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B.**Delegate Attendance to International Convention – July 2-5, 2015**

It was an honor and blessing to attend the recent 2015 International Convention on behalf of our Area. At a glance it seems as though San Diego was well represented. Of those attending many (atleast 10) we asked to participate either in moderating panels or speaking at panels. Estimated attendance is 67,000 plus. Big meetings were held in the nearby Georgia Dome that held all who wished to attend. The oldest old timer was 66 yrs. Sober. On the last day (Sunday morning) the last big meeting was held in the Georgia Dome and one of the member speakers came from a prison where he is currently incarcerated. That day he was celebrating 4yrs sober as he shared his experience, strength, and hope with 50,000 fellow AAs. For me that was one of the most impactful experiences at the conventions. Others I'm sure have other memorable moments. Also while attending I worked much of the time as Coordinator for the Pacific Region Hospitality Suite. Local coordinators from all of our Region's 15 General Service Areas helped set up, arrange volunteers to greet, and help with initial room set up. Thanks to George S who was our local coordinator and did a wonderful job on our behalf. Other details on my experience at the convention can be found in the September 2015 Area Newsletter.

**September 12, 2015 Budget Assembly Welcomes Our Trustee at Large**

A trustee is someone who serves on the General Service Board of AA. Typically there are 21 members, 14 alcoholic members and 7 nonalcoholic members. Bob W. is our Trustee at Large (alcoholic) which means basically he travels the world on behalf of the U.S. and Canada conference and GSO. The Area Assembly voted to invite and fund him as a guest to our Assembly. One reason this visit is helpful is that Bob has many personal experience doing this world wide service for AA that he can share with us live, person to person to help stimulate interest in General Service, By hearing these his stories, experience, strength and hope, members in our area can may first hand understanding of how our group's dimes, quarters, and dollars in the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition basket help the message of hope and recovery outside the walls of the meeting, the city, the state, and the country. The trustee has been invited to share experience strength and hope at a few local AA meetings and each have limited extra space for attendance, however the Assembly on Saturday, September 12 will have more than enough capacity to accommodate those wishing to hear him share. If DCMs have local members that are interested in attending the local meetings he will be at the Carlsbad AA Workshop Thursday September 10 and the So Cal Speakers Meeting Saturday Night, Sept 12. On Friday Night he will be at the Grupo Bonita in National City. That meeting space is quite small and will likely be standing room only. I hope many who are not currently aware of General Service will have a chance to hear our Trustee. More importantly, ask questions, something you can't do with a CD or recording.

**Delegate Visits Ongoing**

**District Visits** – At this point I've visited the majority of districts with a handful left. It's likely due to work commitments my Alternate Delegate Jane will be filling in for me as needed. Gratefully Jane is knowledgeable about outcomes at the conference and some of what I "heard, felt, and saw" at the conference, in addition to topics I am interested in sharing about happenings since the conference

that may be of interest to groups. I have found the post conference district visits to be fun and informative, giving me a chance to hear questions or concerns from district members regarding the conference actions and service in general. Actually this time right now in District is a very rewarding time for me personally too. It's a blessing to see GSRs new to service react in the aha moment the first time they hear "Why we have a Conference", or that the reason were here is to simple "Stimulate interest in General Service".

**Group Visits** – Some district members have invited me to their homegroup to share a bit about the conference. One group that invited me is a Women's group. I am amazed and thankful this group took a vote to include their Delegate. So I guess for 10 minutes on a given day, it won't be "woman only". I'm more than willing to visit home groups if invited. Business meetings, regular meetings, it's a blessing to be able to share a few things about general service your group members may have not heard before.

**Visit to Group at Centinela** – “Beyond the Bars group at Centinela State Prison invited me last to share on the General Service Conference. This year they extended an invitation to take place in “Pre-Conference Workshops”. Both those visits were beyond amazing. This group has members that have started to care about what happens outside not only the walls of their meeting, but the walls of the prison as far as AA goes. They forwarded input on Conference Agenda items for me to consider at our Area’s Preconference Assembly, and recently invited me back for a second post conference visit. This one was special to me though because this time I knew they had participated in the conference process. And it was even more special because Jane, our alternate Delegate got cleared and joined me this time. It was wonderful. Jane and I sat in a room of 40+ prisoners, some serving life sentences. No guards in the room. Just AA members. Jane had a chance to share some outcomes of the conference they might be interested in, and practice a little for district visits to follow. Many attending were genuinely thankful we came, and so were we.

**Attendance to Grupo Bonita Anniversary** – This past weekend I attended Grupo Bonita Hispana Anniversary. They received visitors and attendees from all parts California and Mexico. It was interesting and rewarding to listen, and listen, and listen. For example speakers went Saturday from 9a until 9pm. I never got tired of listening to the varied levels of experience from Alanons, and AAs, including young people in AA from the Spanish community. I was blessed to participate by sharing a little about my personal story and a little about the General Service Conference. To me that is a wonderful combination because our service experience to me becomes more powerful of a recovery message when “what it’s like now” includes being trusted in service.

#### **Updates from the General Service Office**

- **Call for Sharing** - DCMs have copies of 3 documents that AA members can use as a guide to share their experience in regard to literature moving forward from the 65<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. Exist. Pamphlet for Women, Exist. Pamphlet for LGBT, and proposed literature to include information on Mental Health Issues and AA are the literature pieces input is needed on. You can also email me to get copies of these documents. Sharing due by Oct. 15, via email or regular mail.
- **New PSA “Doors” Available in streaming video at AA.org** – This video also approved at the conference and was edited to be offer a clearer listening experience. I encourage you to listen, and share its available. To me it’s very current in regard to content and is available in Spanish and French online.
- **Grapevine work ongoing** – aagrapevine.org is still in process of changes. Right now they are working on the magazine formatted better for good viewing on mobile phones.
- **Audio of Sister Ignatia Available at AA.org** – she tells the story of Dr. Bob admitting one of the first alcoholics to St. Thomas Hospital. Talk delivered at A.A.’s 1960 International Convention, Long Beach, California.
- **Jim Malone / GSO staff member** and recently responsible for the P.I. desk, is leaving GSO to pursue other career quests. **Greg Tobin – Former Publications Director for AA has been hired as GSO General Manager, replacing Phyllis Halliday.**

Gratefully with Love & Service,

If I can be of help in any way, just call or email. I'm available to visit groups or districts if invited.

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