

Delegates Report February Committee Meeting Area 69 Utah
February 23, 2013
Fillmore, Utah

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

Hello my name is Walter and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for the honor to serve as your Delegate for Area 69 Panel 63. Since I have been elected as your Delegate, I have been visiting the Districts [along with the Alternate Delegate (Doug R.), Area 69 Chair (Wade J.), and the Agenda/Assembly Chair (Matt D.)]. I talked about the role of the Delegate and the importance of the General Service Representative (GSR) role. Doug, Wade, and Matt introduced themselves and explained the role they play in the Area.

I re-read some of the A.A. literature so that I could discuss the roles of Delegate and GSR with accuracy. The following excerpt came from the A.A. Service Manual:

Concept I: The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

In 1938, a Trusteeship was created for A.A. that was called the Alcoholic Foundation. Later on in 1954, the Trusteeship was renamed the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

In 1948, it became known that Dr. Bob was suffering from a fatal illness. This news drove home the hard fact that he and I were almost the sole links between our virtually unknown Trustees and the movement they serve. The Trustees always had relied heavily upon Dr. Bob and me for advice. They had taken a firm grip on money expenditures, but they necessarily turned to us every time that A.A. policy questions arose. Then, too, the groups of that time did not really rely much on the Trustees for the management of their service affairs; they were still looking to Dr. Bob and me. So here was a society whose total functioning was still largely dependent upon the credit and the confidence which, for the time being, its founders happened to enjoy.

The fact had to be faced that A.A.'s founders were perishable. When Dr. Bob and I had gone, who would then advise the Trustees; who could link our little-known Board to our thousands of groups? For the first time it was seen that only a representative conference could take the place of Dr. Bob and me. This gap simply had to be filled without delay.

There were other reasons for this basic shift of ultimate responsibility and authority to A.A. as a whole. These reasons center around Tradition Two. The main principles of Tradition Two are clear: the A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.

The question now is how to get the groups and the trustees communicating with one another. The following communication chain was formed:

The groups get together to form a district. The districts get together to form an Area. There are 12 districts in Area 69. The groups are

represented by Group Service Representatives (GSRs) the districts are represented by District Committee Members (DCMs). In the Area the GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs elects the Delegate to represent Area 69 at the General Service Conference in New York.

General Service is a communication chain between the Trustees and the groups. Therefore, the GSR is an important link to the Trustees. Our literature like the AA Service Manual and the Concepts are our guidelines to this communication chain. These guidelines help the Delegate to represent Area 69 and AA as a whole.

Today we are here to learn about the Agenda Items that the Trustees sent to the GSC to be discussed and voted on. These Agenda Items will be taken to the Groups for discussion and consensus. This information will be relayed to the Area 69 Delegate who will take this information with him back to the General Service Conference. I look forward to your comments and questions on these Agenda Items.

The following is from the General Service Board January weekend of 2013:

After consideration of a request from the Trustees' Archives Committee, the AAWS Board approved the concept of posting selected archival recordings on GSO's AA website. The Board also approved the posting of the existing literature catalog with prices and order forms be made available on GSO's AA website as part of an effort to clarify ordering AA literature.

Funding was included in the 2013 AAWS budget for completion of the oral translation of the Navajo Big Book.

EBooks unit distribution: Since December 9, 2011 we have sold 5,118 Big Books and 4553 Twelve and Twelves in Ebook format.

Total units purchased to date were 1,738,857 total AA units and 327,836 total Non-AA units, Non-AA purchases include hospitals, treatment centers, correctional facilities and government agencies (V.A.s) and Hazelden. Total gross sales to date are \$12,506,949 which is \$293,051 under budget. The AAWS Board approved the 2013 budget of the GSO and agreed to forward it to the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee. The budget reflects a net loss for the 12 months ended December 31, 2013 of \$611,000.

AA GRAPEVINE, INC.

Circulation of the print magazine averaged 83,258 for the 12 months ended 12/31/12, below budget of 3,671. Cash inflows are \$3,095,517 which is \$262,544 ahead of projections.

Magazine sales were ahead by \$141,000; GV Online was ahead by \$22,000 and other publishing products were ahead by \$100,000. As a result there have been no draw downs from the Reserve Fund. Year to date net profit was \$257,003, which is ahead of budget by \$222,922.

La Vina has a net loss YTD of \$115,820, which is larger than the budgeted loss of \$105,668. Costs and expenses YTD were \$181,285, which is \$3,246 over budget.

GSO's Financial Results:

Gross profit from literature sales was \$7,878,000, which was 63.7% compared with Gross profit Percentage of 63.7% from 2011. This indicates that costs are holding.

Contributions for the year were \$6,565,600, which was \$37,600 more than budgeted and \$301,100 greater than last year.

Total revenue was \$14,444,000, which is \$4,231 less than budgeted and \$217,600 more than 2011. Total operating expenses are \$14,283,552 were \$56,788 less than budgeted and \$875,065 more than 2011. The unaudited net profit for 2012 was \$160,450 which was \$52,000 more than budget after adjustments for Conference actions and approximately \$657,500 less than 2011.

Updates on the restructure:

The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of both entities, as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the General Service Office and the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation.

The Proposed Plan

The proposed plan represents an informed and well considered collective group conscience of the General Service Board. It seeks to fulfill the Conference action by dramatically improving communication between the GSB and the subsidiary corporations, by providing an appropriate means to develop collaboration and to coordinate operations, and by strengthening reporting and

communication for financial decision making, thereby serving the broader Fellowship more effectively and efficiently while enabling the Board to exercise its primary role as principal planner "with respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance." (Concept VIII) The Plan has two components: Changes in current practices which were approved by the GSB at its February, 2013 meeting and a change in the composition of the corporate boards. We recognize that overall implementation of these proposals will require time, adjustments, and fine tuning before smooth functioning is achieved. However, because the proposal does not create legal changes in our corporate structure, if they do not work out as planned, current practices may easily be restored.

The proposed plan (A) does not change the current corporate structure; (B) it does provide for improved communication and cooperation by electing the same people to serve on both the Board of Directors of AAWS Inc. and the Board of Directors of AAGV Inc. This will provide a unified board (legally known as an "interlocking directorate") that will focus on the operations

of both subsidiary corporations and will allow the General Service Board to focus on strategy and policy. The corporations remain as distinct, independent corporate operations. The composition of this united operations group will include the Chief Executives (GM and EEP) of the subsidiary corporations. The independent Editorial Board of the Grape Vine will continue.

The General Service Board examined several possible changes in our present corporate structure before determining that this modest change would address our concerns while allowing the advantages of the separate service corporations to continue.

In addition to this change in the composition of the subsidiary boards, several changes in our current practices have been identified and are included as part of this plan. As with the structural change, we expect these changes to improve communication between the GSB and the subsidiary corporations, to strengthen reporting and data gathering for decision making, to encourage collaborative action, and to coordinate operations. We believe that together these changes will enable the Board to exercise its primary role as principal planner “with respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance” and thereby serve the broader Fellowship more effectively.

Walter C., Area 69 Utah, Panel 63 Delegate