



Area Committee Meeting

February 17, 2018

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Panel 68 Delegate to the General Service Conference. I am committed to maintaining two-way communication, not only by listening to your concerns and ideas, but also by continuing a legacy established by our Past Delegates of passing on to you all information and reports received from our General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the Northeast Region, and other news and events which affect Area 29 or A.A. as a whole. More will be revealed. . .

General Service Board News

Highlights from the General Service Board quarterly meeting on 10/30/17:

- The Trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward a number of Agenda Item proposals to the Conference Coordinator, including adding several items to the Big Book, developing pamphlets for atheists and agnostics, and revising a handful of existing pieces of literature.
- The Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums agreed to participate in the 2018 AI-Anon International Convention in Baltimore on July 5-8.

68^h General Service Conference:

The theme is: **"A.A. – A Solution for All Generations"**

Presentation/Discussion Topics:

1. Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion.
2. Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
3. A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions.
4. Attraction, Not Promotion: A.A.'s Relation to the World.
5. Group Conscience: The Guiding Force.

Workshop Topic: "Getting the A.A. Message Out"

The 68th General Service Conference presentation, discussion, and workshop topics are available for your use in local workshops, district meetings, and group discussion meetings. Please let me know how your local members respond to these topics.

Conference Committee Assignment:

For the next two years, I will serve on the Conference Grapevine Committee. We have already held a joint conference call with both the AAGV Corporate Board and the Conference GV Committee. With so many compelling items on our agenda this year, I am very grateful that in Area 29 we have three Past Delegates with a total of 13 years of experience on AA Grapevine Committees at the Conference or Trustees' level.

A.A. World Service, Inc. News

Corrections: The Fall 2017 issue of *Sharing from Behind the Walls* was doubled from two pages to four pages to allow more inmate sharing.

Finance: AAWS has requested time at the 2018 GSC for a presentation with the tentative title: A.A. Principles and Fiduciary Responsibility. Total revenues for Jan-Sept 2017 were \$1.2 million over budget, about half from literature sales and slightly over half from a significant increase in group and individual contributions. If the trend continues, we may even reach the goal of becoming 100% self-supporting through our own contributions.

G.S.O. Desk Assignments: A confidential list of the Service Desk assignments at the General Service Office is available in hard copy. Please use these contacts to communicate directly with your GSO.

I.T.: The security for GSO's Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database has been reconfigured, and a training manual has been sent to all Area Registrars.

Public Information: Local P.I. committees can now link broadcasters to a page on aa.org where all current video PSAs can be downloaded in HD Broadcast quality, on demand and without cost to the broadcaster or the local committee.

Area 29 Contributions to GSO: The Area 29 Quarterly Contribution Reports provided by AAWS for the 4th Quarter of 2017 were emailed to all DCMs on February 6. If you did not receive a copy, be sure to let me know. Please share these reports with your GSRs! The reports provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of self-support in maintaining our services. Total Area 29 Group contributions reported in 2017 were **\$99,475.95**, with 432 (**43.53%** of all) groups contributing, an improvement over 42.83% of groups in 2016. Kudos to District 41, which had contributions from 16 of 22 groups (72.73%).

Out of a total of 997 Area 29 Groups in GSO's Fellowship New Vision database, 835 are listed as active, meaning they have a registered GSR or Group Information Contact with a postal mailing address, and 162 Groups are listed as Unknown, meaning there is no current Group contact information in the database. It is vital that DCMs review the report to make sure all the Groups in your District are listed correctly. If there are any updates, please contact Area 29 Registrar Ray T. with the correct information. He will post it in the FNV database immediately. Please do NOT contact GSO or send information directly to them; that will only impede progress. Now is the time for us to get our records straight so we can move forward in service during the rest of Panel 68.



A.A. Grapevine, Inc. News

The Grapevine has a 2018 Subscription Challenge from now until December 29. Let's see if Area 29 can claim the prize this year! For details, go to www.aagrapevine.org/challenge

NERAASA: Jon W., Grapevine Senior Editor, and Irene D., La Viña Editor, will attend NERAASA 2018.

Northeast Region News

NERAASA 2018 – Cromwell, CT (Area 11): ALL A.A. members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA 2018) on February 23–25. The theme is that of the 68th General Service Conference: "A.A. – A Solution for All Generations." NERAASA is an excellent opportunity to learn about service in Alcoholics Anonymous and make hundreds of friends in the Northeast Region. Since Area 29 will be hosting NERAASA 2019, it is imperative that we gain experience and make our presence known next weekend.

2018 Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion: The Northeast Regional Delegate's Reunion (NERD) will be held from March 9-11 in Tarrytown, NY (Area 49),

Around Area 29

A lot has been happening behind the scenes since our last Area Assembly of 2017. Committees have been forming, districts have been meeting, new GSRs have been elected, bank signature cards have been signed, and workshops are being organized. Our Area Chair Victor K. led an excellent Area Planning meeting on Saturday 1/27, followed by an Election Transition meeting for MGS, Inc. led by MGS Board Chair Linda J.

We have already seen a few district workshops and other activities held this year in Area 29. I have attended

several intergroup and district meetings and events, but am now focusing more of my time on preparing for the 2018 General Service Conference. I have completed and forwarded all the forms and information requested by the Conference Coordinator, made my hotel and travel arrangements, and have begun immersing myself in studying the Conference background materials.

On Thursday 2/15, a committee of Past Delegates, along with Alternate Delegate Cynthia T. and me, met to select the Modified Conference Agenda which will be handed out today and discussed over the next seven weeks by our Conference Agenda Review Committees and at the Area 29 Mini-Conference. I hope to see all of you (and everyone you bring) at the upcoming CARC meetings as we consider the pros and cons of each Agenda Item on the Modified list. The CARCs provide a way for everyone in Area 29 to participate in the General Service Conference process, and for me as your Delegate to get a good sense of the collective conscience of all of Area 29. Participating in the CARCs and the Mini-Conference is YOUR opportunity to ensure that the General Service Conference communication is a two-way street.

I am willing to attend any A.A. function to discuss service issues pertaining to the General Service Conference. I welcome the input of all of our members interested in developing the Area conscience concerning our primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers – both today and in the future.

Feel free to contact me at (703) 994-1521 or email me anytime at delegate@marylandaa.org.

Yours in love and service,

Don B., Panel 68 Area 29 Delegate



Delegate Travels....

- 2/17 – Area Committee Meeting
- 2/17 – WCI Fellowship Event (6-9 pm)
- 2/18 – D40 workshop (1:30-4 pm)
- 2/23-25 – NERAASA, Cromwell, CT
- 3/03 – CARC 2 (9 am-12 noon)
- 3/04 – CARC 4 (1-4 pm)
- 3/09-11 – NERD, Tarrytown, NY
- 3/17 – Area Assembly/MGS, Inc. Annual Meeting
- 3/18 – CARC 4 (1-4 pm)
- 3/23 – CARC 1 (7-9 pm) (tentative)
- 3/24 – CARC 3 (1-4 pm)
- 3/25 – BICAA Fellowship Event (8-10 am)
- 4/07 – Area 29 Mini-Conference
- 4/14 – OC IG workshop (9am-4 pm)
- 4/22-28 – 68th General Service Conference
- 5/19 – Area 29 Report Back Assembly