



Delegate Report

Area 29 Panel 70

September 2020

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

Random Musings of your Delegate

2020 has been a year of change and has resulted in a revision of our old ideas around how we do the business of AA as conference members.

Since I last had the opportunity to share with you there have been two historic post-conference gatherings of the 70th GSC members.

The first was a reconvene of the 70th GSC for the final financial report from our GSB Treasurer, Class A Trustee Leslie Backus. This was a three-hour meeting with 1 ½ hour for the presentation and 1 ½ hours for Q&A. The final report was not included in the Final Conference Report but is now available for you to review on the Delegate page of our Area 29 website. I will share some of the details later in this report.

The second was an invitation to all of the 70th GSC Delegates from the GSB Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee to join them in working sessions involving all 135 Conference members. The purpose was to allow an opportunity for the General Service Conference members to provide input, thoughts and ideas on the GSB Strategic Plan (e.g., what are the successes, where are the holes, what activities should continue, where should we change course, etc.).

We each attended one of four 2-hour interactive working sessions that included 3 small breakout sessions on the following topics:

- ◇ Goal 1: The GSB will model inclusivity and acceptance by assisting the Fellowship in carrying the message and encouraging the spirit of the Third Tradition throughout A.A.
- ◇ Goal 3: The GSB will seek to improve the effectiveness of its communication to remain relevant and connected to those it serves
- ◇ Goal 6: The GSB will act as a role model in promoting the critical importance of our Traditions, including anonymity as discussed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions.

We have been assured that the feedback from the sessions will be organized and provided to the members of the conference as soon as possible.

The DCM/ Alt DCM/ Delegate meeting was held on September 12 with 18 attendees including our guest, Nikki O., Panel 70 Delegate from Area 28. Nikki shared with us about the workshop series that Area 28 has been presenting virtually since COVID arrived. Thank you to all who joined us for another outstanding meeting. Jenna F. will fill in some of the details later today. Beginning in October we will begin dedicating the last 45 minutes of our meeting to a comprehensive study of the service manual. We will be inviting guests from other Areas of our NE Region to lead us in those study sessions. We hope that all DCMs and Alt. DCMs will join us on October 12 @ 9:00 am.

I announced last month that I have received the Final 70th General Service Conference Reports. 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 a copy 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

I would like to make you aware that several members of our GSO Staff who have served us tirelessly for many years have retired as of the end of September. We will miss their faces, voices and experience. We have all benefited from their dedication to GSO and to the membership of Alcoholics Anonymous. This list represents 531 Years of service to AA. Thank you for all that you have done for the fellowship that we all love!

Susan Donnor	35 years	Julio Espailat	19 years
Karen Hale	15 years	Ayleen Martinez	19 years
Jeff Monasch	28 years	Bob Slotterback	28 years
Daniel Brown	25 years	Mary Cumings	10 years
John DeStefano	34 years	Evelyn Gonzalez	24 years
Rose Hendricks	12 years	Noela Jordan	30 years
Liz Ramdarass	35 years	Awilda Rivera.	32 years
Ivelisse Rivera	36 years	Linda Samuels	30 years
Eva Sanchez	24 years	Frank Segui	37 years
Darlene Smith	38 years	Rick Walker	20 years

There will be several upcoming vacancies on our corporate boards after the 71st GSC and the fellowship has responded to the call for trusted servants. The total AAGV NTD candidates was 24, the number of AAWS NTD candidates was 23. There were 21 applications for Chair of the Board.

We will also be electing a Trustee at large at the 71st GSC, and in October Area 29 will be holding a Third Legacy Election for our recommendation. Please consider standing if you meet the qualifications for this position. 2021 is a year with significant rotation in our leadership.

Planning is under way for a Virtual 71st GSC. The most recent information is that we will be scheduled for a full conference week, and other discussions are underway about the most effective way for the Conference Committees to accomplish the work that needs to be taken care of during the 71st GSC.



Financial Update

GSO announced the launch of a newly redesigned online contributions experience available to all groups and members in the United States and Canada on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. This new redesign comes with significant improvements. They have created what they hope is an experience that is appealing and inviting to use for all contributors. The hope is to provide the most accessible and streamlined experience possible on all web-ready devices, including the ability to contribute without registering for an account and to receive instant email acknowledgments. For members who choose to register an account, both their contribution and webstore details will be available in one unified view. GSO invites you to visit the new online contributions experience by visiting aa.org.

The 2020 revised forecasted 2020 budget was presented on August 15, 2020. Since almost all of our benchmarks and assumptions regarding 2020 were upended, the remaining budgets were revised. Copies of those budget revision highlights can be found in the financial report on our Area 29 website. Here are some highlights:

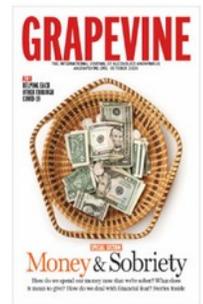
◇ The original 2020 budget included expenses of	\$18,798,860
◇ Reforecast 2.01 includes expenses of	<u>\$15,867,752</u>
◇ A decrease of	\$ 2,931,108

◇ The original 2020 budget included revenue of	\$18,800,000
◇ Reforecast 2.01 includes revenue of	<u>\$15,702,447</u>
◇ A decrease of	\$ 3,097,553
◇ The original 2020 budget included Net Income of	\$ 1,140
◇ Reforecast 2.01 includes a Net Loss of	\$ 165,306

The question was asked several times during the Finance presentation discussion about the cost of the original contract for the ERP system. The question is still unanswered, and we were assured that we would be informed immediately. All we have is the projected final cost of \$1.9M but we are unsure of how much over budget this project will ultimately be. Many of the Area Registrars are still experiencing difficulties and are concerned with the lack of efficiency of the new system.

We need to once again acknowledge and send a message of gratitude to all of you because the outreach to the membership for 7th Tradition support resulted in August 2020 contributions that were approximately \$1.03 million. Total contributions from all sources year to date are \$6,240,684.26.

The October Issue of Grapevine Is Here!



This month's Special Section is "Money and Sobriety" featuring stories by AA members about spending, saving, giving, making amends and financial fear—in and out of AA. It also features stories of hope by members during the current COVID-19 crisis.

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.

Grapevine is always looking for stories on special topics as well as for departments such as Emotional Sobriety, Sponsorship, Newcomers, Youth Enjoying Sobriety, Old-Timers and Home Group, and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:

- ◇ Fun in Sobriety! – Been on any fun sober trips? How about camping, sports, skydiving, dancing, collecting, cooking, volunteering? What about service events, new hobbies, game nights, sober vacations? Share your sober adventures! (Due Oct 15, 2020)
- ◇ More upcoming topics: Your Favorite Step, Dating & Relationships, Prison Service and more!

Northeast Region Update & NERD Happenings

Delegates and Alternate Delegates have been meeting virtually with our NE Regional Trustee Francis G. We are meeting 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. We have approved a Virtual 2021 NERAASA and the committee, made of the Panel 69 Delegates, is hard at work. I will forward more information as the planning unfolds but it appears that it will be a four-day event and that the registration fee will be \$20.

On September 15th I had the opportunity to share my thoughts on Concept 4 at the weekly concept study series hosted by Area 28. If you have the opportunity, please join us on the next few Tuesdays at 7:00. Next week will be Concepts 7 & 8.

Tuesdays September 8-October 13.
Zoom room opens at 6:30p Workshop 7p-8p
Meeting ID: 844 6755 1222 Password: 188964

Take the time to visit the websites of our neighboring Areas for links to their virtual events. The North East Region (home of the NERDs) is comprised of 18 Areas in the US from New England to Washington DC. They are Area 11/ Connecticut, Area 12 /Delaware, Area13/ Washington DC, Area 28/ Maine, Area 29/ Maryland, Area 30/ E. Massachusetts, Area 31/ W. Massachusetts, Area 43/ New Hampshire, Area 44/ N. New Jersey, Area 45/ S. New Jersey, Area 47/ Central New York, Area 48/ Hudson/Mohawk/Berkshire NY, Area 49/ SE New York, Area 50/ W. New York, Area 59/ E. Pennsylvania, Area 60/ W. Pennsylvania, Area 61/ Rhode Island, Area 70/ Vermont.

Conference Agenda Review Committees (CARC)

The Area 29 CARC process for the 71st GSC continued with CARC 1 and CARC II meetings held virtually. The details of the conference actions specific to their modified agenda items were presented and discussed by CARC 1. CARC II began discussion on potential agenda items to present for inclusion on the 71st GSC Agenda. A huge thank you goes out to our Area 29 Alt. Delegate, Kurt W., and the CARC leaders and mentors who have worked so diligently to make our year-round CARC process so very effective. Please refer to the MGS website for dates, times and virtual links for future CARC meetings.

Delegate Virtual Travels

August 15 – Special Virtual Finance Presentation 70th GSC
August 16 - Panel 69 &70 NERD Monthly Meeting
August 17 – Area 29 Finance Committee Meeting
August 17 - District 40 Delegate Report back
September 3- District 35 GSB Financial Report
September 12 - DCM/Alt DCM/Delegate meeting
September 13 - CARC I Reconvene
September 15 – Area 28 Concept Presentation

September 17 - GSB Strategic Planning
September 19 - CARC II Reconvene -71st GSC Agenda
September 19 - District 41 Picnic
September 20 - Panel 69 &70 NERD Monthly Meeting
September 21 - Area 29 Finance Committee Meeting
September 22 - NEMDAA Delegate Report back
September 23 – Area 29 71st GSC Agenda Item Meeting
September 24 - WCI Delegate Report back

Upcoming Delegate Virtual Travels

September 27 - HAIG/ Dist 20 GSB Financial Report
October 5 - IGLC GSB financial report
October 7 - Area 29 71st GSC Agenda Item Meeting
October 10 - DCM/Alt DCM/Delegate meeting
October 18 - Panel 69 &70 NERD Monthly Meeting
October 19 - Area 29 Finance Committee Meeting

If you are interested in hosting a Delegate Report back for 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
delegate@marylandaa.org
"Thank you for your life"

