

San Diego-Imperial Area
Delegate's Report
February 18, 2016

GSRs!

Please take time to review the items appearing in **BOLD** type.
These may be of the most interesting information to report to your groups.

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Why So Much (General) Information?

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At the opening of many of our regular meetings, we often ask for a show of hands of those who are in their first 30 days of sobriety. Please consider those who may be in their last 30 days of sobriety. Service saves lives! My hope is for you to help others by inviting them to serve.

Within this report I have worked to organize the information in association with the specific committee to which the work is assigned. As you know, our Service Structure has corresponding Trustees' and Conference Committees. Each committee will send its work on to its corresponding committee if and when it is appropriate. Many of the items listed in this report detail items that are coming from the Trustees' committee to its corresponding Conference committee. The Conference Committee then considers which items it will put onto the 2016 General Service Conference (GSC) agenda.

Because GSC work is done primarily in committees, I want to be sure I keep the San Diego-Imperial Area standing committees informed of the work in progress by each of the Trustees' and Conference Committees. By tying the work of the Trustees' and Conference Committees' to that of our area's standing committees, our DCMs and GSRs will be able to direct interested group members to a specific committee. While GSRs have been able to report to group members on what is happening in A.A. as a whole, they have not necessarily been able to define how A.A. members can participate in service work that attracts them.

To help DCMs and GSRs take notice of specific actions they can consider taking, I have also inserted questions as opportunities for discussion and prompting action and 2-way communication from group members. If you deliver this information in association with a specific standing committee, please advise your group members that:

- All A.A. members are welcome at any and all general service meetings. Please be sure to state each member is welcome to contribute by speaking at the meeting but only those in designated service positions may vote. Of course, they can gain the ability to vote if they take on a service position holding that right.
- Each A.A. member is welcome to participate on any of the San Diego-Imperial Area's standing committees to suggest items for attention by the committee and/or the General Service Conference. They are also welcome to participate in the work performed by the committee. (Please consider having a list of the dates, times, and locations of each standing committees' meeting.)

Please consider using this format in the following ways:

1. **Area Standing Committee Chairs:** If your committee has a corresponding Trustees' or Conference Committee, I hope you will share with your committee members the details of the specific work being addressed by their corresponding Trustees and Conference Committee (if there is one). This information exchange may generate more discussion that results in increasing education and ideas to be of use to their work. Remember, one of our spiritual beliefs connected to anonymity is that a good idea can come from anyone!
2. **DCMs/GSRs - As a DCM or GSR,** please use this information to invite all your meeting members to participate in service. GSRs, please remember you don't have to deliver ALL this information to your group in one announcement. Consider giving only a few items at a time. Through discussing and understanding what is going on at the AAWS Board and General Service Conference levels of the service structure, your district may want to insure it has an individual who acts as a liaison to each of the Area's standing committees. The liaison providing the report does not have to be a GSR. The liaison may act to carry information on the contributions

in thought that come from the district's GSRs and, hopefully, the A.A. Member at Large. Please consider delivering the information to group members in association with the work of a specific committee.

3. **The A.A. Member at Large** - The General Service Structure is 2-way communication. The larger portion of our 12-Step work is organized through and performed by committees. The San Diego-Imperial Area is organized with committees through which 12-Step work can be generated and delivered into our local community by its A.A. members. GSRs, by regularly mentioning and informing the Fellowship of how their dollars are at work in the Area and GSO, you are serving to make 12-Step work available for those who want to serve as well as those to whom are in need of hearing the message. Please consider including the invitation to serve on the committees to all your group members as you deliver the information to them on what is going on in A.A. as a whole. It may save a life; and that life could be your own!

A.A. World Services

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It looks like the Fellowship is finding it easier and more attractive to purchase literature online as web sales accounted for about 62% of all sales in 2015. There is a surge in international licensing requests, suggesting that AA service structures in other countries see value in expanding their own literature catalogues.

All major work in the co-location construction project has been completed. This project renovated the GSO/AAWS offices, which hadn't been updated in over 20 years, and brought Grapevine onto the same floor as GSO/AAWS. \$1 million has been spent on the project. The total approved amount was \$1.3 million. Some of the remaining balance is expected to be used to resolve issues remaining on furniture and adjustments to some of the work.

Archives

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Please ask group members to contribute significant historical collections related to diversity and unity within AA. Encourage anyone who may have such a collection (or who may know someone who has such a collection) to share about the collection with the San Diego-Imperial Area's Archives Committee and with the Archives at GSO. These historical items could take on a number of different forms. One example are Group Histories. Your group could have been started to accommodate a specific inclusion need. Perhaps the big book study delivered in ASL has or will create a group history. If your group was started based on such a need, this may be a good time to document its history and file it with the San Diego-Imperial Area's Archives Committee. Another example comes from the early 1980's when there was a GSC agenda item to consider listing Gay groups in meeting directories. In this case, someone may have meeting minutes or written reports regarding the discussion on this item.

Conference Report & Charter

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AAWS agreed to forward to the Conference Report and Charter Conference Committee a suggestion to revise the A.A. Service Manual every other year, rather than every year as is currently done. The suggestion is to revise the manual in 2016, 2018, 2020, etc. This would result in a savings of approximately \$45,000 - \$50,000 in odd-numbered years.

Cooperation with the Professional Community / Treatment / Accessibilities

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When the CPC Trustees' Committee removed the words "special needs" from its committee name, they sent a suggestion to the CPC Conference committee on Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities that it do the same. As a follow-up to the changes at the trustees' committee level, the committee requested that the publishing department prepare an inventory for the committee of all AA material that uses the phrase "special needs," and also asked for work to begin on a possible revision of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs."

The Conference CPC Committee launched a review of CPC pamphlets. The Conference Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities Committee has asked the CPC Committee to consider moving away from the use of the term "special needs" to focus instead on ways to overcome barriers to access. Much of what the CPC Committee is working on now stems from that shift in thinking. This is a great opportunity for the San Diego-Imperial Area's CPC and Accessibilities Committees to compare notes on their pamphlets. Our area has experience to contribute to this discussion as we are already using the title Accessibilities Committee. I ask these two committees to consider working together to review their materials to see if there is consistently in use of terminology through all literature and presentations. New ideas for agenda items that improve both access and carrying the message are possible through this information exchange.

As a result of the work of a subcommittee to review all Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) pamphlets, the Trustees' CPC Committee agreed to forward to the CPC Conference Committee the following items:

- ☐ **Add text to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." to suggest that in cases where a patient says they cannot take prescribed drugs because they are a member of AA, the doctor can refer them to the pamphlet "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs."**
- ☐ **Add text to the introduction of the pamphlet "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" to clarify that AA can work with employers of any size, including small businesses such as medical practices, etc.**
- ☐ **A matrix of comments regarding pamphlets in the CPC kit.**

The committee reviewed a request from an area for a change in wording in the pamphlet "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals" and agreed to forward the request to the Conference CPC committee, along with additional suggested changes to this pamphlet from the trustees' subcommittee that reviewed all CPC pamphlets.

The committee reviewed a request to develop service material to replace the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." and forwarded the request to publishing.

Corrections

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The Trustees' Correction Committee agreed to forward to the Conference committee on corrections the current draft video being created to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

The committee also formed a subcommittee to look at the sharing in the newsletter, *Sharing Behind the Walls* in light of AA's Third and Fifth Traditions, with a focus on how we can include sharing in this newsletter that reflects the reality of dual addiction while still respecting our Traditions.

Hopefully, each of San Diego-Imperial Area's Hospital and Institutions Committees will give thought to the newsletter in total as well as if it is reflecting the reality of dual addiction while maintaining respect for our Traditions. In addition, our Alternate Delegate may want to consider submitting this to the H&I Intergroup Chair for the same discussion.

Finance and Budgetary

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Under AAWS financials for 2015, gross sales were about \$12.7 million, which is about \$2.1 million less than budgeted. Contributions were about \$7.1 million, which is about \$157,000 greater than budgeted. Expenses were about \$15.1 million, which is about \$1.5 million less than budgeted. Net profit for the year was about \$233,000, which is about \$220,000 more than the revised mid-year 2015 budget. The good news is that contributions are up slightly. The chair of AAWS reported that this was the first year we ever took in more than \$7 million in contributions, and that December, 2015, was the first time we ever took in \$1 million in one month. This good news is tempered somewhat, however, by concern on the part of the GSB treasurer that expenses are projected to increase slowly but steadily, and literature profits are declining. The proposed 2016 budget for AAWS does include a deficit of about \$27,000. There will be a robust discussion about this during Conference week when we hold workshops on the report of the feasibility study (this report will be sent to all Conference members in advance).

Under AAGV financials for 2015, total gross profit was about \$1.9 million, which is about \$32,000 more than budgeted. Costs and expenses were about \$1.7 million, which is about \$228,000 less than budgeted. Adding interest earned, net profit was about \$245,000, compared to a budgeted loss of about \$15,000. It's expected that after the audit of the 2015 financials is performed, there will be a transfer from AAGV to the Reserve Fund of about \$260,000. In spite of the good year that AAGV had in 2015, the 2016 AAGV budget includes a deficit of about \$146,000. This is primarily due to projected cost increases and an expected decline in revenues. The finance and budgetary committee noted that the subscription liability fund is overfunded at the moment by about \$70,000 and agreed that those funds can be utilized if AAGV actually realizes the budgeted deficit. If the actual deficit does end up exceeding the \$70,000, as budgeted, AAGV will share with the treasurer and assistant treasurer of the GSB so that they can share this with the trustees' finance and budgetary committee.

La Viña gross profit for 2015 was about \$63,000, compared to a budgeted profit of about \$57,000. Costs and expenses were about \$220,000. The shortfall was about \$147,000, compared to a budgeted shortfall of about \$159,000. The 2016 budget projects a shortfall of about \$153,000. Please remember that the Conference has agreed that La Viña will be maintained as a service to the Fellowship and that the shortfall is covered by the General Fund.

The committee recommended that the Conference Finance Committee review the current Conference approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests and the maximum annual contribution from an individual of \$3,000.

General Service Conference (GSC) Committee

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San Diego-Imperial Area Agenda Committee

The committee discussed a request the Fellowship is informed of the list of items not forwarded by trustees' committees to the Conference committees. The specific request was the list be included when the final GSC agenda is made available. The committee took no action, noting that this list is made available to all Conference members a few weeks after the final Conference agenda and background are posted. Adding this list at the time of the release of the Conference agenda would add to the time it takes to get the agenda out.

Let me know if there is interest in seeing the list of items that did not make it to the Conference agenda. I can see this as a point of interest for any A.A. member and hopefully the San Diego-Imperial Area's Agenda Committee. Sharing this information with interested members helps us to remember the Conference is a year-round process, and we are responsible for all that moves or does not move through it.

The committee agreed to forward to the Conference Agenda Committee a report on the "Conclusions Regarding the Conference Agenda Committee and the Agenda Item Selection Process," a report generated by a subcommittee of the trustees' committee. This report includes extensive background (hundreds of pages) on the history of the agenda item selection process. The information will be used to develop a form that standardizes the submission of backgrounds pertaining to each submitted agenda item. At this time, the process is wide open and there is a great deal of variance in what is submitted as supporting background for an agenda item. The objective is ultimately to consolidate backgrounds into a more concise document. This is a "less is more" type situation.

Special Attention for GSRs

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The committee took no action as a result of their discussion of a request to create a Conference committee on the Armed Services that would be accompanied by a corresponding trustees' committee and GSO staff assignment. The committee did feel, though, that the topic of how to carry the message more effectively to the suffering alcoholic in the armed services warrants further discussion and asked the General Service Office to explore the issue in depth and report back to the committee. **Please ask your groups if they think the Fellowship is effectively carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic in the armed services. If so, how is it achieving that? If not, what more can we do at the meeting, district, area, and GSO levels to include this population?**

The Conference Agenda Committee agreed to forward to the Conference committee on Policy and Admissions the “Plans for the Translations of All Conference Background.” These plans were developed through the joint work of GSO staff, management, and a trustees’ subcommittee. There are four different plans, and the details of the plans are expected to be included in the backgrounds of the 2016 GSC agenda items. The idea behind generating several possible options is to give the Conference choices that might allow the members to consider cost impacts and impacts on the Conference process from a couple of different angles.

In January 2016, the Conference Committee took no action in their discussion of a request that delegate chairs be given voting privileges in the Trustees’ committees on potential Conference agenda items. They found the proposals to be in conflict with the principles of trust and participation reflected in our Concepts and the Conference Charter.

Grapevine / La Viña Committee

La Viña

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The 20th anniversary for La Viña is being celebrated in 2016. **The first collection of writings that will be published from AA Grapevine, Inc., in 2016 will be a La Viña anthology.**

Average La Viña circulation in 2015 was 10,350, a very slight decrease from 2014 (10,380 average circulation that year). Short messaging service (SMS) efforts to connect with La Vina subscribers and potential subscribers are under way.

Grapevine

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Average circulation for Grapevine (GV) in 2015 was just under 72,000. Grapevine subscriptions do continue to decline, but slowed to a rate of about 2% in 2015. The budgeted amount for the decline was 4%; and the magazine industry as a whole is declining at about 6% annually. It appears that last year’s Grapevine Subscription Challenge had a positive impact.

New subscription initiatives are being planned to eventually reverse the trend to increasing subscriptions. Details on the next initiative, “Grow Your Grapevine” will be delivered right around the time of the GSC. **This is a great time to ask for group members to volunteer to be GV Reps (GVR).**

An online Grapevine subscription allows access to the full archives of all GV articles and Bill’s writings. These archives are a great resource for those of us who want to learn more about the spirit of service. A project to retag all the articles to make the search function more robust has been underway. It has now be finished through the 1980s. So, only 2.5 decades left to go!

The GV Audio Project is expansion of GV services with podcasts. The usual, and remaining available, MP3 download of a Grapevine article that was written by a member is actually a recording of an actor reading the work aloud. The idea behind the Audio Project is to capture the full emotion of the member’s intended message while sharing his/her own story in his/her own words and voice. Two-hundred fifty-four audio stories have been contributed so far to the GV Audio Project. **Please inform your group members the contributions of their stories are needed to the GV Audio Project.**

GV Audio Project Instructions for creating your audio recording are on the <http://www.aagrapevine.org/audio-instructions> website.

GV/L Committee and districts this is an opportunity to put together hands-on workshops where members can record and submit their stories to the GV Audio Project. An excellent workshop model comes from ICYPAA, where a story-submission workshop was held at the ICYPAA conference as part of the conference program.

The AA Grapevine Board agreed to forward to the Grapevine/LaVina Conference Committee the following items:

- ☐ **A** status report on the Grapevine Audio Project strategy.
- ☐ A list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 and beyond. Right now, suggested titles are on the topics of young people, Steps 4 and 5, beginners, and atheists and agnostics. Currently the most frequently requested topic is regarding atheists and agnostics.
- ☐ A review of the Grapevine workbook. Please know a review of the workbook for committees that have workbooks is usually a standing item on the GSC agenda. The point of this is to insure the Fellowship remains open to inserting new ideas into these “living” documents

Standing Committee Chairs, do you know if your committee has a workbook for use?

Does each of your committee members have a copy?

Do you know the date of your committee’s last workbook revision?

Does your committee have suggestions for the workbook - either as something to remove or add? If so, do you know you can work with the area’s Agenda Committee for help in creating a GSC agenda item?

Please consider the Right of Decision the Grapevine has in our overall structure. The Grapevine actually has independence in deciding what is published in the Grapevine. This is an important part of our structure. At the Conference, the GV Committee will develop input via conference considerations. This input is not intended as a Conference Advisory Action because that would interfere with the independence of the GV publication.

However, it is important to understand input via the GSC is possible by letting the Grapevine/LaVina Committee know the concerns of the Fellowship. **Here’s an example of a question: Would doing a Grapevine book only for atheists and agnostics pose a conflict of any kind? Would it be important to include stories of those who came in as atheist and then had some degree of shift?**

Two great gifts ideas:

1. If you ever visit the Grapevine office in NY, be sure to ask to see the set of file drawers that contains copies of every Grapevine issue going back to its beginning. Many people find a nice gift to either give or get is a copy of the Grapevine issue for the month they got sober.
2. **The “Man on the Bed” poster (originally titled “Came to Believe”)** has been newly restored and is available with descriptions in English, Spanish, and French. It was recently noticed that the poster version was significantly darker than the actual original painting, so the photos used to produce the poster were re-shot in order to capture the true colors and brightness of the original.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

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This committee is working with GSO management on getting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) out for a consultant/management company to assist with the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, MI. The goal is to have a short list of top candidates for the July 2016 board weekend. The committee also began discussion of a request to produce and sell video recordings of International Convention AA meetings which are interpreted in American Sign Language; the committee has asked the staff secretary to gather information on costs and recording options and to bring back a report to a future meeting.

Literature

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The Literature Committee had discussion about the recently revised pamphlet P-84 “Many Paths to Spirituality.” They have received feedback expressing disappointment in how differently the revision resulted from the initially requested consideration for change. Perhaps through the districts, the San Diego-Imperial Area’s Literature Committee can elicit feedback on the revision from interested group members. For your information, individual members who submit these requests for another revision will get a letter explaining why the item was not forwarded to the Conference.

The Trustees’ Literature Committee agreed to forward to the Literature Conference Committee:

- Progress reports on the three literature projects that were launched by the 2015 Conference: the revision of “A.A. for the Woman”; the revision of “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”; and the development of literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.
- A progress report on the systematic review of A.A. recovery literature.
- A request to update the “*Twelve Traditions Illustrated*.” The request included a number of specific examples of text and illustrations that seem outdated.
- A request to revise the “Young People and A.A.” pamphlet to include information on young people’s conferences. This began as a request to develop an AA guideline on young people’s conferences, which the trustees’ literature forwarded to AAWS. AAWS found that it didn’t have sufficient shared experience to develop a guideline and sent it back to literature with the suggestion about adding information to the pamphlet (remember that the guidelines aren’t meant to be proscriptive and are really just a compilation of shared experience that GSO has received from the Fellowship).

The Trustees’ Literature Committee agreed to forward to the **Conference Committee on Report and Charter a request to revise text in the Concept XI essay in The A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service**. This request essentially asks for the removal of paragraphs regarding professional relationships between men and women and the business acumen of men vs. women. The request expresses a concern that the attitudes found in the paragraphs on page 58 that are the subject of footnote 10 on page 59 of “Twelve Concepts for World Service” aren’t a sufficient correction for addressing the expressed attitude toward women.

Nominating Committee

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Selections were made for the two upcoming vacancies of Class A trustees. The names of those selected will be made as soon as all candidates are notified and an either an acceptance or decline is received.

The Trustees' Nominating Committee agreed to forward to the Conference Nominating Committee on Trustees a lengthy proposed process to changing the process regarding what to do when there is an unexpected vacancy for a regional trustee. It essentially allows for a mid-term replacement with a different term of service (three years if the vacancy occurs early in the rotation; five or six years if it occurs later in the rotation). This proposal is in response to recent situations in which regions have gone for lengthy periods without a regional trustee due to an unexpected vacancy.

Public Information

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The Public Information in our area functions under the San Diego Intergroup. Our Spanish-speaking districts each conduct their own Public Information Committees. I am not aware of how or if those committees interact with the Service Structure. While we all do different work; we are all working for the same purpose — to carry the message.

I am delivering information of which I have become aware as no one service board or committee owns anything in A.A. If your group does not have an Intergroup Rep, it may be that your groups members will not hear about the work performed by the PI Committees.

The “Doors” PSA is an Advisory Action from the 2015 General Service Conference (GSC). The PSA has been by the CNN Airport channel and has picked up for a second consecutive month. I am planning to show both “Doors” and “Tengo Esperanza,” a PSA in Spanish at the Pre-Conference Assembly. DCMs, you may want to show these and other PSAs at your district meetings. GSRs, your meeting may even meet at a facility that provides you with the technology to show these. Or, you can simply had out the Google search or URL that will give your group members access to viewing it.

The Saturday Evening Post has contacted the General Service Office's (GSO's) Public Information desk with respect to a feature story on the 75th anniversary of the original Jack Alexander article. More information will be delivered as this project takes shape.

The Trustees' Public Information Committee agreed to forward the following items to the Conference Public Information Committee:

- ☐ A recommendation for the implementation of both as Google-For-Nonprofits and a Twitter account for carrying the AA message to the public.
- ☐ A recommendation that a guideline be developed on “Carrying the AA Message Online and in Social Media.”
- ☐ A recommendation to distribute, track, and evaluate French and English versions of the “Tengo Esperanza” PSA.
- ☐ A request to reconsider the 2011 Conference action regarding the use of full faces in AA videos. The committee also forwarded items related to the development of social media to trustees' committees.

The Conference Public Information Committee will forward items related to the development of social media to the Trustees' Public Information Committee.