



AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

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Area 11 General Service Committee

Tradition 2: Spirit of Rotation

"For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth — a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity. Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities." Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise — we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

The AA Group Pamphlet, Pg. 28

Ultimately, they divide into two classes known in AA slang as "elder statesmen" and "bleeding deacons". The elder statesmen is the one who sees the wisdom of the groups' decision, who holds no resentment over his reduced status, whose judgement, fortified by considerate experience, is sound, and who is willing to sit quietly on the sidelines patiently awaiting developments. The bleeding deacon is one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him, who constantly connives for reelection, and who continues to be consumed with self-pity. A few hemorrhages so badly that-drained of all AA spirit and principle-they get drunk. At times the AA landscape seems to be littered with bleeding forms. Nearly every old timer in our Society has gone through this process in some degree. Happily, most of them survive and live to become elder statemen. They become the real and permanent leadership of AA. Theirs is the quite opinion, the sure knowledge and humble example that resolve a crisis. When sorely perplexed, the group inevitably turns to them for advice. They become the voice of the group conscience; in fact, these are the true voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. They do not drive by mandate; they lead by example. This is the experience which has led us to the conclusion that our group conscience, well-advised by its elders, will be in the long run wiser than any single leader.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, Pg. 135

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

Panel 69 Committee Highlights

ARCHIVES: Archives staff was recently informed that St. Thomas Hospital (owned by Summa Health) in Akron, Ohio, where Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia worked and helped many alcoholics, will be closed soon. The hospital's chapel holds an exhibit of Sister Ignatia that is visited by thousands of A.A.'s worldwide. The Property Management of Summa Health informed Archives staff that the Sister Ignatia exhibit will be transferred to the new location. They also sent pictures of the current exhibit held at St. Thomas for G.S.O.'s archival photo collection. Sister Judith Ann Karam, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee, was instrumental in coordinating the introductions with Summa Health Property Management and obtaining the images of the exhibit.

TRUSTEES:

In 2020, the Regional Trustees for the West Central and Western Canada Regions will rotate. Resumes are being collected and will be made available for voters in the regional elections. A reminder notice was sent to area delegates who had not yet submitted nominees.

As Chair of the Conference Committee on Trustees, I was invited to attend Board Weekend, Feb 1-3. I attended several committee meetings and was asked to participate in discussion with the Trustee's Committee on Nominating. I also attended Corrections, CPC, Archives, Finance and PI.

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

Radisson Hotel Nashua
11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, NH

Registration is now closed. You can register on site in person.

UPCOMING AREA 11 EVENTS:

PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, March 28, 2020; 9-3
Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield

AREA 11 ROUND-UP

Sunday, April 26, 2020
Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield
Registration is FREE!

SPRING ASSEMBLY

Saturday, May 9, 2020
Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield

Finance:

For the ten months ended October 31, 2019 revenues were 0.91% higher than budgeted and 1.19% higher than the ten months ended October 31, 2018. Operating expenses were 5.35% greater than budgeted and 8.41% more than last year. A large variance of \$303,553 in net sales to budget is caused mainly by less than budgeted sales of Our Great Responsibility. Also, in October, there were \$300,000 less in overall sales with Intergroup/Central Offices compared to last year. Actual contributions for the ten months ended October 31, 2019 were \$7,013,382, 8.76% higher than budget and 6.37% higher than the ten months ended October 31, 2018. Online contributions for the first ten months of 2019 amounted to \$741,424. This compared with \$642,462 in 2018, \$586,381 in 2017, \$417,601 in 2016, and \$308,775 in 2015.

The first ten months of 2019 online contributions account for 10.60% of our total contributions. The following variances were noted for the ten months: The Salary line was \$6,498,209 (0.42%) less than budget and \$359,060 (5.85%) more than the ten months ended October 31, 2018. Professional fees are \$266,974 (81.60%) higher than budget and \$163,991 (38.12%) higher than 2018. These variances are mainly caused by contract reviews being over budget by \$132,970 for the first ten months of the year. There are also additional legal fees (general counsel) that amount to \$137,105 higher than budget. Contracted Services are over budget by \$829,081 (77.73%) and \$902,349 (90.83%) over last year. This variance is caused by ERP costs amounting to \$489,357 over budget. Travel, Meetings and Accommodations are \$141,345 (13.46%) higher than budget and \$52,990 less than last year.

Publishing:

Gross sales:

October gross sales are below budget with actual gross sales at \$954,918, which is a \$522,171 or 35.35% negative variance against budget of \$1,477,089.

Web sales:

Total web sales (A.A.W.S. Online Bookstores) for October stand at \$656,518, which accounts for about 69% of total sales for the company. Sales on the B2B online store (primarily Intergroup/Central Offices and other bulk orders) for October are \$355,218 and B2C sales (individual customers) stand at \$301,300.

Digital books:

Total ebook gross sales through October 2019 stand at \$157,620, with 40,707 units distributed. American Sign Language Update: Big Book released on DVD November 4, 2019; video with subtitles and audio posted for viewing on aa.org. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions released on DVD November 4, 2019; video with subtitles and audio posted for viewing on aa.org.

Twelve Concepts for World Service Audio project:

Professionally produced audio versions in English, French and Spanish posted for listening on aa.org.

Digital Distribution:

A progress report was provided, including detailed projections on ebook and audiobook sales. The committee looks forward to continuing updates and a proposal with specific pricing.

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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