

Delegates Report December Committee Meeting Area 69 Utah

December 1, 2012

Midvale, Utah

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

Greetings Area 69, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is my great honor and privilege to serve our fellowship as the Panel 61 Delegate from Utah Area 69. Well, it has been an incredibly fast two years, it seems like it was just a few days ago that I was waiting for my committee assignment for my first conference. The Panel 61 delegate term for me has been a life changing event, of which all of you have played a major part. You have put the Joy in Happy, Joyous, and Free. Come December 31 at midnight I will know a new meaning of freedom. After three trips to New York I can report that our fellowship is healthy and incredibly well organized. Our staff is the best of the best, these wonderful folks include volunteers and special workers, alcoholics and non-alcoholics. I understand the passion of the alcoholics, our lives depend on complete dedication, however these non-alcoholic Class A volunteers are simply amazing. They seem to love drunks, well may sober drunks. Some in our fellowship are troubled that we are not growing, I am not. If we are carrying our message daily to the best of our ability, then we are ok. It was never my plan to save the world, those that need us will find us, if the hand of A.A. is there.

About money, I am simply amazed that our home group basket donations totally support all we do; well almost, we still need the profits from our literature sells. I love to be part of an organization with no outside contributions. Our local area contributions have been on the rise, thus meeting our needs. Could we use a little more? Probably. Do we need twice as much? Probably not.

Monte and I took a recent road trip down to Florida to attend the Southeast Regional Forum. Yes, visiting with Gay and Patti and supporting Rod B., our Pacific Regional Trustee, was a very pleasant bonus. The floor and ask-it-basket questions were very similar to ours in the Pacific Region. Divisions and concerns of power with our service structure were expressed – Principles before Personalities? Specifically, why A.A.W.S. created an app for Apple without conference input and why did A.A.W.S. cancel the development of the Android app. The explanation from Phyllis our General

Service Manager was incredible. Understanding our history of being a publishing organization from the beginning, controlling our own destiny is a core value for our fellowship as a whole. Therefore, having our own app is very important to us; however, after cost analysis, in a rapidly changing techno world, it became obvious that we simply could not afford the expense. What we want and what we can afford are two different things and I applaud our GSO leaders for knowing the difference.

As you may remember the Public Information committee put forth an additional consideration that "...A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public. ...". A trustee sub-committee was formed and the work began. Bill N. a non-trustee director for A.A.W.S. and a member of the sub-committee reports that the committee has determined that having a presence is not feasible. Part of the problem is that Facebook will not return our inquiries about how the page could be created. I am sure Walter will have more information for us soon.

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 sharing via email to Publicinfo@aa.org or postal mail. The deadline for this sharing is December 31, 2012.

Phyllis H., the GSO general manager, reported that the 22nd World Service Meeting took place October 21-25, 2012 in Rye, New York, just prior to the board meeting and the arrival of Hurricane Sandy. Delegates from over 30 countries and international entities attended. The Fall 2012 issue of *About A.A.* was mailed, made available for digital delivery, and posted to the website. This issue features an article about the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey, Frequently Asked Questions about Anonymity, and a few other articles. Also, longtime staff member, Warren S., retired on November 1 and Valerie O'N., Publications Director, will be leaving at the end of the year. Let's all wish them happy retirements!

I ask for your thoughts and prayers for loving guidance as I trudge along our spiritual path into the 4th dimension. May we all walk in beauty as we pursue our happy, joyous, and free lives in the fellowship of the spirit.

Keith M., Area 69 Utah, Panel 61 Delegate