

Delegate Report
July 13, 2003
Gladwin, MI.

Hi everybody. Before I start my conference report there are a few items I need to pass on to you.

The AA Grapevine Corporate Board will have a non-trustee Director vacancy, for a four year term, following the General Service Conference in April 2004. The Board of Trustees has requested that the AA Grapevine Boards' recommendations be presented to the trustees' Nominating Committee for review at its January 2004 meeting. Since resumes need to be screened and applicants interviewed by members of our Corporate Board in a timely fashion, the process must begin well in advance. They plan to review resumes in early September so that they can schedule interviews during the early autumn of this year. The AA Grapevine Board asks that completed resumes be submitted by August 31, 2003. If anyone is interested please let me know as soon as possible, I have all the necessary forms which need to be filled out.

I am enclosing the Alcoholics Anonymous World Service Highlights from June 13, 2003 with this report. Following are some of the items I'd like to share with you at this time.

G.S.O. staff rotation will occur July 1,2003. Management has for some time been considering long-term options regarding the staff. During the last staff search, several highly qualified candidates were interviewed and, wishing to take advantage of the opportunity of hiring such qualified individuals, management had sought and received A.A.W.S. board approval to increase the staff from 10 to 11 members; an action that was in line with long-term plans. As a result, we look forward to welcoming Irene K. to G.S.O. Irene is scheduled to start on the Treatment Facilities assignment October 1,2003.

A report of activity on G.S.O.'s A.A. web site shows that a total of 157,891 visits were made during the month of May (a daily average of 5,198).

Following a full discussion by the board regarding placement of the text of the Fourth Edition Big Book on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site, a concept that the 53rd General Service Conference found favorable, the Board moved to ask G.S.O. management to prepare a plan of implementation whereby the text of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, can be placed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and bring information back to the board at its July 2003 meeting.

Please don't forget the statewide meeting July 27, 2003 at the Alano Club West, 2909 Gennese St., Lansing, MI. Grapevine and Corrections committees meet at noon and Statewide meeting begins at 1:30 pm.

Dates to Remember

East Central Regional Forum	July 18-20,2003	Columbus, IN
East Central Regional Conference	August 1-3,2003	Champaign-Urbana, IL
51st Michigan State Convention	August 22-24,2003	Grand Rapids, MI
Delegates/Past Delegates Conference	February 13-15, 2004	Oak Brook Hills, IL
General Service Conference	April 18-24,2004	NY, NY

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53rd General Service Conference Report

The 53rd General Service Conference was everything, and more, our Past Delegates shared with me. Words cannot do it justice, but I'm going to try. It started as my wife, Cindy, and I boarded our plane in Detroit for New York and I saw Jo M., Area 75 Delegate on the same flight. As we were getting our luggage we saw that Torv T., Area 74 Alternate Delegate had also been on our flight. As advised from Past Delegates, we took yellow cabs and told the driver the exact address of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Manhattan. We arrived there about 30 minutes and \$28.00 (tip, and tolls included) later. After checking in at the hotel we all went to the hospitality room. Joanie M. and Julio E. from G.S.O. were there and Julio gave us good tips on places to eat. We walked to 9th Avenue and found a very nice diner with reasonable prices. Since we were told that the meals served during the conference were pretty fancy and sometimes unrecognizable, I opted for a cheeseburger and fries.

We had a 7:00 pm "Delegates Only" Pre-Conference Meeting. Panel 52 Delegates discussed conference procedures and shared their experiences from last year's conference. Just like any other meeting room of AA, I was made to feel welcome and a part of the process. By the time the conference officially opened, on Sunday at 1:30 pm with roll call, I had already attended three meetings. The 9:00 am to 11:00 am Remote Communities pre-conference meeting gave us amazing information on the difficulty of carrying the AA message because of geography, language and culture.

The first day of the conference was mostly welcomes, a discussion of the procedures, and an overview of the conference agenda. We held our first scheduled committee meeting and closed the day with a wonderful reception, dinner, and an open AA meeting from 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

The rest of the week was a busy blur. Presentations were given by Class A and B Trustees, G.S.O. Staff, and Panel 52 Delegates. There were also area highlights from Panel 53 Delegates from all eight regions, a trip to G.S.O. on Tuesday, committee meetings, and then special sessions of committee meetings took place to make sure we were done on time. Workshops on sponsorship also took place. Then the fun began when committee reports were discussed and debated on the conference floor.

Before I start discussing the advisory actions, I want to share three presentations and one personal experience that stood out to me. Two presentations were Monday night. Charles B., Class B (alcoholic) Trustee-At-Large/U.S. gave a report on the 17th World Service Meeting held in Oviedo, Spain this past October. He honestly admitted he thought, while this was a noble idea, it was probably mostly a symbolic demonstration of showing unity throughout the world, but could serve no practical purpose. After hearing 41 delegates representing 29 countries or zones he knew our Fifth Tradition was international.

The keynote address given by Paul Mc. of Ireland says it all. He pointed out that his small island nation has two currencies, two governments, two health care and legal systems. His hometown is Belfast, Northern Ireland, which has two borders dividing people by religion and politics. But in all of Ireland there is but one AA and a message that ignores all borders.

Bill A. a G.S.O. staff member, gave his report on "New Frontiers in AA". Bill is still recovering from cancer and not 100% yet. He gave an emotionally charged report. After a standing ovation, he broke down in tears at the podium. When I looked around the conference floor, I didn't see a dry eye in the house. At that moment, we all knew we had been a part of something special.

On Tuesday night, George Vaillant, Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee gave a presentation on "Sponsoring Professionals". This presentation just reinforced my admiration for non-alcoholic professionals and the help they can give AA if they are informed of our program of recovery.

And finally on Tuesday night we had a "Delegates Only" meeting and the rumor was they were going to shorten it so delegates could have some free time. I told my wife Tuesday afternoon we might be able to do something together that night around 8:30 pm. She told me she wouldn't be available because she was going with some other people to a Yankee's baseball game and wouldn't be back until late. I knew then she was in good hands for the week. And even though Cindy saw a lot of New

York without me, I was grateful we both had our own conference memories. Thank you Area 32 for letting me serve as your Panel 53 Delegate.

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General Service Conference April 27 - May 3, 2003
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