



AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

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Area 11 General Service Committee

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For updated meeting schedule and answering service information, visit our website at www.ct-aa.org.

Fall is here. Which brings to mind budgets, the spirit of rotation with elections and of course, FUN! Congratulations to the Convention committee on their success with this year's event. Over 900 people attended at the Red Lion in Cromwell. Another great response to the home group celebration on Friday. The Red Lion will also host CSCYPAA over Thanksgiving weekend. Register early to save a few bucks!

The 6th and 7th Traditions describe our program's relationship to money. Now that it is budget season, it seems like a perfect time to discuss how AA uses the contributions your group sends in, where the money comes from and what it does. There has been a lot of discussion about the General Service Office not being self-supporting. This is not entirely accurate. The General Service Office is not fully self-supporting through contributions only. Profits from Literature sales make up the shortfall. To be more specific, sales from Conference Approved literature. Conference Approved literature are items that are published by A.A.W.S. These items, pamphlets, Big Books, Daily Reflections, Living Sober, 12&12, etc. are the pieces of literature that are sold where the profits go directly to AAWS to carry the message. Other items not published by AAWS do not contribute. It is our responsibility in addition to dropping cash in the basket when it comes around at our home group, but also to purchase literature for ourselves, as gifts to friends, and to give

to new-comers, beginners and sponsees.

The money that your group sends to support the General Service Office is spread far and wide to help do work on a national and international level that the group itself cannot do. The General Service Office has permanent full-time staff including CPC, PI, Technology, Corrections, Treatment and Accessibilities, etc. Each of these staff members carry out your instructions from the General Service Conference and help those who reach out to AA for help and information; providing literature and experience.

Tradition 1 reminds us that group unity must come before personal recovery. That is because without each other, we have no chance of an active experience. We work together, share with each other, and take action. Each book and pamphlet purchase from AAWS, each dollar in the basket is where our spirituality hits the group level and how we together support and contribute to the nation wide and international outreach of the AA program. This is our responsibility and our duty. Each group, district, area and GSO working together to carry the message of unity, recovery and service.

Personally, I would not be where I am today if it weren't for all of Alcoholics Anonymous. My first exposure to AA was at a meeting brought into the treatment center where I was detoxing. A double speaker meeting where I drank decaf coffee. I am forever grateful to the men and women that performed that service. That first exposure was life changing for me and a debt I continue to repay today.

Panel 69 Committee Highlights

ARCHIVES:

So far this year, Archives staff has responded to approximately 750 requests for information and accessioned 67 new items, both paper and digital. The addition of the 1940s home movies into "Markings on the Journey," this task is in the hands of a very busy publishing department.

TRUSTEES:

Information has been received to prepare your delegate for the upcoming General Service Board weekend in January. As Chair of the Conference Committee on Trustees, it is a privilege that I am able to attend as a observer in 2020.

AAWS Highlights

Regional/International Events

2020 International Convention:

Registration for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit opened on September 9. Go to aa.org to register online and to book your hotel reservations. Registration is \$115 before 4/15; after 4/15 it is \$140. To learn more about visiting Detroit while you are there visit:

<https://internationalconvention.visitdetroit.com>

NERAASA 2020:

February 21-23, 2020

Save the date for NERAASA 2020 hosted by Area 43 New Hampshire!
Radisson Hotel Nashua
11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH

UPCOMING AREA 11 EVENTS:

FALL ASSEMBLY **NEW LOCATION**

Sunday November 3, 2019

9-3

Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield

CSCYPAA

November 29-December 1, 2019

Red Lion Hotel
100 Berlin Rd., Cromwell
Pre-Registration \$10 through

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR AREA 11
EVENTS FOR 2020!!!**

Accessibilities: *The Trustees Committee on Accessibilities/Remote Communities discussed ways to implement changes to Accessibilities service material. The Guidelines on "Sharing the A.A. Message with the Alcoholic who is Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing" and "Accessibility for All Alcoholics" have been updated and should be available soon. The service piece "Serving All Alcoholics" is being updated as well.*

Finance: *The reserve fund stands at 9.4 months of the operating budget. AAWS reported that revenues were 3.63% higher than budget, operating expenses were 4.15% greater than budget, primarily attributable to ERP expenses, contributions 4.87% higher than budget. Online contributions accounted for approximately 11% of total contributions. AAWS will draw down up to \$1,000,000 from the Reserve Fund to cover current expenses, primarily resulting from expenses related to the international convention. This drawdown will be repaid by December 31, 2019 (once International Convention revenues start coming in from registration fees). Also approved was up to \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to finance capital improvements (renovations and asbestos abatement on the 8th floor) at 475 Riverside Drive. The General Manager was authorized to sign a lease for additional space at 475 Riverside Drive which would run concurrent with our existing lease to expire on December 31, 2024.*

Grapevine: *Although print subscriptions continue to decline, overall the GV is in pretty good shape. For example, online services and popular books as well as a downloadable "Language of the Heart" mp3 help boost magazine sales. La Viña is picking up slowly and is higher than 2018 by 140 units and ahead of 2019 budget by 421 units. As mentioned earlier, Irena D., our former La Viña editor, has accepted a GSO staff member position. Please feel free to pass the word about the Grapevine toolkit, a comprehensive package of AA Grapevine recovery items, introduced earlier this year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Grapevine.*

International Convention: *As registration opened on 9/9/19, most hotel rooms in the Downtown Detroit area have already been reserved. There are still plenty of available rooms. All rooms in the suburban areas are on the shuttle line and will have direct access to the Ford Center where the main meetings will be held all weekend. Most rides are from 10-20 minutes away. Make your reservations soon. My goal is to keep you updated on the status of the International Convention happens as they are relayed to me.*

Please feel free to copy this report and circulate it as needed within A.A. Groups and A.A. Service Committees.

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