

Pacific Regional Trustee's Report

following the January 2019 General Service Board Weekend

Dear Pacific Region Delegates,

I am back home from another productive General Service Board weekend! January is a very exciting and busy time as AAWS, AAGV, and all the committees are getting prepared for the conference. Progress reports for the conference committees are finalized and approved and potential agenda items are being discussed for forwarding on to the conference. In January, we have many very special guests. All the Conference Committee Chairs and the Delegate Chair attend most of the meetings over the weekend. They are given a voice in their corresponding trustees committees and this is very helpful in some of the discussion around potential agenda items as well as preparing them for their service leadership role at the Conference. We also were interviewing candidates for 2 Class A trustees to replace David Morris and Ivan Lemelle. There were 7 wonderful candidates and the two that will be on the slate are Sister Judith Karam from Sisters of Charity. She knew Sister Ignacia and has a very extensive background in alcoholism and hospital administration. The second is Dr. Al Mooney. He also has a very extensive background in alcoholism and addiction. They are both very good friends to A.A.

The General Sharing Session this time was on "Social Media-the Colossus of 21st Century Communication". A couple of points that stood out to me were 1) This is the world we live in; these are the platforms that exist; and we have no control over what other human beings do. 2) The average millennium spends several hours a day on social media so if we want to reach them we need to reach them on social media. 3) Concept 8 states that one of our main categories of responsibilities on which we are to focus is public relations.

AAWS report highlights

- 4 major projects concerning Communications are in focus. Website design, A.A.W.S. App, You Tube and ERP software. The App is now moved ahead in priority over the website rather than happening together and will be launched in the spring. You Tube has 2 videos for professionals now and the views have skyrocketed in the last month. The first month of YouTube there were over 2000 views. You Tube is being recommended through the "What's App" especially by Spanish speaking people.
- GSO is working to implement ERP, a new software. This project has slowed due to data migration and is continuing to be a priority. Important to note is that FNV "Fellowship New Vision" will be replaced by this new system.
- A digital anonymity protected version of the World Service Meeting will be posted on the dashboard soon.
- The new Public Service Announcement "Changes" is now posted to the aa.org website.

CONFIDENTIAL: CONTAINS FULL NAMES OF AA MEMBERS. DO NOT POST. FORWARD WITH CARE.

- Revenue for 2018 was up by 2.16% over 2017 (this includes about 8.4 million in contributions-very close to 2017) Operating expenses were up 8.56% over 2017. This was due to salaries (new employees), litigation, ERP Software costs and implementation, and travel due to conference being in NY vs. Rye and World Service Meeting being in South Africa.
- Our Great Responsibility: A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1971 is on track for mid-April and will be priced at \$10.00 in all 3 languages.

AA Grapevine report highlights

- GV net income is -\$164,260. This loss is primarily due to publisher change. La Vina service is at a shortfall of \$148,467. There are also a couple of new positions that were filled. 1 is an Outreach Person and 1 is an assistant at La Vina. Part of the increase for La Vina is the color magazines that were produced in 2018. The La Vina magazine in color has been extremely well received.
- Suggested Grapevine book topics for 2020 and beyond were forwarded to conference committee.
- Removing the Alcoholism at Large page from Grapevine was forwarded to conference committee

Trustees' committees

Here are selected highlights from some of the committee reports. I will not be talking about every item as you'll be able to see full reports when the final board minutes are distributed:

- Conference
 - Planning is underway to have a mini electronic conference report so that you will have that prior to receiving the Final Conference Report
 - Agenda item forwarded to Policy and Admission committee to revise our Polling Process for Conference members between annual meetings.
 - 2 delegates were drawn from the hat to replace delegates on the Trustees Committee that will be voting for the NE Regional Trustee in their delegate capacity. And one of these will be Coleen Ashworth, Area 17, Hawaii.
 - Delegates will be contacted to find out about underserved populations in your areas.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/ Accessibilities
 - Agreed to forward a draft of the Remote Communities Kit for review.
 - There are 35 exhibit location requests for professional events and local CPC committees have been contacted to staff these events
- Corrections

- The 30-minute video “A New Freedom” in a 15-minute and 3-minute version will be available soon. Trustee committee viewed and agreed that these will increase opportunities for sharing.
- International
 - The 30th Anniversary of Latvia was attended by Newton Pritchett, Trustee at Large US and he reported on the exuberance of young people in A.A. in Latvia.
 - On aa.org, what’s new you can read the press release about our visit to Cuba and a Class A Trustees interview on radio and TV. Cuba recognizing A.A. is a big step toward carrying the message.
- International Conventions/Regional Forums
 - Regional Forums is looking into making power point presentations in French or Spanish for regions where there is a large attendance of French or Spanish speaking members
 - A virtual Forum continues to be worked on
 - At the 4 Regional Forums in 2019 this committee will purchase 50 Grapevine Completes for each to give away to 50 first time attendees at a cost of just under \$10,000.
 - The price of attendance at International Convention in 2020 will be \$115 until April 15th, and then \$140 thereafter in 2020. I did ask for additional Military workshops or meetings at International. Currently there is one on the list of topics.
- Literature
 - Several progress reports on new pamphlets and revisions will be forwarded to conference committee
 - A couple of items that were forwarded were a 5th Edition of the Big Book and the development of a Literature Workbook
 - One item that was not forwarded was a Plain Language Big Book, however we asked the Board Chair to appoint a subcommittee to include members of Accessibilities committee to look at this further
- Public Information
 - Agreed to forward to conference committee a request for a video Public Service Announcement with full faces using actors
- Thought provoking ideas from weekend
 - “We need to use social media not just to say who Alcoholics Anonymous is, but to tell our story.”
 - “Instead of saying “We can’t do this, say “How can we do this””
 - “Group conscience is not decided until there is no longer discussion in the parking lot”

Gratefully,

Kathi Fowler

Pacific regional trustee