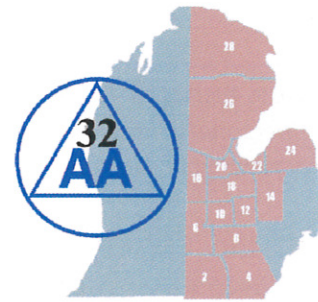


A Note from your **DELEGATE**, Panel 61, CMIA32

June 5, 2011



Dear fellow AAs:

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Area 32 as your **DELEGATE** and thank you for all that you do for AA. Our home groups, districts, area assemblies service committees, workshops, and more, are AAs foundation.

This note is about my participation at the 61st General Service Conference in New York City from April 30 to May 7, 2011. It included a large but manageable agenda with a continuous program of meetings supported by assistance from our GSO staff. All matters were presented in an orderly manner, the voice of all in AA was heard and action was then taken as the body deemed appropriate. All of AA was represented by 93 Delegates (68.9%), 27 Trustees (20.0%) from the USA and Canada and 15 GSO and Grapevine staff (11.1%). The conference was a very educational and purposeful experience. It is my opinion that the decisions made were correct for our AA fellowship. This 61st conference Theme was:

“We Are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin With US.”

Questions frequently asked of me since assuming the Delegate position include:

What is the overall service structure of AA and how does it work? How does the service structure work at the conference? What are “the New York office” or General Service office? *The A.A. Service Manual* provides information about AA structure. Please also consult your DCM, CMIA32 GSR meeting group leader and others in your district that should have this information. I will be pleased to discuss this individually or in group settings. I suggest that you attend AA sponsored workshops and seminars where this is presented. Attend the many excellent presentations that will be part of the agenda at the **MI State AA Convention in Lansing in August.**

What is the purpose of the various “desks” and other service entities at the GSO at our New York City offices? How do they provide their services from New York to our groups, districts or service committees? *Information and assistance should be sought first from or through your local district DCM, local district or area committees or officers, or, through your Delegate or other area person or entity. The GSO does request that your inquiries should be answered from these entities and persons in them. District service committees will find support for information from area committees who should be able to answer most questions.*

What is the purpose of a specific service committee and how does it work? *Attend the CMIA32 service committee meeting where the service is of interest to you and speak to the Chair of the service. Does your district have such a service committee? Obtain the many helpful printed materials.*

What is happening financially with the GRAPEVINE magazine which is “our meeting in print” and is currently losing subscribers and incurring a large financial

deficit annually? *The answer is "WE" and our groups will decide the future of the GRAPEVINE. Do you personally have a subscription? Are subscriptions in place at your groups to ensure that all at your meetings see or borrow or purchase a copy of the GRAPEVINE from the group?*

Will the GRAPEVINE continued to be published in print now that it also is available electronically? *The answer is yes. However, if you a user of the Internet do you know the additional services now available electronically including Digital Archives and more? Are you aware of the many books published by the Grapevine including writings of Bill W. and more and how to obtain them?*

I am available to provide answers to the above and many more questions and participate at workshops or seminars, district meetings or at local meeting groups. To present a 2011 conference experience, overall conference purpose and structure report verbally would take at least one hour or more, depending upon how in-depth you wanted the information presented. A brief fifteen or thirty minute or so sharing of a specific topic, agenda item, or sharing about the Spiritual Experience from service and how "we" decide the future of AA for others is also possible. "It only takes two to have a meeting" but it can be as large a group as appropriate. Please contact me and discuss your desires. Location is not of concern.

It is true that AA "works" based upon our meeting group commitments and adherence to the "12 Traditions." It is also clear that the future of AA is in our hands at our meeting groups, districts and areas. Only at these locations of service will the work be done that ensures the presence of Alcoholics Anonymous for those yet to come into our fellowship. The Conference matters were largely about issues dealing with literature, development of video presentations, verbiage in various printed materials, how to present AA in public information materials, how to best present our "meeting in print," our GRAPEVINE magazine, election of trustees, GSO staff matters and much, much more.

"WE" are making the future of AA, and that is true. "WE" will decide by our personal commitments to service whether AA exists at all over time or in what form. "We" will either Pass On our AA messages to ensure that AA meetings remain AA and our group members have the resources printed, digitized or otherwise available for our use to learn and apply services in our group and in committees. "WE" will decide how AA will be present, if at all, for the generations yet to come into our fellowship to find recovery from alcoholism. I join you on this journey for the blessings that AA service brings to my life. I again thank each and every one of you.

In Service to my fellow AAs and the AA fellowship,

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