

Pacific Regional Trustee's Report

following the October 2018 General Service Board Weekend

Dear Pacific Region Delegates,

The October Board Meetings were in Rye at the Westchester Hotel. I understand this is usually where they take place and I have to say that it brought me a sense of peace and a heightened sense of awareness. I think it is because I have some wonderful memories from attending my first conference there when I was a delegate. I have wonderful memories in each space of this building and this weekend added many more memories to my beautiful collection.

The feeling of the weekend was unity between all boards and we were all very focused on our work at hand. We had presentations on Rigidity in A.A.: Our Greatest Danger and this seemed to be at the top of our minds in our work throughout the weekend. Newton shared that his personal experience has shown him that some International structures mirror rigidity that they see in North America. Scott echoed this sentiment and Mary C. shared that in a meeting in Ghana that rather than clap the members jump up and down and that an American visiting them told them to stop that; it was not A.A., which is disheartening.

We also had presentations on Tradition 4 - Autonomy and Concept 1- Authority and Responsibility. This continued with sharing that touched on rigidity as well.

We stayed an extra day to spend time on the Communications Audit and did round table discussions and sharing. This was productive, and I will talk more about this in my report below.

One more thing before the reports. The nomination committee has elected me to be put on the slate for the conference to serve on the Grapevine Board in my second and third years. If elected by the conference, the first year on GV I will hold the Treasurer position and the second year I will Chair the GV Board. I am humbled and grateful to serve Alcoholics Anonymous!

I will touch on the AAWS, GV/LV and Trustee Committee highlights below.

AAWS report highlights

- Intergroup/Central Office Seminar in Montreal in September-request to add a statement to the online order page encouraging A.A. members and groups to purchase their literature from intergroups/central offices, areas and districts. This request has been implemented in English, French and Spanish on the online store.
- GSO is working to implement ERP, a new software, and hopefully will be up and running by March. This will help communications greatly between all departments and the fellowship and will assist in gathering information. Important to note is that FNV "Fellowship New Vision" will be replaced by this new system.

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- Website and App are now in a project management model which will help to accelerate these projects. Watch for emails to areas, districts and intergroups to opt in to post meetings to the meeting guide app. There are already over 100,000 users. There was a lot of excitement about an app at the World Service Meeting amongst other countries.
- September Gross sales were above budget by 89,458.
- Contributions for the first 9 months are 1.66% higher than budget and 1.14% lower than 2017
- AAWS invited a GV director to participate as part of the Ad hoc Self Support Committee, as subscribing to the GV/LV are self-supporting expressions of the 7th Tradition
- A GSO employee has explored ways to save money on Credit card processing and has found a service that will save us \$225,000 annually.
- YouTube frequently asked questions and “about YouTube” will be posted on AA.org

AA Grapevine report highlights

- GV net income is \$45,888 through September 30th; this is \$74,000 lower than this time last year but ahead of 2018 budget.
- La Vina service is at a shortfall of \$96,852 which is ahead of projection of \$109,356
- Atheist and Agnostic Book; One Big Tent, has far exceeded the sales projections for the first 2 months in circulation and stands at \$37,000 in revenue for first two months.
- The GV/LV Survey had over 4000 respondents which is a good sampling of members and results will now be compiled and analyzed for further discussion.
- La Vina magazine is now being produced in full color.
- Emotional Sobriety is being translated into French.

Trustees' committees

Here are selected highlights from some of the committee reports. I'm not touching on every single item, but you'll be able to see full reports when the final board minutes are distributed:

- Archives
 - Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970 will be complete early in 2019 in all 3 languages. This will be the first book published with new material in over 30 years at AAWS.
 - Some photos will be available of some of our founders and other archival pictures for a suggested contribution of \$2.75 each to cover the costs.
 - The video that you saw at Conference of Bill, Lois, Anne and Bob will be available at an appropriate contribution suggestion soon and we agreed to forward the following to Conference Archives Committee; a request to consider adding this film to Markings on the Journey.

- Conference

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- The committee agreed to forward to the Policy and Admissions Committee the 1986 Advisory Action “If a committee recommendation does not receive the two thirds vote required to become an Advisory Action, but has a majority vote, it automatically becomes a suggestion and be duly noted in the conference report.” The trustees are asking that if this be reaffirmed to provide suggestions regarding appropriate action to be taken.
- After the sharing from conference members about their experience and usage of the Dashboard, staff reported that reorganization of Dashboard is underway using the feedback provided.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/ Accessibilities
 - The committee reviewed examples of how A.A. content could display on LinkedIn to achieve the goals in the conference Advisory Action and asked the secretary to work with consultants on the creation of a page and report back in January.
 - That the Composition, Scope and Procedures of this committee be updated to include activities related to carrying the A.A. message to underserved populations and remote communities.
- Corrections
 - The 30-minute video “A New Freedom” be produced in a 15-minute and 3-minute version.
- Finance
 - As noted above under AAWS, literature sales and contributions are above budget through September 30th and October contributions are looking like they will be above budget as well.
 - The Reserve Fund has a balance at the end of September which represents about 10.5 months of operating expenses.
- International
 - One of the upcoming trips for the balance of the year is the 30th Anniversary of Latvia
- International Conventions/Regional Forums
 - St. Louis, Missouri was selected to be the site of our 2030 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention. Detroit will be in 2020 and Vancouver in 2025. A video has been produced to attract people to the 2020 International Convention and will be available soon.
 - Many of you know Carlyle Wimberly, delegate from Detroit, and he was selected to be the Volunteer Welcome Committee Chair for the 2020 International Convention.
 - Special Forums and Local Forums are now both available to the fellowship. These Forums serve different purposes.
- Literature

- The committee agreed to forward to the conference a request to revise the pamphlet “The A.A. Group” to add an inventory question about safety in the meeting; “Do you feel safe”
- The literature committee and publications department are continuing their work on Advisory Actions related to this committee.
- Public Information
 - The committee reviewed the Public Service Announcement’s for relevance and usefulness and agreed to forward to the 2019 Conference Committee on PI a request that the video PSA “My World” be discontinued.
 - A sub-committee is meeting with potential consultants to gather information on possible methodologies regarding a new membership survey. A plan of action will be discussed at the January meeting.
- Communication Audit- Purpose is to address current A.A. communication issues and to improve public perception of A.A.
 - In July you received the abridged audit and I want to encourage you to share this with your areas.
 - We met for most of Monday discussing in a workshop/roundtable type setting the communications audit. Through group conscience the following are some of the topics we explored.
 - Communications Department in GSO
 - Better utilize Class A Trustees
 - The role of the General Service Board in regard to the Communication Audit
 - How to communicate with the fellowship in general and the communicate the progress on audit
- Trustee Emeriti
 - Elaine, Ward, Leonard and Terry, Past Board Chairs and Class A Trustees all attended this weekend. It is truly amazing that they continue to serve A.A. and I am so inspired and grateful for all our Class A Trustees.
- WACYPAA
 - I will be unable to attend, and I think it is so important for a Board Member to be there, so I asked if there were others who may be able to attend, and 3 trustees came to me to volunteer. As of now, Carole B., General Service Trustee on AAGV will be attending and possibly Newton P, United States Trustee at Large
- One of my favorite weekend quotes: “Alcoholics are difficult to lead but they can be inspired. “Inspire we must”.”

Gratefully,

Kathi Fowler

Pacific regional trustee