

## **Delegate Report Fall Assembly Area 69 Utah**

**September 24, 2011**

**Bountiful, Utah**

### **“Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age”**

Hello Area 69 Utah, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and privilege to serve you and the A.A. fellowship as the Area 69 Utah Panel 61 Delegate. I hope all of our Utah A.A. Fellowship is happy, well, and carrying our life saving message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholics. Wow. What an incredible spring and summer. It has been my absolute privilege to have completed 26 Delegate Reports to our area. These have included hour long detailed reviews of the conference process and agenda items. The review of agenda items focused on both the ones that passed and ones that did not pass, the reasons and ramifications of both, and potential future effects to our fellowship. These reports have also included brief 3 to 5 minute summaries at recovery meetings. I am overwhelmed by the value of sharing the joys and accomplishments of General Service with our whole fellowship. Those who are not as formally involved with General Service care tremendously about the condition and future of our A.A. Fellowship. There seems to be a lot of interest in the GSO E-Book project. Eyes light-up and dance at the thought of our Big Book and 12 and 12 on mobile devices. One could conclude that reading a real book is no longer cool. At the recent Pacific Region Additional Forum held at Woodland Hills, CA, a short 12 hour van ride to the southwest, Phyllis H. reported that the E-Book project I-Tunes rollout will be November 15, 2011 with the Android following December 1, 2011.

The big news from GSO is the recent “Staff Rotation.” As rotation occurs throughout our A.A. service world, group level to the board of trustees, our GSO staff change assignments every two years. This practice started in 1951 as a means of broadening the pool of knowledge and experience among staff members, providing a chance for each staff member to contribute, and minimizing any competitiveness among staff members. A few notables include: Eva S. Conference Coordinator, Adrienne B. CPC, Tracey O. (new hire) Corrections, Jim M. Group Services, Mary Clare L. International, Gayle S.R. Literature, Warren S. Nominating, Mary C. PI, Julio E. Regional Forums, Rick W. Staff Coordinator/Web Services, and Mary D. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities. This maybe a list of names to some but my heart leaps with joy thinking about these incredible trusted servants. Without our staff there would be no GSO, no Conference, and maybe no Fellowship. If you are a standing chair please call and introduce yourself to your new staff member.

The July 2011 A.A.W.S. highlights noted that the GSO's current computer servers are nearing the end of their useful lives. We are preparing for a new hosting

arrangement that will provide a more robust, scalable, and highly reliable environment, that will be more than capable of accommodating our upcoming online E-Book initiatives. Also A.A. Regional Directories should be distributed soon. A.A.W.S. has published three new or updated pamphlets, I have provided these today with a few extras to the DCM's for their districts. Please take a few minutes and review the incredible valuable pieces of literature. Included is the new "A.A. For the Alcoholics with Special Needs", updated "Understanding Anonymity", updated "A.A. Member-Medications and other Drugs", and last but not least neither new nor updated "A.A. for the Native North American." During my recent journeys across our area I have glanced at many literature racks and my heart soars when the "A.A. For the Native North American" pamphlet is there. I still believe it is important to reach out to this still suffering population, one person, one pamphlet, one life saved at a time. A little about these pamphlets, each is our best. They include fellowship wide experience strength and hope about each specific topic. All were created after a need was established, written and reviewed by our best trusted servants. The process usually includes a trustees subcommittee, Trustee Committee review and Conference delegate committee review, and conference discussion (many times multi conferences), and conference approval with substantial unanimity (2/3 of all conference voting members). Years and thousands of hours of love are in these pieces of literature. Please take a few minutes and read them.

Speaking of literature our Conference-Approved Literature catalog for the first time ever includes Grapevine materials on the last two pages. You can actually order the *A.A. Big Book* and *Language of the Heart* from one catalog, progress. The A.A. Grapevine has a couple of new titles available; *Emotional Sobriety II* and *Step By Step*. For the first six months of 2011, A.A.W.S. distributed 904,368 pieces of A.A. literature. This compares to 864,161 for the first six months of 2010, a 4.75 percent increase. Contribution from A.A. groups and members for the first half of 2011 was \$2,985,250 which was \$21,470 under budget. However, gross profit on literature sales of \$4,098,742 was \$127,079 over budget. Total expenses of \$6,659,635 were \$313,321 under budget. Thus net income totaled \$424,712. For you non-number folks we're doing just fine.

The Grapevine is still struggling. What a wonderful product. I have been a faithful subscriber for over 19 years and each month I get a meeting in print. It's in my truck for downtime during my work, it's on my phone for long trips and the digital version is on my computers. These digital articles are great for presentations. However, renewals and new subscription are falling fellowship wide. They are down from last year even with the incredible effort of all the areas to get the fellowship informed. I am totally of the opinion that if we can inform the fellowship they will subscribe in mass numbers. The recent Grapevine Survey suggests differently with 96% our fellowship like the Grapevine, however only 4% actually subscribe. Ami B., Executive

Editor/Publisher of A.A. Grapevine Inc. suggested at the recent Pacific Region Additional Forum, a short 12 hour van ride to the southwest, the short fall for 2011 will be about \$114,000, which is way better than the \$400,000 in 2010, progress. My personal analysis concluded that the consistent increase in the annual subscription price is driving away many members on fixed incomes. The price 10 years ago was about \$22 and now it's over \$28. An elder member spoke passionately at the recent Forum about the increases and having to cancel a life time of joy from the Grapevine. Maybe self-support for the Grapevine is a great concept but an annual stipend from the General Fund of a few hundred thousand is more realistic. Our fellowship needs the Grapevine, I need the Grapevine. Bill W. from the 2010-2011 A.A. Service Manual page S1: "Concerning any given service, we therefore pose one question: 'Is this service really needed?' If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek A.A."

I have included a table with a whole bunch of numbers. These were compiled from the annual Final Conference Reports 2004 through 2011. Speaking of the 2011 Final Conference Reports "We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future-Let It Begin With Us (The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous)", I have a few here today, a few hundred were distributed through the DCM's during a recent Pre-Assembly Workshop. These Final Conference Reports are a great read with an incredible wealth of information. A quick review strongly suggests we are financially healthy with a steady, although modest increase in contributions and literature sales for the past 8 years. Last year we had almost \$8,000,000 in gross literature profits and \$6,500,000 in contributions. That's \$2,000,000 more than 8 years ago for literature sales and \$1,500,000 more in contributions. We almost always spend a little less than our total revenue, which is good and unique in today's world. Your bucks in the basket are working very hard carrying our message to the still suffering. The second table titled "Fellowship Statistics" is from a financial presentation by Terrance Bedient, a Class A Trustee who serves us as our treasurer. If you want this presentation as a power point, please ask and I will forward it. It's called "Around the Picnic Table" and is meant to make the finance easy and explainable. A review suggests our fellowship is only growing slightly, which is ok, we never wanted to save the world, just carry our message to the still suffering. Please note the Cost of Service per group per years is dropping, which shows the efficiencies of our GSO.

Lastly, it's time for your suggestions for a theme, presentation, and workshop topic of 2013 General Service Conference, past themes and the form is provide in this report. Also, we need a theme for the 2015 International Convention. Thanks, Thanks, and Thanks for my life.

Keith Montgomery Panel 61 Area 69 Delegate

	Actual 2004	Actual 2005	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Actual 2011
General Service Office Income								
Sales Gross Profit	5,710,842	6,676,628	6,875,237	7,046,664	6,948,350	8,235,374	7,863,870	7,947,800
Contributions	5,191,634	5,417,046	6,068,172	6,526,002	6,462,760	6,296,110	6,408,421	6,500,000
Interest Income	2,671	9,402	8,765	9,891	5,758	1,185	1,113	1,000
Total Revenue	10,905,147	12,103,076	12,952,174	13,582,557	13,416,868	14,532,669	14,273,404	14,448,800
Expenses	11,217,318	11,126,906	12,294,290	12,563,980	13,692,233	13,259,109	13,018,115	14,108,720
	(312,171)	976,170	657,884	1,018,577	(259,365)	1,273,560	1,255,289	340,080
Grapevine								
Sales Gross Profit	1,578,248	1,506,502	1,519,004	1,667,395	1,740,417	1,784,611	1,780,829	1,817,323
Expenses	1,570,413	1,522,584	1,636,049	1,765,221	1,945,073	1,963,105	2,218,666	1,950,093
Profit (Loss)	60,945	60,280	(48,873)	(25,047)	(138,456)	(132,594)	(399,037)	(93,970)
Average # of Copies	108,203	104,356	103,878	106,099	104,993	102,281	93,104	88,235
Unit Cost								
Average Unit Price	14.58	14.44	14.62	15.71	16.58	17.45	19.13	20.60

Compiled from "The General Service Office Operating Budget" tables within "Report of the Independent Auditor" section of the *Final Conference Report* 2004 to 2011.

#### FELLOWSHIP STATISTICS

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cost of Service per member per year	\$6.49	\$7.04	\$6.46	\$6.29
Cost of Service per group per year	\$146.18	\$157.21	\$142.64	\$137.45
Number of members reported	1,314,552	1,342,380	1,358,879	1,373,681
Number of groups reported	58,340	60,093	61,581	62,873
Contributions for member per year	\$4.82	\$4.69	\$4.50	\$4.54
Contributions per group per year	\$111.86	\$107.55	\$102.24	\$99.24
Literature contribution to Service cost	\$1.67	\$2.35	\$1.96	\$1.75

"Around the Picnic Table – Finance Presentation" presented May 4, 2011 General Service Conference by Terry Bedient Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee General Service Board Treasurer.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THEMES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE</b></p>
--

**1966 - 2012**

*The 1966 Conference was the first to have a "theme"*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1966 - Principles and Responsibility</p> <p>1967 - Sponsorship--The Hand of A.A.</p> <p>1968 - Unity Vital to A.A. Survival, Growth</p> <p>1969 - Group Conscience Guides A.A.</p> <p>1970 - Service--The Heart of A.A.</p> <p>1971 - Communication: Key to A.A. Growth</p> <p>1972 - Our Primary Purpose</p> <p>1973 - Responsibility--Our Expression of Gratitude</p> <p>1974 - Understanding and Cooperation--Inside and Outside A.A.</p> <p>1975 - Unity Through Love and Service</p> <p>1976 - Sponsorship--Our Privilege and Responsibility</p> <p>1977 - The A.A. Group--Where It Begins</p> <p>1978 - The Member and the Group--Recovery Through Service</p> <p>1979 - The Legacies: <u>Our</u> Heritage and <u>My</u> Responsibility</p> <p>1980 - Participation: The Key to Recovery</p> <p>1981 - A.A. Takes Its Inventory</p> <p>1982 - The Traditions - Our Way of Unity</p> <p>1983 - Anonymity - Our Spiritual Foundation</p> <p>1984 - Gratitude - The Language of the Heart</p> <p>1985 - Golden Moments of Reflection</p> <p>1986 - A.A.'s Future - Our Responsibility</p> <p>1987 - The Seventh Tradition - A Turning Point</p> <p>1988 - Singleness of Purpose - Key to Unity</p> <p>1989 - Anonymity - Living Our Traditions</p> | <p>1990 - The Home Group - Our Responsibility and Link to A.A.'s Future</p> <p>1991 - Sponsorship: Gratitude in Action</p> <p>1992 - The A.A. Message in a Changing World</p> <p>1993 - A.A. Takes Its Inventory--The General Service Conference Structure</p> <p>1994 - Spirit of Sacrifice</p> <p>1995 - Pass It On - Our Three Legacies</p> <p>1996 - Preserving Our Fellowship - Our Challenge</p> <p>1997 - Spirituality - Our Foundation</p> <p>1998 - Our Twelfth Step Work</p> <p>1999 - Moving Forward: Unity Through Humility</p> <p>2000 - Trusting Our Future to A.A. Principles</p> <p>2001 - Love and Service</p> <p>2002 - Sharing the Steps, Traditions and Concepts</p> <p>2003 - Living A.A.'s Principles Through Sponsorship</p> <p>2004 - Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of A.A.</p> <p>2005 - Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service</p> <p>2006 - Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World</p> <p>2007 - Our 12<sup>th</sup> Step Responsibility – Are We Going to Any Length?</p> <p>2008 - Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support</p> <p>2009 - Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action</p> <p>2010 - Practicing A.A.'s Principles – The Pathway to Unity</p> <p>2011 - We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future – Let it Begin With Us</p> <p>2012 - Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age</p> |
|--|---|

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY**

**Area Name & Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

To: 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference Agenda Committee

Subject: Suggestions for the Theme, Presentations and Workshop Topics for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, April 21 - 27, 2013.

---

Here are our suggestions:

➤ Theme for 63rd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference:

---

---

---

---

➤ Presentation Topics (related to theme suggestions):

---

---

---

---

➤ Workshop Topics:

---

---

---

---

Print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Conference Secretary  
General Service Office  
475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10115