

Delegate Report – Rick M.

Rick began his report with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this first assembly in 2018. He then asked how many were attending their very first assembly and extended a warm welcome to them all. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed report:

A Look Back at the Last Quarter of 2017

A most successful 64th Pre-paid convention was held and you'll hear more this morning from the committee chair as she gives the final report. I don't know about you, but I didn't have to leave this facility for lack of food! DCM Planning meeting was held on Nov. 4th, we welcomed the new committee chairs and co-chairs. You'll meet and hopefully approve them this morning. We also approved our 2018 GSSA budget and learned of the pre-conference meeting committee assignments for the April meeting here in Macon. The following weekend Area 16 co-hosted the 4th Southern States A.A. Service Assembly. There were several Areas interested in learning more about our Cluster Forums as Ernie and I both talked about them in our workshops. Thank you Rebecca T., Joe W., and Jenine M. for all your efforts to make it a great success. Interesting, the most popular workshops were on the 12 Concepts. I also want to congratulate and thank Cathy B., our Corrections Committee Chair, on attending and being a part of the committee for the 1st annual National Corrections Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri. Maybe Georgia would be interested in hosting this event in 2020?

Manuscript Litigation

On May 19, 2017 we were informed by the General Manager of GSO that the Board asked the New York State Supreme Court to issue a restraining order against an individual preparing to sell at auction, the 1939 Printer's Copy of the manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, our Big Book. The restraining order was granted. This has led to wide and varied conversations in our fellowship. At our November DCM Planning meeting I had mentioned taking time this weekend during our Saturday afternoon workshop to discuss this topic. I wanted Area 16 to be "informed" about this topic in an open, non-judgmental forum. Fortunately, although the case is not completely over, GSO has asked the court for a "Motion to Discontinue" the litigation. GSO, in court documents, stated "The time and expense of this litigation are a distraction". Additionally, the affidavit goes on to say, "A.A.'s principles call for pacifism and the avoidance of controversy and conflict where possible, and given that the protracted nature of this dispute has become clear these principles are at play." These statements appear to sound very much like our Traditions and Concepts at work. The judge in this case has set a February date to hear more.

General Service Board 4th Quarter Meeting highlights – the October 30th, 2017 meeting reported activities of the GSB including A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

• Technology/Communications/Services

A progress report on the Google for Nonprofit YouTube channel stated that 3 P.S.A.s have been uploaded in English, French and Spanish. Discussions will continue as to what other materials will be included as the project nears a launch date. This YouTube channel has been launched.

: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7QYvLeq4pQ-w>

• Board Approved Recommendations from Publishing:

1. That the facsimile of the First Edition Big Book, *Pass It On, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, and *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* be bundled as a special holiday gift set for \$30 per set. The set will be available in English, French and Spanish with the exception of the 75th Commemorative facsimile of the First Edition Big Book which is only available in English.
2. That A.A.W.S. proceed with the audio recording of the Twelve Concepts for World Service in English, French and Spanish to be streamed on the aa.org website.

• Grapevine

1. September YTD Sales are ahead of projections. September YTD cash inflows were \$2,314,206 vs projected inflows of \$1,929,606 (\$385K ahead of projections).
2. 2nd AAGV book/eBook ("*Voices of Women in AA*") is out and doing better than projected
3. Gross profit from the Grapevine Magazine during the first nine months of 2017 was \$1,060,758, which is \$63,370 more than the \$997,388 budgeted and \$23,218 less than the \$1,083,976 for last year.

• Archives

The Archives renovation of the exhibit area and staff workstations is complete and looks great! The Archives is open for visitors again.

- **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)**

1. *Sub-committee on LinkedIn Page:* The chair of the subcommittee gave a progress report on considering LinkedIn as a platform for providing information about A.A. to professionals who come into contact with problem drinkers. The subcommittee will continue their work and present a written report for the January meeting.
2. *Adding text to the Armed Services pamphlets:* The secretary gave a progress report on adding text to pamphlets for professionals about A.A. and the military and informed the committee that Publishing will have drafts available for review at the January 2018 meeting.

- **Treatment and Accessibility**

1. *Alcoholics who are members of the Armed Services:* The committee reviewed the progress report on strategies being explored. The chair appointed a subcommittee consisting of Richard B., chair and Homer M. The subcommittee will research updating committee workbooks, developing service material and additional resources for the professional community, veterans, and active duty A.A. members. The subcommittee will provide a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.
2. *AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs:* AAWS approved the edit of DVD/CD versions of "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" to conform to the revision of the pamphlet, retitling it "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" (not to exceed \$20,000).
3. *Request to develop pamphlet for Deaf AA members:* Committee reviewed the progress report on sharing from Deaf and Hard of Hearing A.A. members regarding the effectiveness of our literature, service material and other media. The staff secretary will provide a progress report at the January 2018 meeting.

- **Corrections**

1. The First National Corrections Conference was held November 10-12, 2017, in St. Louis, MO. There were 35 States, including Puerto Rico, and 4 Canadian provinces represented. It was a huge success. Over 389 AA members involved in corrections service attended. The 2018 conference will be held next November in Maine..
2. *Letter from Corrections professional:* The

committee noted the benefits that a CPC letter from a professional on the A.A. website has had within the professional community, and suggested a few potential professionals in regards to creating a similar service piece with a corrections professional.

3. *Proposal for new pamphlet for long-term inmates:* The committee discussed a proposal for a new pamphlet for long-term incarcerated inmates. The committee agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Corrections the proposal to develop a new pamphlet focused on long-term incarcerated alcoholics soon to be released.

- **Finance**

1. *Summary:* Total revenue for the first 9 months was \$13,150,183, compared to total expenses of \$11,847,697, resulting in net profit for 2017 of \$1,302,486. This compares with a budgeted profit of \$85,993. This increase is due almost entirely to a \$568,405 increase in gross profit from literature and \$593,175 from contributions. When the 2017 profit of \$1,302,486 is compared to 2016 actual profit of \$800,145, the increase is due to the increase in gross profit from literature of \$526,793 and the additional contributions of \$414,100. This combined increase was offset by the \$438,530 increase in expenses.
2. Georgia = \$96,961.47 54.1% of Groups (429 of 793) (up from 2016 – 53.09%)

- **General Service Conference – April 22nd – 28th** . I will be a member of two committees, the *Literature Committee* and, the *Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums*. We will have a Pre-conference meeting April 7th to discuss all committee topics for this year's GSC. I'm excited I have received these assignments!

- **Literature**

1. *Draft Matrix of Recovery Literature:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a finalized version of the draft matrix of recovery literature. The committee requested that the staff secretary draft a cover memo for the matrix and bring it to the January 2018 meeting for review.

2. *Request for atheist/agnostic pamphlet:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward (with additional background) to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist/agnostic members.
3. *Request for publication of "The God Word":* The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish the "The God Word" (a pamphlet currently published by A.A. United Kingdom).
4. *Request for revision to the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement to the Big Book.
5. *Request for pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature a request for a new pamphlet based upon A.A.'s Three Legacies.
6. *Subcommittee on the inclusion of safety language in recovery literature:* The committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Literature the report and suggestions on the inclusion of safety language in recovery literature.

- **Nominating**

1. *Proposal to reorganize the A.A.W.S and General Service Boards -* The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees a proposal from an area regarding a reorganization of the A.A.W.S and General Service Boards with historical background material.
2. *Proposal to censure General Service Boards -* The committee discussed and agreed to forward to the 2018 Conference Committee on Trustees a proposal from an area to censure General Service Boards with historical background material.

- **Public Information**

1. *Understanding Anonymity:* The committee heard a progress report on the update to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," including language related to safety, and tabled further discussion to their January 27, 2018 meeting.
2. *A Brief Guide to A.A.:* The committee reviewed

draft language to update the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to A.A.," including language related to safety, and after suggesting edits to the draft language and requesting a legal review of the added language on safety, tabled further discussion to their January meeting.

3. *Google Adwords and Google Grants:* The committee reviewed a report from Allison Callis and Shari Miller, regarding how Google AdWords and Grants can be used to carry the A.A. message. After reviewing the "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" (SWOT) identified in the report, tabled discussion to a conference call prior to their January meeting.

Challenge: Balancing our Triangle

Rick expressed his hope the action of "Balancing our Triangle" would be one of the many messages carried back and acted upon in our home groups this year. That all of us, through our "examples, enthusiasm, and experience", demonstrate to fellow home group members the true joy and growth opportunities with a balanced triangle of Recovery, Unity, and Service.