

Delegates Report February Committee Meeting Area 69 Utah

February 25, 2012

Moab, Utah

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

Hello Area 69, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is my great honor and privilege to serve you and our Alcoholics Anonymous Fellowship as Panel 61 Delegate from Area 69 Utah. I hope you all had a great holiday. I spent the last of December in Tucson and the first part of January on the island of Maui, but now I am traveling for Area business again. This past weekend, and so far this week, I have logged in over 1440 miles.

At the December 9, 2011 Alcoholics Anonymous World Services board meeting, held at the New York GSO, Pam R., chair of A.A.W.S., opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. The following were noted in the Manager's report: 1) after an intense year of deadline commitments and anticipation, it is exhilarating to see our eBook project launched! Note between 12-12-11 to 1-31-12 there were 2552 units (Fourth Edition Big Book and of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in English, French and Spanish) sold through A.A.W.S. with the free app from I-Tunes. 2) The Annual Day of Sharing between Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and the National Council on Alcoholism was a great success, in attendance from G.S.O. were the general manager (Phyllis H.) and Adrienne B. 3) The Archives Department headed by nonalcoholic G.S.O. Archivist Michelle Mirza has produced a wonderful document entitled “Archives Preservation Guidelines” to assist local endeavors in the preservation of our A.A. history. 4) From the Publishing Department the 2011-2012 edition of *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts of World Service*, is now available in English, French and Spanish. This service manual reflects the actions of the 2011 General Service Conference.

GSO staff have all rotated into their new assignments and, headed by Eva S. Conference coordinator, have begun preparation for the 2012 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference to be held at the Hilton Westchester in Rye Brook, NY. The Corrections desk sent an Activity Update to the committee chairs for Corrections, Hospitals and Institutions, and Bridging the Gap. Tracey O. was introduced as the new staff member and has requested sharing from the Fellowship on new challenges and local solutions in their corrections A.A. service work for a planned revision of the survey pages in the Corrections Workbook. The desk also sent out a plea for outside members (particularly men) to participate in the Corrections Correspondence Service with inmates as there is a waiting list of A.A.s behind walls wanting to write to members outside. Following up with 2011 Additional Committee Consideration from the Grapevine Conference Committee, information about A.A. Grapevine and La Vina is being inserted into general service representative kits. The Public Information (P.I.) desk continues to stay busy with projects, as work related to the 2011 Membership Survey continues and the

Hispanic TV public service announcement (P.S.A.) is in the production process (more about this later today).

A.A.W.S. board approved the recommendation from the Publishing committee that translation of A.A. literature may include text and images in order to better reach suffering alcoholics from widely divergent cultures and backgrounds in countries other than the United States and Canada. A.A.W.S. will begin providing bar codes on books in order to help track inventory and process purchases. The Publications Department will also look into adding bar codes to pamphlets. Big Book unit distribution to the first 11 months of 2011 was 876,637, as compared to 816,006 in the same time period in 2010, while the distribution of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* through the end of November 2011 totaled 365,317, as compared to 337,058 through November of last year. Lastly, Karen Hale, G.S.O.'s Manager of Administrative Services, gave a presentation on G.S.O.'s record system, Fellowship New Vision (FNV). The FNV User's Manual is in final draft and is currently being reviewed by select FNV users within the Fellowship. The new plan should be available in early 2012.

During the fall I was reviewing past conference Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations and noticed the 1990 General Service Conference stressed the importance of communication between Area General Service and intergroup/central offices. So, I have been visiting our local Utah intergroup/central offices. It has been an absolute pleasure to attend meetings at three out of five with the fourth scheduled for May. Mutual respect and communication is the best solution for these closely related autonomous organizations. Good and frequent communication should reduce redundant efforts involving our 12 Step services. In that regard, there is a day of sharing planned for March 17 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm at the Salt Lake Central Office. Please come and be part of the solution.

As part of the gift of being your Delegate, I got to return to New York the last weekend of January to observe our General Service Board Weekend and Board Meeting. I am going to read my notes to the 62<sup>nd</sup> CPC Conference Committee email on February 13.

Hi Committee,

I hope you are having warm weather where you are. We have barely had a winter in Utah; but, it probably doesn't count since I spent the first part of January on Maui and the temperatures in New York were unseasonably warm (over 60 degrees). Attached are my thoughts about the January Board Weekend.

Dearest 62<sup>nd</sup> CPC Conference Committee Members;

WOW! What an amazing weekend (that actually lasted eight days). The following is a brief review of the January General Service Board Meetings, with a few personal observations. First and foremost we are truly blessed with the absolute best trusted servants for our fellowship.

Our GSO staff, non-trustee directors, appointed committee members, and trustees are the most gracious, knowledgeable, humble people in the whole world; and yes I am very bias. These are my people. They all treated the 14 Delegate Chairs like we were royalty, always considering what we might need, making sure we understood what was happening, what was going to happen and in general basically concerned that we were happy all the time.

My wife, Jacki and I arrived a few days early and began our adventure with a tour of Ground Zero. We had two 9/11 survivors as our guides; one was a fire fighter – engine man – from Brooklyn; and the other was a very pleasant New Yorker whose brother was murdered in the North Tower collapse. The two hour tour was so emotional that all we could do the rest of the day was a short tour of the Smithsonian Native American Indian Museum. Since both my wife and I are professional archaeologist this was both enjoyable and grounding.

Friday morning most of the Delegate Chairs accompanied by El, the Southwest Regional Trustee, rode the Uptown subway to our General Service Office. As we turned the corner, the Interchurch Center at 475 Riverside Drive came into view and my heart soared. As I walked across the street I stood taller, smiled brighter and was very proud to be part of my fellowship. I was home again, there is no other place in the world, other than my home group, the Triangle House in Moab Utah, where I feel more welcome, safe and at peace. Entering the room was the GSO staff, my eyes filled with tears seeing the Marys, Julio, Eva, Doug, Jim, Tracey, Gayle, Rick, and Warren. Then Adrienne caught my eye and with a warm smile said welcome back. We all paired up, the Delegate Conference Committee Chairs with our associated GSO staff secretary. El, Chair Trustees' Committee on the Conference, Ward Ewing, Chair General Service Board, Phyllis, GSO General Manager, and Eva, 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference Coordinator, all participated in the orientation meeting. We were lovingly informed we were "observers" and would not participate at any time during the Trustees' Committee Meetings. However, we were encouraged to ask questions before and after all meetings. El started the meeting with a Moment of Silence, which was the standard opening for all meetings for the entire weekend. Following the Serenity Prayer, El read a series of passages from *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, by Bill W. page 72. Bill's writings about "our great liberties" and "mutual respect and love" were the absolute perfect start for a great day of sharing. Later that afternoon Adrienne and I reviewed potential CPC agenda items and concluded that although a relatively light schedule, there are numerous items for us to discuss, deliberate and form a group conscience on during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference. We will all receive our committee agenda items on February 15 (however, continue to check the Dashboard - last year we could download Final Agenda Items and Background a few days early), and my review here would be premature. Please continue to review our C.P.C. Kit and Workbook. Adrienne indicated we should receive our new updated Kits in early March and we can also look forward to a new "About AA" about the same time. Our committee discussions should never include actual agenda item deliberations prior to the Conference. If you have questions please ask either myself and/or Adrienne. We will always try to provide any and all relevant information about our CPC assignment.

Friday night most of the Delegate Chairs, Trustees, non-Trustees Directors, appointed committee members, and guests enjoyed an Italian feast at Carmines in Times Square. Good food, enthusiastic conversations and lots of laughter filled the air of Times Square.

Saturday morning the Trustees' Committee Meetings started and I attended the following over the next two days; 1) Conference, 2) Corrections, 3) Literature, 4) Archives, and 5) CPC/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities. These committee meetings open with a Moment of Silence, followed by approval of minutes, reading committee or subcommittee reports, discussion and voting on all potential final agenda items. Agenda items have basically four paths; 1) Tabled until July Board meeting, 2) refer to another Trustee committee, 3) forwarded to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference, and 4) Take no Action. All of these paths were followed during these Trustee committee meetings. I was truly amazed by two separate aspects of these deliberations. First, the incredible amount of time spent by committee member preparing for these meetings, they read, reread and analyze pages and pages of complex items and all relevant background materials; and second, the thoughtful and exhausting discussion of all agenda items. These volunteers are truly the most professional amateurs in the world. They all care passionately about our fellowship. No decision is made without careful discussion and vote. And yes minority opinion is heard and a few times reconsideration occurred.

Throughout the weekend we were all well fed and cared for by all. The Saturday night dinner was the best rubber chicken I have ever had. During the AA meeting it was my privilege to read "How it Works" Chapter 5 from the Big Book, which was followed by three great personal stories.

Last of the agenda was the January General Service Board Meeting on Monday morning. It lasted over four hours, consisted of 12 scheduled items, including 2 corporate reports, 3 general reports, 12 Trustee committee reports and under new business a final agenda item for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference involving a restructuring of the Grapevine Corporation.

Wow! Wow! What an experience, the gift of a lifetime. I now trust our committee system even more than before and I have also loved the committee work. A tremendous amount of work can be accomplished by relatively few workers in small groups with a trusted approval of the whole.

My wife and I spent a few more days touring museums and looking at big buildings. The big blue whale at the "American Museum of National History" can only be described as Wow!

Keith M., Area 69 Utah, Panel 61 Delegate