from any few.” You can find the complete article on page S20 in *The A.A. Service Manual*. This same concept can apply to Area 16 Assembly, district and group conscience meetings. Who makes up the Conference? The Conference is composed of 93 Delegates from U.S. and Canada which make up 69.9%; 25 Trustees, AAWS and AAGV Directors which make up 18.8%; 15 General Service and Grapevine staff which make up 11.3%.

My journey with the Conference began in January with communication from GSO including forms to be completed, a Conference buddy assignment, and a time table. In February we had the SE Delegates Get Together. Throughout the weekend we had the opportunity for sharing and Q&A from current and past Delegates, as well as Trustees. Over the past 3 years there

have been several topics discussed which helped me at the Conference. Also, we are assigned a region buddy for the Conference, which is like having a Conference sponsor. I was blessed to have Holly from Louisiana who I had met several times. I want to thank you for your support to attend Regional functions.

The real work began February 14<sup>th</sup>, when the background material came out. I rushed to download the information so Shari could email the background information to the DCMs. I did have a couple of DCMs ask me to come to their District Meeting to review the material, which did help me to study the material.

The next step was for me to get organized to read the material and ask any additional questions. I became very overwhelmed in this process. I did what you taught me to do and I reached out to others who had been through this process and to my sponsor. I am grateful that the tools of the program work in all situations. This is where I had spiritual experience and I knew in my heart I could do this and represent Area 16. I also learned that when I had to say no to additional requests from February – April, I was not saying no to an A.A. request, but I was fulfilling the commitment which I made to you when you elected me as your Delegate. I also know that I can serve in any capacity, and when fear and insecurity crop up the hand of God is always there to guide me through the action.

We elected to go in on Friday, so I could get settled in before the week started. The thought occurred to me that we might have time to go to New York City. Shari was willing so we dropped our bags off and headed for the Big Apple. It was great – Grand Central Station, Time Square, the characters trying to make a

few bucks taking pictures, ToyRus, M&M Store, Galaxy Diner, the set of the Today show and Rockefeller Center. What a way to spend a Friday night!

Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> was my 26 year anniversary in Alcoholics Anonymous, and what a way to celebrate my sobriety! I received loving phone calls and text messages. The afternoon events started with a meet and greet “Hospitality” of all Conference members. I meet my Conference buddy from Area 93 – Central California. It was exciting to meeting Delegates from across the U.S. and Canada. Following the Hospitality, we attended the 1728 Meeting; which comes from 12x12x12, representing our Steps, Traditions and Concepts. The meeting was started to help Class A trustees and other interested non-alcoholics learn more about the A.A. program of recovery from alcoholism.

Next on the agenda was the Remote Communities Meeting. I thought it would be about areas which are hard to reach, which I found was only partially correct. The meeting also included sharing about people with language barriers, hearing or sight limitations, etc. I found the meeting very interesting, especially the roadblocks which other Areas face to reach alcoholics who want recovery. The next time I go to complain about how late a meeting is or I have a problem with a personality, I need to be grateful to live in an area where there are plenty of meetings.

The evening ended with a Delegates only meeting. We introduced ourselves and had several presentations all related to Conference week. I am grateful for a place to ask questions because I can get back into my old way of thinking that I should

know what is going on even though I had never been there. I hope you have had the opportunity to ask questions over the Assembly weekend.

The Opening Session convened at 10am on Sunday morning. When we registered we were given a manual which had the full agenda for the week and several reports, as well as detailed information for our committee. Someone called the color of the binder “smiley face yellow!” It was comforting to know that half of the attendees were there for the first time, as well as Terry Bedient, Chair of the General Service Board. I had chill bumps when Phyllis H., General Manager of G.S.O. began the roll call and I was part of A.A. as a whole. For the rest of the week I was known as Rebecca Thomason, Panel 64/ Area 16 Georgia.

Sunday lunch was with our Region and we had several reminders - go to the mic early to get used to it, express your thoughts, if it has already been said, then you don't need to say it again, and jot down what you want to say to keep track since there is a 2 minute time limit. I am so grateful for the love and support of all of the Delegates, but especially the Southeast Delegates.

The afternoon session began with presentation/discussion: Living in the Heart of A.A. – 1. Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility. 2. Passing it on Through Sponsorship. This gave me a good chance to go to the mic for the first time when the chair opened up the floor for discussion and comments.

Following the afternoon session we split up into our committees to have our joint meeting with the Trustees' committee. I am serving on the Finance committee. The purpose of the meeting

is for the Trustees' committee to report their activities and actions over the past year directly to the corresponding Conference committee. Along with the Trustees' committee we had a representative from the independent audit firm, Kevin Sunkel. GSO continues to review ways to save cost on providing services. Both AAWS (AA World Services, Inc) and AA Grapevine Inc showed a profit in 2013. Grapevine cut half a million dollars in expenses. The bad news is that subscriptions are down from 125,000 to 75,000. The current cost of a subscription is \$.10 per day for print vs. \$.08 per day for on-line only, and \$.13 per day for a combination subscription. Book sales in both print and e-book make up the balance of the Grapevine's profit.

In regards to La Vina – currently there is a sub-committee of Trustees reviewing La Vina's short fall and how La Vina is viewed. At the present moment subscriptions for LaVina are on the rise. Thank you for your subscriptions however even with the increase in subscriptions, there is still a shortfall which due to revenue versus expense; \$.10 for every dollar per member from AAWS publishing goes to cover La Vina short fall.

AAWS operating cost continues to increase, and we will see an increase in literature prices beginning October 2014. Currently 72.4% of our services are covered by contributions. The total cost of services is \$9.5 million dollars. The fourth quarter of 2013 had the highest record of contributions – thank you for your contributions. AAWS has pension liability, which we will be able to cap in the future. An adequate reserve fund is 10 months and long term liability. Because of the high contributions, AAWS moved \$1.5 million dollars from the reserve fund to the pension liability fund. This was a good way to move the money, because

pension asset versus pension liability equals an insurance premium on the liability. The Grapevine has to keep money in the reserve fund to cover the unfulfilled subscription liability. You can now sign up for recurring contributions to GSO through AA.org. Also, the Trustees' committee is working on a more condensed version of "Services Provided by GSO/AAWS." The purpose is to show a snap shot of services which GSO provides to the average AA member. The better I understand what my contribution in the basket covers, the more willing I am to give to help the suffering Alcoholic.

The evening ended with the opening dinner, which Shari and the other guests could attend. There were 5 - 10 minute speakers ranging from delegates, trustees, directors and staff.

Monday & Tuesday morning we started with our committee meetings. In addition the delegates in the room, we had Don Meurer, CFO and Frankie, staff as our secretaries. As we discussed our agenda items and formed a recommendation for the Conference and additional consideration for the Trustees' committee, Don and Frankie wrote it down and read it back to us. I enjoyed the committee process.

Before lunch I went in the ballroom to drop off my books. Seeing the banner hung behind the dais and the theme of the conference on the table skirt was stunning! I knew I had been rocketed into the 4<sup>th</sup> demission, and I belonged at the Conference. That evening before dinner I called David S. to share my experience. The Monday afternoon session included reports from General Service Board committees, AAWS Board and Grapevine Board. Some highlights from the General Service Board committees:

- ❖ The site selection of the 2025 International Convention is Vancouver, British Columbia.
- ❖ In November, the board heard status reports regarding the positive efforts underway regarding the initiatives of A.A.W.S and A.A.G.V. To date, however, the two corporate boards had discussed the issues essentially in isolation. Initiatives include communication between the boards for shared experience. Currently the trustees have visited the board which they are not serving on and the minutes are shared.
- ❖ In February the board received an oral report on cultural sensitivity in AA literature. An example used was the term “dark districts,” a phrase that at times was referred to in describing “inactive” districts. The literature committee reviewed the Conference approved material, and they did not find the term used, however it was referenced in *Box 4-5-9*. The committee was reminded to be vigilant about such issues as we develop and modify literature.
- ❖ The board received a report from the General Service Board Ad-hoc Committee on group safety. The report reaffirmed the findings of a 2009 General Service Board report on the same topic, and supplied additional suggestions. The General Service Board agreed to refer a request to the Trustees’ Literature Committee and a request to the Trustees’ Committee on Public Information related to safety and anonymity in A.A. The committee also reported that the General Service Board has no authority over the groups based on the upside down triangle; however The General Service Board can assist the groups about safety. They suggested *Understanding Anonymity* and *The A.A. Group* pamphlet add more information regarding safety in A.A. Additionally, educate staff on how

to respond when a member or group calls in for more information. Another suggestion was to increase discussion within the Areas about safety in A.A.

- ❖ The newly design website does not have a launch date; however it is in the near future. We did get to see a few pictures from the new design, and I am excited about the new look and easier navigation. The question was raised if linkage from local A.A. websites would be affected by the new website, and we were informed that it should be a seamless transition. The new site will be mobile friendly. Traffic on the two Online Store sites has steadily increased over the past several months. Currently we are achieving about 40% of our total literature sales online. The publishing report showed year end 2013 with \$12,841,973 in total gross sales vs. an annual estimate of sales of \$12,800,000 (\$41,973 and 0.33% over budget). Digital publishing is on the rise, which resulted with negotiations for A.A. literature to be available through Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. Publications now available: *Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition* (English& French), *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (English & French), *Daily Reflections*. Spanish version of *the Big Book* and *12&12* are coming shortly, as well as, *Living Sober*. The supplier of the eBooks is AA World Services Inc.
- ❖ As of December 2013 there are 69 translations of Alcoholics Anonymous in distribution, with 17 new translations pending. A.A.W.S. prints the Big Book in 38 languages, with 34 printed by local service structure.

Later that afternoon we heard Area highlights from the Eastern Canada and Southeast Region Delegates. It was powerful to hear the French and Spanish members give their reports in



English - what dedication and love for Alcoholics Anonymous. After dinner we had a presentation about *La Vigne*, the French version of the *Grapevine*. *La Vigne* is self supporting and is produced by volunteers. The idea was introduced in 1959; in 1962 a prototype was brought to the Conference. In 1965 the first edition was published which included a letter from Bill W. To finish the evening we had Area highlights from Pacific and Western Canada regions, and a general sharing session.

Tuesday afternoon we had Area highlights from Northeast and Southwest Regions, followed by presentation/discussion: Living in the Heart of A.A. – 1).Participating in our Common Welfare through Contributions. 2).Inventory – A Guiding Tool to our Future. The first presenter spoke about participating in all aspects of contribution; time, money, service and return on investment for the General Service Conference. The 2<sup>nd</sup> presenter spoke about an article from 1957 in which Bill W. expressed strong reasons to stand on Unity and learn from our past. Keep in mind inventory is an action and is vital at all levels of A.A. service structure.

After our coffee break we had a presentation – The A.A. Grapevine – 70 years, with **Albin Zezula, Trustee as the moderator and Ami Brophy, Executive Editor/Publisher as the presenter. Albin sends his love to all of you.** Ami referenced page S86 in *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding the *Grapevine*, “Always wishing to reflect A.A. and nothing but A.A., it will be the ideal of the *Grapevine* to always serve, never to dictate or command.” The growth and evolution of the *Grapevine* started with 6 people and 165 subscribers. Today there is a staff of 9, and ten thousand subscribers, along with *La Vina*. In 1986 there was an advisory action which called the *Grapevine* “The

International journal of A.A.” There have been a number of articles written by both Dr. Bob and Bill W. There is a “what’s on your mind” department and an online calendar to add local events. In 1962 the Conference suggested retiring Delegates become Grapevine Reps. On the web site there is a resources tab; you can sign up for the daily quote of the day. More information can be found at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org).

Late afternoon we heard Area highlights from East and West Central regions. During our sharing session the question was asked – “how can we get the conference agenda committee to get more items which affect the fellowship?” The response was for the Areas to send in conference agenda items. After our sharing session, we had another Delegate only dinner.

Wednesday started out with our Conference Inventory questions. Each group had delegates, trustees, directors and staff. Once the inventory is complete, there will be a full report.

Later that morning we had a presentation from Archives. Records are valuable to our history; today events are tomorrow’s archives. The idea of having a book goes back to the fall of 1937 in Dr. Bob’s living room. The Alcoholic Foundation was formed in the spring of 1938 with the hopes of soliciting money from the rich, however still no money in the summer of 1938. The first pamphlet was produced in 1938 entitled “One Hundred Men” in hopes of raising money for the book. Finally on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1939 the first edition of the *Big Book* was published with 4,650 copies. It was a slow start to selling the books; however today there have been 34.5 million copies sold. In 1946, the blind translated the Big Book into brail. Ricordo P., in 1946 sent a letter to Bill W. regarding translation of the *Big Book*, with a response from Bill in

a letter July 1946 about translations. In 1953 the *Big Book* was translated into French, and 1959 translated into German.

Wednesday afternoon we had regional lunches. The Delegates decided to stop the Southeastern Conference after 2015 as it is currently held annually along with an Area convention. An ad-hoc committee was formed to see if as a region we wanted to combine the Southeastern Conference, along with SSAASA. The ad-hoc committee will report in August at the Southeastern Conference.

After lunch the committee reports started and ran through Friday afternoon. The reports were detailed and informative, as well as clearly demonstrating that “the good is the enemy of the best.” The Literature Committee took the longest – 5 hours. The committee recommendations came from the collective conscience of the committees, but they were debated by the Conference. The minority opinion was heard, and several items were reconsidered through this process. There were times during the debates that I would question why we seem to be hearing the same thing over and over again? Why doesn't someone call the question and stop the debate? A voice from past Delegates came to mind, which is to listen and trust the process. I found when I would listen closely, I could hear what was being shared.

Thursday evening in the middle of the CPC report we had a break and then a presentation from Eva regarding the 2015 International Convention. The Convention will be July 2-5, 2015. There will be a party on Thursday which will start in Centennial Olympic Park, head to the World Congress Center and back. Beginning on Friday morning there will be 100 different

meetings. Friday night there will be a flag ceremony and flag carrier names are pulled out of a hat based on registered attendees. Sat night will be the Old Timers Meeting with participants having over 40 years of sobriety. Sunday morning the convention will end with 3 speakers. At the 1<sup>st</sup> International Convention the 12 Traditions were adopted and Dr. Bob spoke for the last time. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Convention – 4 pm on Saturday, Bill W. Announced “A.A. comes of Age,” and leadership is turned over to the General Service Conference through our 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy. Today with the International Convention, the world will know A.A. is still alive, well and we are not a glum lot. The report included several experiences shared. One city ran out of coffee and toilet tissue during the Convention! We may need for the PI/CPC committee to contact Starbucks to give them a heads up! This fall letters will go out for 800 speakers. Travel expenses for speakers are not covered at the International Convention. There will be around 20 non-alcoholic speakers. If you know of a non-alcoholic who is an active friend of the Fellowship, please let me know. September 3<sup>rd</sup>, registration will open. After the presentation we did a skit – GSO’s Production of the 2015 International Convention. I was the Convention Volunteer Host Chair – “Jolly Golly Molly,” a retired whistle blower. The skit was a hit and perfect timing. If we are lucky, we may get to see a performance of the skit here at our Assembly next year. After a brief break we were back to work with the Committee Reports.

Agenda items which came out of Committees with “Additional Committee Consideration” will be in the final report, along with the items for which no action was taken. Committee Reports of recommendations which passed the body of the Conference then become Advisory Actions as follows:

## Agenda

1. The theme for the 2015 General Service Conference: “Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future”
2. The following presentation/discussion topics for the 2015 General Service Conference:
  - “Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action”
    - a. Diversity in A.A. - Our Heritage of Inclusion
    - b. Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group
    - c. Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
    - d. Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead
3. The Conference Evaluation Form will be available in English, French and Spanish beginning in 2015.
4. The description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, “Conference Committees,” in the 2013-2014 Edition of *The A.A. Service Manual*,

Be revised to read:

AGENDA (*trustees’ committee: General Service Conference*): Reviews and approves the overall format and content of the agenda for the annual

Conference meeting; Considers proposed Conference themes, presentation/discussion topics **and Conference Evaluation Questionnaire.**

## **Archives**

5. The video *Markings on the Journey* was approved. The changes to the video were shown. The comments from the floor regarding the video were editorial (ex. grammar, spelling, consentient terms).

## **Cooperation with the Professional Community**

6. The statement in the section *Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities to A.A.* on page 4 in the pamphlet “If You Are a Professional...” Be revised to read:

### ***Referrals From Judicial, Health Care, or Other Professionals:***

*Today numerous A.A. members come to us from **judicial, health care, or other professionals.** Some arrive voluntarily, others do not.*

*A.A. does not discriminate against any prospective member. Who made the referral to A.A. is not what interests us — it is the problem drinker who elicits our concern.*

*Proof of attendance at meetings. Sometimes a **referral source** asks for proof of attendance at A.A. meetings.*

- **Groups** cooperate in different ways. There is no set procedure. The nature and extent of any group's involvement in this process is entirely up to the individual group.
- Some groups, with the consent of the prospective member, have **an A.A. member acknowledge attendance on a slip that has been furnished by the referral source. The referred person is responsible for returning the proof of attendance.**

7. The statement in the section *How to Make Referrals to A.A.* on page 5 in the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." Be revised to read:

*Alcoholics Anonymous **can be found on the Internet at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and in most telephone directories by looking for 'Alcoholics Anonymous' or 'A.A.'** (Some professionals ask the person they are referring to call the local A.A. number while still in the office, thus offering an immediate opportunity to reach out for help.)*

*Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. **G.S.O.'s A.A. website [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) can aid in finding local resources.***

*P.O. Box 459*

Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
(212) 870-3400  
www.aa.org

8. On page 6 in the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional” the following text be deleted:

*“I can’t stand the smoking.”*

*There are nonsmoking meetings available.*

### Corrections

9. The section “What A.A. does NOT do” in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals,” Be revised to read (additional text in **bold**):

#### ***What A.A. does NOT do***

A.A. does not: Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover; solicit members; engage in or sponsor research; keep attendance records or case histories; join “councils” of social agencies (**although A.A. members, groups and service offices frequently cooperate with them**); follow up or try to control its members; make medical or psychological diagnoses or prognoses; provide **detox, rehabilitation** or nursing services, hospitalization, drugs, or any medical or psychiatric treatment; offer religious services **or host/sponsor retreats**; engage in education



about alcohol; provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or any other welfare or social services; provide domestic or vocational counseling; accept any money for its services or any contributions from non-A.A. sources; provide letters of reference to parole boards, lawyers, court officials, social agencies, employers, etc.

10. A new video be developed to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” at a cost not to exceed \$70,000. During discussion on this recommendation, I asked how do other Areas use the video? Some prisons show the video as an in house PSA. Several professionals show the video during different classes. Many Areas use the video, hence why I voted for the video.

## **Finance**

11. Because all Conference members are considered equal, all members should have equal access to Conference material and that a plan be created by the General Service Office to translate Conference Material (background material, Conference Manual etc.) into French and Spanish for use during the Conference, with a report being presented to the 2015 General Service Conference. This plan may include coordinating the use of the volunteer network throughout the Fellowship, hiring professional translators or any other facilities that the office deems necessary. The report should include costs and any other considerations deemed necessary to allow timely translations to occur. This recommendation passed unanimously. In our committee we

had a Delegate from Quebec who had to have a translator at all times. He spoke about the difficulties preparing for Conference with having to translate the background material. Also, the Spanish Delegates expressed their difficulties.

## **Grapevine**

No recommendations.

## **International Conventions/Regional Forums**

12. An anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony will be taken at the 2015 International Convention.
13. An encrypted, anonymity-protected Internet broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony was approved.

## **Literature**

14. The revised pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service” was approved. Before the approval we were given the final draft copy to review. The updated pamphlet will be available sometime over the summer.

15. The pamphlet on spirituality with the title [I quote] “Many Paths to Spirituality” [end quote] was approved. Once again we were given the final draft of the pamphlet before the vote. There were a few minor changes. The new pamphlet will be available over the summer.
16. A correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices on page XI in the Preface of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Be replaced with:

“The second printing of the first edition added the appendix ‘Spiritual Experience’; in the second edition, the appendices on A.A. Tradition, the ‘medical view’ and ‘religious view’ of A.A., the Lasker Award and information on how to contact A.A. were added, and the appendix on the Alcoholic Foundation was discontinued.”

### **Policy/Admissions**

17. The 67<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference be held April 23-29, 2017, since these dates do not conflict with any significant holidays or hotel availability.
18. During a two-year trial period the General Service Conference include one day of electronic voting on all nonelection votes, on the Thursday of the 2015 General Service Conference and on the Friday of the 2016 General Service Conference, and that the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference provide a report from data gathered from the 2015 and 2016 General Service

Conferences, evaluating electronic voting to the 2017 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions for consideration.

## Public Information

19. The 2014 A.A. Survey Questionnaire to be changed as follows: This was a lengthy process and discussion since there were several changes. After dinner we came back and took 1 item at a time and they all passed.

Item 3a be changed to “Married or Life partner.”

Item 11e be changed to “Counselor or mental health professional.”

Item 11f be changed to “Judicial system.”

Item 11g be changed to “Medical professional.”

Item 13a be changed to “Before coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) **related to your drinking?** (If yes, answer question 13b)”

Item 14a be changed to “After coming to A.A., did you receive any treatment or counseling (such as medical, psychological or spiritual, etc.) **related to your drinking?** (If yes, answer question 14b)”

Item 15 be changed to “Did a counselor, medical or mental health professional ever refer you to A.A.?”

20. The 2014 A.A. Membership Survey to be conducted by Area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.
21. The video public service announcements “Living in Chaos” and “We Know What It’s Like” be discontinued.
22. A new public service announcement be produced in 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$30,000. There was a question about the shelf life of the PSA. There isn’t a set shelf life, however the new PSA will be done in the latest digital technology to extend the use of the announcement.

### **Report and Charter**

23. The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

**“Advisory Action** – Represents the informed group conscience of the Fellowship, as the result of a recommendation made by a Conference committee or a floor action, which has been approved by the Conference body as a whole.”

24. The following text be added to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19 of *The A.A. Service Manual*:

**“Additional Committee Consideration** – An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or made by the Conference as a whole.”

25. The section called “Secretary and Registrar” on page S45 of *The A.A. Service Manual* be split into two separate sections called “Secretary” (existing duties and qualifications to remain the same) and “Registrar” to include the following text (additions in **bold**):

### **Registrar**

**DUTIES:** In **many** areas, *registrars* now develop and maintain records of all groups in the area, including group name, meeting location, time, and G.S.R. or group contact. Registrars may also be responsible for names, addresses, **e-mail addresses** and phone numbers of the G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s, district and area officers and area committee members. They may provide mailing labels for area publications such as a monthly newsletter or a mailing of minutes. **Area registrars also assist the G.S.O. Records Department to keep their records up-to-date.**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Registrars should be familiar with the area and district structure. For this job, an organized approach **is important as there are many details that need to be recorded. Ideally, it would be very helpful if the area**

**registrar possessed some practical, working computer knowledge, and were comfortable relaying information via e-mail to G.S.O. and within the local area.”**

## **Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities**

No recommendations.

## **Trustees**

26. The slate of trustees and directors, for both AAWS and AA Grapevine Inc be elected and the appointment of the officers be approved at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board in May 2014.

Now what happens with the Advisory Actions? The Trustees will start to put into action the items which passed. It still amazes me that the thoughts and ideas to improve our Fellowship come from the Fellowship.

Friday late afternoon when we had completed all of the floor actions and the reports from the Inventory we closed the 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference with the Serenity Prayer in 4 languages – English, French, Spanish and Navajo.

On Saturday morning we had a brunch with farewell talks from the Trustees who are rotating. It was so moving and the Pacific Region Trustee told about how the Big Book is almost complete

in Navajo. After the brunch we boarded buses to head to Stepping Stones. It was a beautiful day to ride out to Katonah, NY. The rich history, the famous kitchen table and Bill's desk were incredible to see. Currently the Executive Director of Stepping Stones is Sally C., who was active in service while she lived in the Atlanta area.

I would be remiss to leave out sharing with you the love and support I received through this process. During the week of Conference besides Shari being there, I heard from Tom, Patty and El. Also, each morning my "word" buddies would send loving texts. Modern technology can have good benefit.

My family has been so supportive. The last day of Conference was my mom's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We planned a surprise for her on Sunday when I showed up at a special church event and the entire family was there. Later on in the afternoon I heard my mom tell one of her friends that I had been at a conference all week and now I had to write a report. What a blessing to see how proud she is of me and at the same time protecting my anonymity. You gave my mom a daughter who she could be proud of and one who can show up for her.

May God bless you and keep you as we embark on this journey together. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.