



Delegate Report

Area 29 Panel 70

November 2020

It's 2020 and "Everything" is different, but the message of AA is timeless....and AA is responding so that our message is available to all of those reaching out for help in this unprecedented time.

Random Musings of your Delegate

It has been a full few weeks in the "Delegate" corner of Area 29 working with an amazing committee to bring forward one of the proposed agenda items, working as a member of your Area 29 Finance committee to finalize the budget that you will be approving. I've been meeting with other NERDs as we search for answers to some of the many questions we have regarding matters at GSO and the GSB. Reading, responding and disseminating information received from multiple communications daily from GSO, our NERT, other Areas and all those that I serve in Area 29 can be quite a challenge on some days. I will share with you that at the end of the day when I close my eyes I feel a flood of gratitude for the trust that you have placed in me to be your conduit of information from our "mothership". I never take that trust for granted. Thank you for allowing me to be of service as your Area 29 Panel 70 Delegate.

The Final 70th General Service Conference Reports are still available. Please let me know if you would like a copy and get the word out to fellowship that I will be happy to supply any member with copies of the report. Send those requests to delegate@marylandaa.org. Digital copies are available on the Delegate page at Marylandaa.org.

General Service Board and GSO Updates

GSO will be hosting two Forums this year – the East and West U.S./Canada Forums. Registration for the December 5 East US/Canada and December 19 West US/Canada Forums are now open. The one-day forums will include sharing by Delegates from the respective regions who have been invited to moderate themed workshops of their choice; a panel discussion with local Central Offices/Intergroups; an A.A. History tour with Sister Judith and Michelle Mirza; sharing by our Class A's (a segment titled "A Class Act"); "A.A. Around the World with our trustees' at large; past trustee sharing; a screening room, and much more! I have registered and it is a very simple process. Just click on the link provided below.

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums

Please pass this along to your AA contacts and I suggest that everyone register as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity for those who have been unable to travel to a Regional Forum to get an idea of the wealth of information that is available to us from our friends at GSO and Grapevine.

The current Area Delegates received a communication from Cathy Beckham, Trustees' General Service Conference Committee, chair regarding the 71st GSC.

Following a motion and second, the Board approved a recommendation that the 71st General Service Conference be conducted during the scheduled time period of April 18-24, 2021 via remote meeting technology. Sessions of the 71st Conference will be conducted on a digital platform. Here are the numbers:

The total estimated cost reviewed for a Virtual 71st General Service Conference is \$285,100. The total estimated cost reviewed for an in-person socially distanced 71st General Service Conference is \$1,847,050.

As you see, a virtual conference provides significant savings and that is critical in the financial environment that we find ourselves.

There have been many changes in staff at GSO these past few months due to the early retirement for 20+ staff members and the recent announcement that our General Manager, Greg T., will be leaving as of February 1, 2021. Please be patient with the staff as they get their footing in their new roles.



Financial Update

Good news on the financial transparency front. A recently instituted Finance Advisory Team, led by our new CFO Paul Konigstein (non-alcoholic), with Jimmy Dean, AAWS Treasurer, as a link to Board chairs and other Board treasurers, will begin meeting on a regular basis to share information and feedback and to facilitate ongoing communication regarding our finances.

Big Book Special Summer Offer Sales Results: Our "Big Book Summer Special Offer" is completed. A printed flyer with an order form was inserted into the June Box 4-5-9 and posted on aa.org (previously provided). Email blasts announced the offer to the Fellowship at the beginning of the offer, and a reminder email was sent in September.

- 5,188 total orders were placed during this 3-month period, utilizing the offer,
- 523 orders were placed by 239 Central Offices and Intergroups, many of whom used the offer for repeat ordering,
- Lifts in sales include: ASL Big Book, Abridged Pocket edition, Large Print, Navajo Audio CD set, as well as several international translations,
- \$2,088,227 in gross sales were generated during this Summer offer, and
- The final day of the Special Summer Offer, September 30, yielded \$171,823.

Grapevine

This month's Featured Section is "Our Twelve Traditions" with stories by AA members about AA's Traditions. Also included are powerful stories of hope by members during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Our NERT provided updated this information from the November GBB meeting.

The A.A. Grapevine is facing some challenges during this time. The cumulative effect of COVID-19 on book sales and the decline of La Viña subscriptions (due to the cancellation of large-scale Spanish events) has brought some financial hardship. As a result of our decline in income, we have withdrawn approximately \$250,000 from our Subscription Liability Fund. Basically, we are giving an advance to ourselves.

In the Spring of 2021, La Viña anticipates publishing “Voices of Women” – in Spanish. Also, at that time, Grapevine hopes to publish a Prison Book, titled “Free on the Inside.”

For those looking for a way to perform 12th Step work via Grapevine’s Carry the Message (CTM) project, members can purchase gift certificates for those in need (i.e., loners, A.A. members in prisons, treatment or in remote communities). CTM is especially important during times when face-to-face 12th Step work becomes a challenge. Since January, over 421 CTM gift certificates have been processed. Essentially, that’s 421 people receiving subscriptions from folks they never even met.

Please consider supporting the Area 29 Grapevine Committee’s new project to bring Alcoholics Anonymous to those in need during the Covid-19 pandemic. Reach out to Meryl T. for more information on how you and your Districts and Homegroups can participate in this important 12 Step work.

Northeast Region Update & NERD Happening

A Virtual 2021 NERAASA has been scheduled for February and the committee, made of the Panel 69 Delegates, is hard at work planning for this first NE Regional Virtual event. I will forward more information as the planning unfolds. The 2021 NERAASA Platform Committee is asking for volunteers from the membership to supplement the production company hosting of the 2021 Virtual NERAASA.

<https://www.neraasa.org/register/>

The DCMs and Delegates of Areas 29 & 28 (Maine) will be co-hosting a “Journey through the Service Manual “ workshop series beginning in January 2021. More details on this series will be available next month.

Delegates and Alternate Delegates are continuing to meet virtually with our NE Regional Trustee Francis G. monthly and have the opportunity to ask questions, share happenings in our Areas and discuss concerns and share solutions to issues that we are all experiencing.

Take the time to visit the websites of our neighboring Areas for links to their virtual events. Our Area 29 Chair, Lori Mc, has begun sending information on some of these events in her new Calendar update weekly email.

Area 29 Conference Agenda Review Committees

The Area 29 CARCs have reconvened and we will have several items presented at the November Area Committee meeting. T9:11 AM thank you to all who have participated in the CARC process in 2020.

We will be reviewing and considering approval of these potential agenda items for the 71st GSC over the next two months. The beginning of the year we will begin our CARC process of helping the Delegate (that would be me) prepare for the 71st General Service Conference.

I received a document this week with 20 proposed items for the agenda of the 71st GSC. Several of those items were referred from the 70th GSC held in May of 2019. That document will be forwarded this weekend to Kurt W, Alt. Delegate and the leaders of our four Area 29 CARCs for distribution.

Delegate Virtual Travels

October 18 - Panel 69 & 70 NERD Monthly Meeting
October 19 - Area 29 Finance Committee Meeting
November 10 – District 42 Delegate Reportback

Delegate Upcoming Virtual Travels

November 15 - Panel 69 & 70 NERD Monthly Meeting
December 5 - DCM/Alt DCM/Delegate meeting
December 5 – East US/Canada Forums

If you are interested in a Delegate visit to your District or Intergroup, please reach out and we can get it on the calendar.

Thank you each one for all that you do for this amazing fellowship that brought us from darkness to light and to ensure that AA is here for all of those who will reach out for help in relieving their alcoholism for generations to come....c....

Cynthia T.
Delegate
Area 29 Panel 70
Trustees Conference Committee
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“Thank you for your life”

