

Delegate's Sharing –Rick M.

Rick began his sharing with a welcome and acknowledgement of all attendees at this 3rd assembly in 2018. Rick then thanked several individuals for their participation over the weekend and thru 2018 and went into a few general comments before giving this detailed sharing report:

Change of Conference Date

I received the following message from GSO on July 9th:

“The General Service Office has discovered a mistake with our signed 2019 hotel Conference dates. Our current contract is for April 21-27, 2019. The approved Conference dates, as voted on during the 2016 Conference, are April 28-May 4, 2019. The urgency of this matter was discussed last week with the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, along with the trustees' Committee on the Conference. It was recommended that all Conference members be polled as soon as possible.

Following discussion, including the necessity of altering some post-Conference assemblies and our continued attempt at being mindful of major holidays, it was recommended that:

The dates of the 2019 Conference be moved to the first week available to hold our Conference, May 19-May 25, 2019.

If the motion passes, the expected result will be to incur no additional charges or penalties and would allow more time for translations. (If we must otherwise walk away from our hotel contract, there will be a penalty of \$142,000.)

If the motion fails, Conference members would need to agree to change the dates of Conference to April 21-April 27. Again, without additional charges or penalties but falling on major holidays. (Note that in this case, the dates would need approval by polling the General Service Conference).”

The short answer to this dilemma is we, the 137 A.A. General Service Conference members, voted in favor of the May 19-May 25, 2019 date for the 2019 General Service Conference by a 2/3 majority vote. The entire (polling) process was done by email. This means I will be in New York at the General Service Conference during our May 2019 assembly. We did hold a meeting of our Office Committee and some of our Past Delegates

and, a Past Treasurer, to discuss this situation (thank you to our Office Committee, Tom H., Patty L., David M., & Harold I. for your input!). In keeping with what Bill W. called “The Committee Process”, two committees had met and decided upon the new date of May 19-May 25, 2019 (the Conference Committee on Policy and Admissions, along with the trustees' Committee on the Conference). I have faith and trust in their decision and recommendation (I did vote in favor of this recommendation).

In my absence during the May 2019 Assembly, our Alternate Delegate, Debi will take my place. This confirms the good reason for having “alternates & co-chairs” in our structure. I have great confidence Debi can and will do the job of filling in for me. As far as my Report-back from Conference, I'm thinking (not confirmed yet, more to be revealed....) this may give me the opportunity to try some of the “A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions”. I may create and post a Report-back video & document? Districts, GSRs, and Area 16 could then stream the video and download the accompanying report. I am still willing to travel to your zones, districts, and groups to report in-person.

Conference Final Report

I know you are all eager for the delivery of the Conference Final Report. Our Publishing Department shares that it has taken longer than hoped to prepare this year's Final Report. Essentially, there are two reasons for the longer-than-desired delay:

The report is considerably longer than its predecessors, in part because of all the material related to the Manuscript issue which is included in full as part of the report of the General Service Board; additionally, by Conference action, the committee considerations of each committee, along with the delegate area highlights, are printed in their entirety, requiring additional time for translation, etc., whereas in prior years these aspects of the report were simply summarized; and The unusual confluence of events stemming from additional Conference actions that put 3 totally revised pamphlets, two completely new pamphlets, a bevy of other corrections and updates, and an every-other-year edition of the Service Manual (all of these items in 3 languages) on the publishing plate at the same time.

These factors were on top of the already rigorous schedule of regular reprints, newsletters, book updates and revisions.

GSO Communications Audit

We have begun to share our general reactions to the findings and to look for ways for the Boards (GSB, AAWS and AAGV) and offices to be better communicators within our principles. We have held a few meetings involving the Boards, the ad hoc subcommittee that I formed, the internal GSO and GV core team and GSO staff.

GSO Contributions

Through the end of June \$4.5 million.

Area 16 Contributions

\$59,837.00

791 Groups

376 Contributing

=47.5%

Thank You!!

GSO Literature Updates from Conference

So I am delighted to inform you that these three are in process and GSO anticipate the items will be available by the end of August:

23. The revised pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," retitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.," be approved with minor edits provided by Publishing regarding use of gender specific language.

25. The draft pamphlet "Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors" be approved.

30. The pamphlet "The God Word" (currently published by the General Service Board of A.A., Great Britain) be adopted by A.A. World Services, Inc. with minor editorial changes.

And the following revised pamphlets are just now completed printing and soon to up on AA.org and available to all:

- Experience, Strength, and Hope: Women in A.A.
- Inside A.A.
- GSR (revised title)

There should be a posting on AA.org under "What's New" announcing all this.

Grapevine News

Visit Grapevines new online store at:
<http://www.aagrapevine.org/store>

Buy Subscription!!

Two new Books:

- One Big Tent (Atheist and Agnostic AA member's stories) Available: September 20, 2018

- Frente a Frente One on One (Sponsorship book) translated into Spanish

Manuscript Update from GSO:

"Dear General Service Conference members, I am writing to inform you that the General Service Office was recently contacted by a representative of the current owner of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, inquiring as to our interest in exhibiting the Manuscript on loan at G.S.O. Expressing gratitude for the offer, I indicated that our existing G.S.O. Archives policy precludes us from accepting or displaying any archival material on loan. Thereby, we would have to decline the opportunity to exhibit the Manuscript. In bringing this matter to your attention, I have also informed the General Service Board and the A.A. World Services Board of this inquiry and my response. I hope that you are having a great season of service as you report out to the Fellowship the work of our productive 2018 Conference, and, as you make such reports, please feel free to share this latest information. In fellowship and service,

Greg"

Story Solicitation

In response to the 2018 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a pamphlet based on A.A.'s Three Legacies, with emphasis on the history of the Three Legacies, how they work together and including **personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies**, the trustees' literature committee is seeking current sharing from members in A.A. which reflect a broad range of experience and diversity with respect to the Three Legacies. Please encourage members in your area to write their personal stories for possible inclusion in this new pamphlet. Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. The author's complete name, address and email/phone information should be included with the submission. Submissions can be emailed to Literature@aa.org with "Three Legacies" in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. **The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2018.** The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Thank you for your participation in this process.

In response to the 2018 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women in A.A., the trustees' literature committee is **seeking a wide range of A.A. recovery experience from Spanish-speaking women in A.A.** Please encourage Spanish-speaking women members in your area to write their personal stories for possible inclusion in this new pamphlet. Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. The author's complete name, address and email/phone information should be included with the

submission. Submissions can be emailed to Literature@aa.org with "Spanish-speaking women in A.A." in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. **The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2018.**