

Delegate Report – Rick M.

Rick began his report with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this first assembly in 2019. 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 65th Pre-paid convention was held and you'll hear more this morning from the committee chair as he gives the final report. I don't know about you, but I was impressed by a fantastic facility a very welcoming city! DCM Planning meeting was held in November, we welcomed some new committee chairs and co-chairs. You'll meet and hopefully approve them this morning. We also approved our 2019 GSSA budget and learned of the pre-conference meeting committee assignments for the April meeting here in Macon. The following weekend the Metro District 13 Cluster Forum was held in Tucker; great job!. The next weekend your alternate delegate, Deb K. and I attended the South East Forum in Sterling, VA. More about that a little later. November 17th was a PI/CPC workshop in Cherry Log and I hope you heard more about that from our committee. I also want to congratulate and thank Cathy B., our Corrections Committee Chair, on attending and being a part of the committee for the 2nd annual National Corrections Conference held in Portland, ME. I think maybe Georgia is interested in hosting this event in 2021.

General Service Board 4th Quarter Meeting highlights – the October 30th, 2018 meeting reported activities of the GSB including A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

• Group Services

The General Services coordinator reported most changes to the service committee kits for 2019 have been received and are being implemented.

• Technology/Communications/Services

Website - The website redesign is progressing forward with first draft wireframes for the homepage in both desktop and mobile formats in review. The process has moved from a committee style to a project management team with a user testing program to begin before the end of the year.

AAWS App – License for the Meeting Finder app has been signed and an announcement letter was sent to area chairs and delegates inviting them to connect to the Meeting Guide. Currently the meeting guide is listing information from over 200 AA entities and that number is growing as word gets out that it will be a part of the

AAWS app. More on this later from our Ad Hoc committee.

• Board Approved Recommendations from Publishing:

The board approved the following recommendation by the Publishing Committee:

- That the pamphlet “The God Word” be priced at \$0.40 per unit in English, French and Spanish (Motion Passed)

• Grapevine Highlights

- Newly published book “One Big Tent – Atheist and Agnostic AA Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope”. Has exceeded expectations selling approximately 3,600 copies from Sept. 20 to Oct 24. That more than covered the cost of the book in the first month!
 - The GV financial report shows that sales are ahead of projections.
 - Will be translating Emotional Sobriety into French.
 - Subscriptions are still going down but not as quickly as projected.
 - Monthly website traffic is averaging 35,968 unique visitors and 132,780-page views

• Archives

1. New book Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 – to be published and available the first quarter of 2019.
2. Photographs from new book Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 – Five archival photographs to be reproduced and made available for A.A. use only following the publication of the book at a suggested contribution of \$2.75 each, based on current suggested contributions for similar items.
3. Recently acquisitioned film of the founders and their wives in the garden – after much discussion about how to use it's been decided to distribute the film as an item available from the GSO Archives at an appropriate contribution suggestion to defray the cost of reproduction and mailing.
4. The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Archives a request to consider adding the newly accessioned 1940s home movie of the cofounders and their wives to the video “Markings on the Journey”.

- **Trustees Committee on International Convention/Regional Forums**

- International Convention: - 2030 site for the IC was recommended and approved: St. Louis! There were so many little things that were in St. Louis, hotel package, transportation, layout of the space, iconic attraction within walking distance. AA community in St. Louis was substantially supportive and enthusiastic. It was noted that Indianapolis presented a strong package and hoped that they would submit again for the 2035 bid.
- Carlyle W (Panel 67 delegate) was recommended and approved to serve as the local Volunteer Welcome Committee Chair for the 2020 International Convention.
- Registration for the 2020 International Convention is scheduled to open in September 2019.
- A draft video flyer for the 2020 IC was reviewed and will be made available for download on aa.org as soon as it is finalized.

- **Trustees Committee on Literature**

- Questions and Answers on Sponsorship – the committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature a progress report on the revision to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship”.
- The A.A. Group – the committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Literature a request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group”.
- Progress continues to be made on pamphlet revisions to:
 - The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
 - Too Young?
 - Young People and A.A.

- **Conference Committee**

- The committee discussed reimplementing a simple majority vote practice from a 1986 Advisory Action but has not been implemented since 1995. This action was followed from 1989 to 1995. The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Policy & Admission Committee the 1986 Advisory Action: “If a committee recommendation does not receive the two-thirds vote required to become a Conference Advisory Action, but has a majority of votes, it automatically becomes a

suggestion and be duly noted in the Conference Report”. If the process is reaffirmed, the trustees asked that the committee provide suggestions regarding appropriate action to be taken when a Conference committee recommendation fails but receives a simple majority vote.

- The committee discussed a process for how the Conference Agenda Committee could review, discuss and act on Proposed Agenda Items Not Forwarded to a Conference Committee. The subcommittee will work on a final version of the process for review at the January 2019 meeting which may then be forwarded to the Conference committee.
- The committee is still discussing Equitable Workload with the idea that it requires a broader discussion that would include trustees’ and delegate committee chairs along with GSO Management and staff members. A proposed plan will be brought back for review in January 2019.
- The Committee reviewed and agreed to forward to the Trustees Committee on Literature a request for work to begin on the development of a fifth edition of the Big Book for their review at the 2019 January meeting.
- Agenda item for censure or reorganization – the committee discussed a proposal for “all agenda items for censure or reorganization be forwarded directly to the Conference Committee on Trustees” and took no action. The reasons were that any such items have always followed the process of going through a trustees committee and no item for censure or reorganization had NOT been forwarded to a conference committee.
- The committee tabled discussion on creating a new Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Elder Community until January 2019.

- **CPC/Treatment/Accessibilities**

1. *CPC – Court Referrals – as part of the staff report the committee discussed potential alcoholics coming to A.A. through court referrals and requested the staff secretary to update the A.A. Guidelines on Cooperating with Court, S.W.I. and Similar Programs to better reflect what A.A. is and is not*
2. *LinkedIn: examples of how A.A. content could display on a LinkedIn page were reviewed and discussed to reflect the goals included in the 2018 Conference Advisory Action. More will be revealed at the January 2019 meeting after additional work.*

- **Corrections**

1. Letter on Prerelease and Bridging the Gap – the committee reviewed a rough draft of a letter to Professionals regarding Prerelease and BTG temporary contact volunteer services. The letter is going to be further reviewed with the help of a couple of our Class A trustees who are involved in the court system and be brought back to the January 2019 meeting.
2. Draft FAQ on Corrections Services - the committee reviewed a rough draft of a FAQ sheet for new chairpersons and which will be included in the kit. It will include sharing from local committees. A subcommittee will review the content and streamline the information for a revised draft review at the January 2019 meeting.
3. A New Freedom Video – after noting a 2016 additional consideration from the Conference Correction Committee suggesting shorter versions of the video, it was recommended that the existing 30-minute video “A New Freedom” be produced in a 15 and 3 minute version with an estimated cost not to exceed \$12,000. (Motion Passed)

- **Trustees Committee Nominating**

1. Partial or Complete Reorganization of the Boards – the committee has gathered information to develop procedures to address this additional consideration from last year’s conference. There is a subcommittee working on this that includes two lawyers and draft procedures or a progress report is due back in January.
2. GSB position and service requirements and effectiveness: The committee is developing methods to gather shared experience from the fellowship and GSB members, past and current with respect to serving on the board, including workload, terms of service and rotation. A progress report will be given at the January meeting.

- **Trustees Committee on Public Information**

- The committee agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information a request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued.
- The committee continues to work on developing language to reflect that A.A.’s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and will continue to discuss at the January 2019 meeting.

- **Finance Highlights**

1. *For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 revenues were 1.66% higher than budgeted and 1.14% lower than the 9 months ended September 30, 2017. Operating expenses were 1.72% greater than budgeted and 8.37% more than last year. Contributions were \$5,830,773 or 1.66% higher than budget and .87% lower than this point last year. Online contributions for the first 9 months of 2018 were \$571,165 which accounts for 9.80% of our total contributions.*
2. Georgia = \$92,354 53.05% of Groups (417 of 786) (down from 2017 – 53.09 vs 53.05%)

- **General Service Conference – May 19th – 25th** . I will be a member of two committees, the *Literature Committee* and, the *Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums*. I’m excited I have received these assignments! Last year at conference, I was appointed co-chair of the Literature committee and Chair of the IC/RF committee. I’m honored to have been invited to attend and participate in the Board Meeting Weekend next weekend where, it will be decided what agenda items will be forwarded to the 69th General Service Conference for consideration.

- We will have our Pre-conference meeting on April 6th to discuss all these agenda topics for this year’s GSC. The background material should be available by the 2nd week of February for distribution. I would like to make it available on our website for download.

A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit

In My May report to you, I mentioned there were communications audit personnel attending the General Service Conference. They were there continuing to collect audit information on behalf of a firm contracted by the GSB. The audit report is now complete. I have made this report available to you on our website.

Now I want to briefly tell you about this report with the intent that you read it, take it to your groups, discuss it, and come back in May and be prepared to bring back your group’s recommendations/thoughts for GSO and, more importantly, A.A..

There were three key objectives for this Audit:

1. Better understand the current state of G.S.O’s, A.A.W.S’s, and AAGV’s internal and external communications assets, channels, and processes – assessing each for its effectiveness

- in (directly or indirectly) supporting A.A.'s primary purpose.
2. Identify different groups connected to the fellowship that need to be reached, and the best means of reaching them "where they are".
 3. Define gaps and opportunities in current communications.

In essence, the report's findings focus on a number of important areas that are critical to our overall ability to communicate effectively, both within the Fellowship (i.e., to each other) and to the general public – those outside the Fellowship, whether they are interested in A.A. or are still-suffering alcoholics looking for a solution.

On a positive note, the findings indicate that A.A.'s primary purpose is alive and well at the group level. However, communicating that primary purpose and other information is getting somewhat lost at the Board level, within the Conference structure, and at the administrative level.

The findings also indicate that while many within the Fellowship consider it to be "lifesaving" and "a program for living," A.A. is often perceived by those outside the Fellowship as "religious," and is often characterized as reactive as opposed to pro-active in our communications.

These are just a few of the conclusions reached. And yet, as we all know and have experienced first-hand, the power of A.A. to change lives and to lift alcoholics out of the darkness and into the light is unparalleled. Together, we are part of an amazing Fellowship that offers the hand of recovery literally around the world.

So, the job set out before us is to search out our flaws and rededicate ourselves to overcoming whatever is keeping us from reaching any and all who need us. That is the purpose of the communications audit embarked on, and, while we recognize that it will be an ongoing effort, the process can begin with each one of us, right now. There are many initiatives that are already occurring in our service structure to extend A.A.'s hand beyond our traditional audiences. The 68th General Service Conference passed a number of Advisory Actions that are related to our goal of reaching anyone who might want AA's help.

Challenge: Audit Results Input & Discussion – *Informed Group Conscience*

As you'll see, there are many findings we as an Area can provide input on for the continued betterment of our fellowship's primary purpose. It is my hope, that in May, you'll come back ready to address these findings and we create together constructive input for GSO. In my absence while at the GSC, Deb K. will lead this effort with assistance from our past delegates, office committee, and Service Committee Chairs and Co-chairs.

Thank you again for this honor and privilege to serve you Area 16, Georgia and, A.A. as a whole