

DELEGATE'S REPORT: AREA 09 ASSEMBLY JANUARY 10, 2010

Good afternoon!

Several people have asked me if I'm ready to be Delegate. My answer is the same to everyone: I heard an interview several years ago with the then newly appointed president of Princeton University. She was, as a matter of fact, the first woman president of that prestigious institution. The interviewer asked her, rather patronizingly I thought, 'Well, are you prepared to be President of Princeton?' She laughed and replied, 'No, of course not. I will be prepared to be president of Princeton the day after I retire.'

I am, however, excited and pleased to be able to serve as your Conference Delegate for these two years. As this is my first assembly as delegate, and many of you don't know me, here are a few statistics:

* I'm 72 years old. I was born in Los Angeles and have lived in Maryland, Massachusetts, Arizona, Berlin, Germany, and in Orange County since 1964; I have been married twice, once for 15 years and this time for 36 years. I have three children, three step children and 14 grandchildren (ages 5 to 29).

* I have been sober since February 1st, 1980 and I've been in General Service since early 1982 when I became the GSR for my home group in District 6. After 20 years, I changed home groups, and am now a grateful member of District 18. I have served the area as a GSR, District secretary, DCM, DCMC, Area Treasurer and Registrar, member of the Finance Committee, Grapevine Committee Chair and most recently as the chair of the newly formed Area Communications Committee.

So, enough about me...and let's get to the important stuff <smile>...

FROM THE DECEMBER AA WORLD SERVICE BOARD MEETING:

- Some of you were aware that GSO computer system was the recipient of a **random, virus-related intrusion** that seriously impacted their operations and servers. The office system was completely restored and there was no loss of GSO records or data.
- Much focus was on the upcoming **75th Anniversary of AA International Convention** in San Antonio this year and the **21st World Service meeting** in Mexico.
- The GSO Corrections desk needs volunteer for the **Corrections Correspondence Service**. In particular, Spanish-speaking males who live *outside the Pacific Region*. (Do you know anyone outside our Area who could be contacted about this?) Also mentioned was an inmate who is corresponding with an entire AA Group...perhaps an idea for your home group to consider.
- New stories are being sought for a revision of the pamphlet **"It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"**. Stories can be sent to the Corrections desk at GSO or given to the chair of our Corrections committee for submission. Also, local Corrections committees

mittee for submission. Also, local Corrections committees are being asked to share experience with the signing of legally binding documents as part of their cooperation with the corrections professionals. Local solutions regarding how to observe facility regulations while staying within our Traditions are needed and can also be sent to GSO given to the Chair of our Corrections Committee.

- Foreign Services Desk GSO Staff person, Warren S. attended the French-speaking African Service Meeting in Cameroon in November.
- Treatment Facilities and H&I committees are asked to share any experience that they may have had with carrying the message to treatment professionals and clients in **outpatient settings**.
- Special Needs committees are asked to share any suggestions regarding developing a poster depicting alcoholics with special needs, such as suggestions about what such a poster might include, as well as how such a poster might be used if it is developed.
- Publications Report:
 - Total distribution of books was up 5.9% from the same period the year before.
 - 24% of the total book sales were to non-AAs in 2009.
 - In 2008 only 19% of books sold were to non-AAs.
 - Big Book gross sales through November 2009 were approximately \$13,000,000.
- A catalog of products available from AA was mailed with the Holiday issue of Box 459.
- The “Young People’s Video” DVD, which we viewed at the last area service committee meeting was mailed to all conference members in December.

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PACIFIC REGION A.A. SERVICE ASSEMBLY

- March 5-7 at the Radisson Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport. I put PRAASA flyers in English and Spanish on the literature table along with registration forms. You can download the flyers and registration form from the PRAASA website at www.PRAASA.org, or let me know and I will send one or more to you. This is a great opportunity for lots of us to attend this absolutely wonderful event. Nothing in my experience, other than the International Conventions, inspire me so much. To be together with hundreds of other like-minded, enthusiastic AAs is more than a treat...and I can guarantee that anyone who attends PRAASA will have a much, much better understanding of who and what general service is all about. It will, I assure you, fill you up!!

CONFERENCE

- As many of you know, each conference delegate is assigned to serve on a conference committee for the two-year term. I have

been assigned to one primary committee and to a secondary committee as well. My primary assignment is to the Agenda committee. That doesn't sound very exciting, does it? Not quite like Literature, which will consider a new pamphlet on Spirituality, or Finance who will discuss whether we should continue to use book sales to fund AA services.

- However, I am actually very excited about this assignment. For one thing it is the first time a delegate from our area has served on this committee...and, we will be considering themes, workshops, discussion and workshop topics for the 2011 conference, as well as reviewing the conference evaluation forms...maybe I can pick up some ideas for an assembly evaluation form!
- In addition, I have been assigned to the Archives Committee, which will probably only meet once, with the Trustees Archives Committee, in order to review the Archives workbook and discuss the possibility of a PowerPoint virtual tour of the GSO archives.
- I will, of course, want to and try to be informed (with your help) on all the conference agenda items, as I will want to know whether the various committee recommendations are in line with your thinking before voting for or against any particular action. I have selected a few of the **preliminary items** and a list of **suggested discussion topics** based on the conference theme for your use at you District and your Group; I put them on the literature table.
- PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY: We will have a pre-conference assembly where you will help me evaluate the various items and let me know your ideas, suggestions and opinions. We have sent the preliminary conference agenda items to all the area members whose email addresses are known to us. We will probably have one or two more updates before we get the finalized version. Please take time to look them over and let me know what you think.

BUTTONS:

- I'm almost through, but just a couple more short items: I woke up in the middle of the night a few weeks ago and realized that 09 (our area number) and 60 (our panel number) are the same when you turn either one of them over. "Ah, ha," I thought to myself. The result of that nocturnal epiphany is a button I have had made for those of us who would like to have one, sharing our Panel 60 experience in Area 09. I've added the logo triangle of Unity, Service, and Recovery (with the pointy end up) and the upside down service triangle, reminding us of the importance of group participation. I hope you enjoy them.

PAST DELEGATES' GATHERING:

- And finally, at the posthumous urging of our Panel 20 delegate, Ellery S., I have invited most of the past delegates from our area

to meet with me, informally, in order to share their experience, strength and hope about the Conference. Ellery called it an opportunity to “gang up on the new delegate.” I’ll give you a report on how it turns out.

CLOSING:

- Thank you for your attention. I will do everything in my power to treat each of you with the respect I believe you deserve. It is my belief that we can accomplish much in the spirit of mutual respect and love—one member for another.