

Delegates Report Pre-Conference Assembly Area 69 Utah

April 2, 2011

Sunset, Utah

“We are Responsible for AA’s Future – Let it Begin with Us”

Hello, my name is Keith and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as the Panel 61 Delegate from Area 69 Utah. Here we are at the Pre-Conference Assembly, thanks to District 1 for a stellar job this weekend. It seems like it was just January and I, along with many of the Area Committee, were visiting the Area during the Meet, Greet, Learn, and Listen Tour. That was a busy time, but nothing like our recent activities sharing information about the Final Conference Agenda Items. Since February 12, when GSO posted the Agenda Items on the Dashboard, or, as I like to call it, “The Beginning,” I, along with many Officers and Standing Chairs, have attended four District Workshops and numerous District Committee meetings. Because of scheduling conflicts, Districts 2, 8, and 9 only received the Conference information at the February Committee meeting, either by email or snail mail. Next year I pledge to attend District Committee meetings in those districts. Walter, the best Alternate Delegate ever, has been working with District 12, and I believe they are informed. However, the lack of Spanish translation is a colossal hurdle for future trusted servants to solve. I love numbers! Numbers help me understand the importance of AA in Utah. I estimate that the Area has spent a minimum of 1,035 hours discussing Conference Agenda Items this year, not counting 594 hours of travel time. This is not counting the individual group conscience meetings and many hours of preparation time by GSRs, DCMs, Area Standing Chairs, Area Officers, etc. And let’s not forget about PRAASA, where many of the Area Officers, Standing Chairs, DCMs, GSRs, and interested AA members traveled to the beautiful state of Hawaii to learn more about Conference Agenda Items and General Service.

The Spring 2011 Box 4-5-9 summarizes our annual Service Conference, which will take place May 1-7, 2011 in New York City. The theme of the 61st Conference is “We Are Responsible for AA’s Future - Let It Begin With Us.” Conference week will be very busy, with presentations followed by discussions. Topics include: AA in a Digital Age, An Informed Group Conscience, and Diversity in AA. A workshop will address “How to Increase Participation in AA – Striving for Self-support in All Our Affairs.” A very important aspect of the Conference will be the individual committee recommendations, which may result in Conference Advisory Actions. A

few items to be discussed are: 1) The Finance and Budgetary Committee will consider various ways to communicate self-support. 2) The Literature Committee will review a revised draft of "The AA Member-Medication and Other Drugs," as well as a progress report on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality. 3) The draft of the proposed pamphlet, "AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs" will be reviewed by the Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee. 4) Public Information will put the finishing touches on the questions of the AA Membership Survey and review the G.S.O policy on Actors Portraying AA Members or Potential AA Members in Videos. And many more issues will be discussed.

News from Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAW.S.) includes: 1) the Literature Desk has extended the deadline for "AA and the Armed Services" story submissions until July 15, 2011. 2) Upon recommendation of its Ad Hoc Committee on E-Technology, the Board approved an Overall Project proposal for the sale of AAW.S. literature in digital format. The current schedule shows the first books in digital format (the *Big Book* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*) available for sale by late summer. Infrastructure investment is expected to amount to approximately \$400,000 incurred over a two-year period. 3) G.S.O.'s General Manager, Phyllis H., shared that it was gratifying to see the continuing increase in contributions through the end of 2010, with final figures at about \$6,409,000, which is a 1.8% increase over 2009. 4) Online contributions from the last six months have been about \$82,750, which demonstrates the success of this new system for making our individual donations to G.S.O. 5) G.S.O had a net income for 2010 of approximately \$1,302,000, which was 29% over budget. The majority of this came from the very successful 2010 International Convention, which showed revenue of over \$850,000. And lastly, 6) Applications are now being sought for a G.S.O. staff member to serve on a rotational basis through various assignments such as Corrections, Public Information, Treatment, Literature, etc. A minimum of six years sobriety is required. This opening will be available until mid to late summer of 2011.

We are here today to continue the process of informing me, as your delegate, so I can be your voice and vote during the 61st General Service Conference. 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