

April 2020 Quarterly Delegate Report

March 16, 2020

Western Washington Area Committee:

70TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

The theme for the 2020 General Service Conference is: **2020: A Clear Vision for You**

The following will be presentation/discussion topics for the 2020 General Service Conference:

- Recovery – *Who is Missing in Our Rooms?*
- Unity – *Practicing Our Principles*
- Service – *Keeping A.A. Relevant*
- The workshop topic is: *Attraction through Action*

The General Service Conference will be held virtually this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus. Many Areas are holding pre-conferences or conference assemblies virtually, as are committees, districts, and homegroups as we adjust to this temporary situation.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

DCMs, I will soon send out communications to begin scheduling conference reports, which will start in May. Let us combine a couple districts per report so that the total number is manageable but they are still small and intimate.

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE & A.A.W.S HIGHLIGHTS

- Reminder, there is a new Communications Services department at GSO. It launched successfully in November. This department will support other GSO departments in their communications and communications needs.
- The adoption of the new Enterprise resource planning platform has, as you know, taken a long time. A Technology Services Team was created to drive stabilization and continued support for this transition. For those curious, the platform is NetSuite.

2019 Finance:

- For the twelve months ended December 31, 2019, the G.S.O. income statement shows a \$313,530 deficit (loss) for the period.
- Revenues were 1.94% higher than budgeted and 3.79% higher than the twelve months ended December 31, 2018.
- Operating expenses were 6.61% greater than budgeted and 7.93% more than last year. This is partly due to the prolonged struggle converting to ERP.
- Actual contributions for the year were \$8,855,697, 5.62% higher than budget and 5.61% higher than the year ended December 31, 2018.
 - 2019 was the largest contributing year on record, by \$446,000.

- Online contributions were 12% higher than 2018.
- There was a large variance between projected and actual literature sales, comprised by the far less than expected sales of the new book *Our Great Responsibility*. 2019 saw 35,000 sales of this book, however 100,000 was anticipated.
- Total web sales (A.A.W.S. Online Bookstores) for December stand at \$664,262, which accounts for about 63% of total sales for the company.

A.A. GRAPEVINE AND LA VINA

- The new Website is complete. It is much more compatible on your mobile devices.
Aagrapevine.org
- YouTubes. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI9uFLJ_aXT3-At0PIPWUQ/videos The newest videos are explainer videos for GV and LV Reps and audio stories from Women in Sobriety. Soon will be a video on “Carry the Message” project.
- Language of the Heart is now available in Spanish Audio and we have approved moving forward with French Audio as well.
- Upcoming Grapevine Topics:
 - Money (Financial Insecurity) How has sobriety helped you? Are you a group treasurer? (Stories due April 15, 2020)
 - Remote Communities – Do you live far from an AA Meeting? Do you do Remote Community service? (Stories due June 15, 2020)
- Upcoming LaVina Topics:
 - Remote Communities (Stories due April 3, 2020)
 - The Home Group (Stories due July 17, 2020)
- AAGV gross profit for 2019 was approximately 1.9 million and expenses were a little over 1.9 million with a net loss of \$44,000 (a large improvement over 2018)

Did you know? There are currently 225,000 users on the Meeting Guide App.

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD TRUSTEE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Accessibilities/Loners International Meeting

- Stories are being collected to update the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic”
- This desk is developing audio interviews with military in A.A. for use on the website, with outreach and possibly on YouTube

Corrections

- The holiday edition of Sharing from Behind the Walls and the December Grapevine were sent out, along with requested books and pamphlets, to prisoners across the U.S. and Canada. Over 80 inmates were linked to outside A.A. members, bringing the total for 2019 to 1,790 men and women linked to A.A. members through the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.).

Public Information

- In keeping with A.A.’s Public Information policy, the P.I. Desk will be sending out a Press Release to Media on the new Young and Sober in A.A.: From Drinking to Recovery video, noting that no matter

your age it can never be too early or too late to seek help with a drinking problem. See here:

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/young-and-sober-in-aa-from-drinking-to-recovery

International/Regional Forums

- Local entities such as Intergroups/Central Offices will be able to sell A.A. Literature at Forums where venues allow. They will be chosen by the host committee for each Forum. More information to come.

Literature

- The Big Book, “Twelve and Twelve” and *Living Sober* have been completed in English, French and Spanish. Manufacturing costs for CD sets are being gathered and will be brought to the A.A.W.S. board.

Safety service piece: The board reviewed an updated draft of a proposed service piece on safety being developed by G.S.O. staff. The work is ongoing and additional input was requested to help inform subsequent drafts. It was suggested that information about the service piece could be included in the A.A.W.S. report to the 2020 General Service Conference to continue discussion of this important issue, as well as including it in some form at Regional Forums.

2020 PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM - West Gate Las Vegas

West Gate Las Vegas, August 21-23, 2020. Regional Forums are weekend sharing and information gathering sessions designed to help the General Service Board, AA World Services, the Grapevine Corporate Board, Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with AA members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the AA service structure.

2020 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – Detroit, MI

The 2020 International Convention, and AA’s 85th Anniversary, is in Detroit, Michigan, July 2-5, 2020. The theme is: “*Love and Tolerance Are Our Code*”. Register online at aa.org – just click on the International Forum link at the top of the page. A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. We will be participating with a Pacific Region Hospitality Room at the International.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Foster
Panel 69 Delegate