

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

**September 22, 2012**

**Richfield, Utah**

## **“The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action”**

Greetings fellowship, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and privilege to serve you as the Area 69 Utah Panel 61 Delegate. There are some very good things going on in our fellowship. First, I want to recognize the upward growth of our Area 69 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions. We as an Area fellowship have been communicating our needs to carry our message, and the fellowship is responding. We are a unique organization, we do not accept outside contributions, we do not need them, we do not want them. Our message is carried by humble basket donations in our local meetings. I believe starting back a few years ago with a gradual consistent growth, our Utah Fellowship is speaking loud and clear. We as an Area Committee are very frugal, stretching each dollar to its maximum spiritual potential. Our treasurer, accompanied by an outstanding financial committee, has led an incredible effort to create a balanced realistic budget. We now know what we have and where it is going.

The current issue of our Area 69 News and Notes has an article from Rod B., our Pacific Regional Trustee, about spiritual solutions of our three legacies we can all communicate through simple discussions in our home groups. Another article in News and Notes is a reprint of the talk I was privileged to give at the recent Pacific Regional Forum. The article reflects on changes in the ways we carry our message of recovery over the past 75 years. I believe that our program of recovery as outlined in our basic text, the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, was spiritually inspired and as close to perfect as any document that exists. My entire spiritual belief, the core of my being, is founded on the truth of the 12 Steps. Change does not come easy to me. It appears that at least for part of our fellowship we are now content to wait for the newcomer to walk through the doors of our meetings. Are we carrying the message or do we wait and tell them after they have arrived? For the next three years we will be inventorying our Conference Process and our Service Structure, I hope we can also look at the ways we carry our message to the still suffering.

Wow. What an incredible spring and summer. It has been my absolute privilege to have completed over 20 Delegate Reports to Area 69, both Walter and Renae each presented at one district, thanks to you both. 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.

A few highlights of the July 2012 board meetings. The trustees' Committees on Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.), Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities, Corrections, and Public Information (P.I.) appointed four subcommittees: 1) C.P.C. to explore options for providing information about A.A. to professionals; 2) Corrections to review a section "A.A. in correctional facilities" in the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" and to review the pamphlet as a whole; 3) Public Information to explore all aspects of the social media Facebook page and, if feasible within our Traditions, provide the 2013 Conference Committee on P.I. an implementation plan that addresses the implications of such a page; and 4) Public Information to consider the survey methodology for "A.A. Membership Survey" and how the survey information is used as a P.I. tool. All of these subcommittees will report to the October board meeting.

Good news from A.A. Grapevine, June year to date sales are performing ahead of projections. Cash inflows are \$1,714,000 which is \$310,000 ahead of projections, specifically, magazine sales were \$217,000 ahead; GV Online was ahead by \$18,000; and other products were ahead by \$60,000. As a result there have been no draw downs from the Reserve Fund. AAGV.org's web subscription source is the largest for GV with a renewal rate of 32%.

As noted in my last report, A.A.W.S. gross sales through the end of May 2012 were budgeted at \$5,530,240 - with actual sales of \$5,462,710. Print book units distribution for this same period totaled 754,897 units; non-A.A. purchases accounted for 130,055 units, or 17.2%. Since December 9, 2011 the launch date, a total of 6,018 e-books have been sold. Speaking of the eBook project, Phyllis H., G.S.O. General Manager, reported to the fellowship that the Board has made a decision to discontinue the development of an eReader App for Android phones; however, there will be an update to the Apple iPhone App and

continued exploration of the best way to make eBooks widely and easily available for purchase through existing eReader vendors. The Board will begin working toward implementation of the distribution process, with a planned release of A.A.W.S. eBooks following the 2013 General Service Conference. Contribution for the first six months of the year were \$3,105,695, \$120,400 more than the same period of 2011. Total revenue year to date 2012 was \$7,171,211 against total expenses of \$6,981,665 for a net profit of \$189,556.

A.A.W.S. has published three new or updated pamphlets (Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey, A.A. and the Armed Services pamphlet and It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell) and the revised Anonymity Wallet Cards, 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.

Gayle S.R. GSO staff from the Literature Desk sent a friendly reminder about the incredible value of our Box 4-5-9. She makes three important points 1) An issue of Box 4-5-9 is sent quarterly to each G.S.R. or other group contact for A.A. groups in the United States and Canada. This issue is meant to be shared with the group, possibly pointing out articles of particular interest regarding group issues that are brought to the attention of G.S.O through phone calls, e-mails and other correspondence; 2) The articles of interest to group life may be used as topics for discussion in A.A. meetings; and 3) The Winter 2012 issue will cover Gratitude Month in A.A., along with a myriad of other ways that the topic of self-support in A.A. can be addressed. Issues of Box 4-5-9 are available on the A.A. Web page all the way back to 1990 and all A.A. members can digitally subscribe online.

Mary C. GSO staff secretary for the Trustees' Public Information Committee has requested Area sharing on an Additional Consideration from the 2012 General Service Conference, specifically, your ideas about "regarding the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today." You can send your sharing via email to [Publicinfo@aa.org](mailto:Publicinfo@aa.org) or postal mail. The deadline for this sharing is December 31, 2012.

Rick W. from General Service Office announced a G.S.O staff opening, if you are interested in working in New York for our fellowship, please see me I have the application. Also, it's time for your suggestions for a theme and presentation topics of 2014 General Service Conference, I have a few blank forms.

Well, last weekend was the 2012 Pacific Regional Forum held way up north in Fairbanks, Alaska. In brief, I spent 12 days frolicking in the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension with my General Service friends. Some of these friends were from Utah, the rest were either from the Pacific Region or New York. Yes, a drunk from Moab has friends from New York City, Wow! The single best way to summarize a Forum is informing the Fellowship. The trustees both A and B's, Grapevine and A.A.W.S. directors, GSO staff, and the General Service manager shared the joys of working within the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous. Visualize our inverted service triangle with all of you at the top, area delegates in the middle, trustees, directors and staff at the bottom and Ward Ewing, the chairman of the board, occupying the very tip. I am very pleased to say I've hugged people from the low places, well for that matter, I've hugged people from throughout the service triangle. What happens at a Forum? Lots of information about what our trusted servants do for us. A real big one is publishing our literature, A.A.W.S. takes care of our Conference approved stuff like the Big Book, the 12 and 12, a wealth of pamphlets and all our service pieces and the committee workbooks. Grapevine handles our recovery sharing in a monthly magazine and anthologies of past sharing, like Language of the Heart. Another part of the Forum included presentations from the Pacific Region Delegates which were both humorous and thought provoking. The Delegates were the facilitators of the Saturday night workshops which got everyone involved. The Alaskans were spectacular hosts and the autumn colors contrasted against the snow capped mountains were incredibly pretty and very spiritual.

Ok, yes a few salmon were also caught. A splashing 15lb silver salmon will create a joyous smile, look Monte is still smiling.

Thanks for my incredible life. May we all walk in beauty on our spiritual path to the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension.

Keith Montgomery Panel 61 Area 69 Utah Delegate