

## from the DELEGATE'S DESK #5

Date: April 7, 2010  
To: Mid-Southern California Area Groups  
From: Linda C., Panel 60 Conference Delegate  
RE: General Service Board (GSB): Chairman's Report



*The AA General Service Board (a.k.a. the Trustees) is composed of fourteen AA trustees and seven non-alcoholic trustees and serves to safeguard AA's Traditions and funds. The board has the responsibility of overseeing the General Service Office (GSO), AA World Services, Inc. (AAWS) and The AA Grapevine, Inc.*

Following are highlights from the report to the General Service Conference by the Chair of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing, D.D. (non-alcoholic Trustee)

- ⇒ New GSO general manager, Phyllis H., completed her first year on the job.
- ⇒ Two new Class A (non alcoholic) trustees have joined the Board: Francis Brisbane and Corliss Burke, plus five new Class B (alcoholic) trustees Don M., Don M., George M., El N, and Pam R.
- ⇒ Two new nontrustee directors on AAWS: Andrea B and Bill N. and two new nontrustee directors on the AA Grapevine Board: Nancy H., and Albin Z.
- ⇒ Losses included past GSO staff member John G. (worked at GSO from 1987 through 1996) and Class A Trustee Emeritus and past Chairman of the Board, Michael Alexander who was introduced to AA in the 1950s and brought his superb legal skills and love of the fellowship to us throughout his life.
- ⇒ The GSB met four times since the last Conference.
- ⇒ GSB has hosted Regional Forums in New Jersey, Minnesota, Texas, and Michigan. Additional Forums were held in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Moose Factory, Canada, and a Local Forum for Spanish-speaking districts in Mamaroneck, New York.
- ⇒ As happens every two years, GSO staff rotated their assignment in July 2009.
- ⇒ In May 2009, Phyllis H and Julio E (GSO General Manager and Staff member) attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Sub-Saharan Service Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- ⇒ In June 2009, Julio E. and Chairman Ewing attended the 9<sup>th</sup> National Convention of AA in Bucaramanga, Columbia.
- ⇒ In October, Trustees-at-large for the U.S. and Canada (Don M., and Jo-Anne L.) traveled to Arequipa, Peru for the 16<sup>th</sup> REDELA (Meeting of the Americas).
- ⇒ Staff members Valerie O'N. and Warren S. attended the 15<sup>th</sup> European Service Meeting in October in Frankfurt, Germany.
- ⇒ In July, Valerie O'N. and Phyllis H. attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ⇒ Board members received and accepted a report from its Subcommittee on Vulnerable Members in AA. *"The GSB [agrees] that it has no authority, legal or otherwise, to control or direct the behavior of AA members and groups....and also agreed that it is the groups and individual members that need to ensure that all members feel as safe as possible in AA and that newcomers are provided with strong sponsorship and made aware that AA is a microcosm of society of the world outside the AA meeting room—that they may encounter a few members who do not have their best interests in mind about getting sober through the AA program of recovery...[and therefore agreed with the subcommittee which] concluded that it would ask regional trustees to speak with their delegates about addressing the safety of all members who are in AA, as well as those who may be potential members. It is hoped that the areas, districts and groups will discuss this important topic and seek ways through sponsorship, workshops and assemblies and committee meetings to raise awareness in the Fellowship and encourage the creation of as safe an environment as possible for the newcomer, minors and other members or potential members who may be vulnerable."*
- ⇒ After a delay for further review, the video *Hope* was released in November a few days after the GSB meeting.
- ⇒ Planning continues for trustees-at-large to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> World Service Meeting in Mexico City in October 2010 to share experience, strength and hope with delegates from all over the world.

**THE ENTIRE EARLY CORPORATE BOARD  
REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST:  
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