



AREA 11 DELEGATE'S REPORT

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2020

Area 11 General Service Committee

Links to information:

Updates to COVID-19 on AA.org:

https://aa.org/pages/en_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus

Sharing exchanged on how groups are handling COVID-19:

https://aa.org/pages/en_US/update-on-covid-19-coronavirus

Grapevine & La Vina 2020 issues are free:

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/we-are-here-to-help>

Options for meeting online:

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/options-for-meeting-online

Press Release Virtual Meetings:

https://www.aa.org/press-releases/en_US/press-releases/aa-groups-using-digital-platforms-to-find-sobriety-during-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak

Go to ct-aa.org for updated meeting information including virtual video conferencing meetings and temporary meeting closures

Panel 69

ARCHIVES:

TRUSTEES:

THE NEW NORMAL:

Who could have imagined that the entire world would have a complete change from my last report to you in March? As Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 11 finds its way through the morass of the global pandemic, HOPE and FAITH are the key words that continue to resonate through my morning meditation.

April's report is a bit something different. Normally, I would not report to you in April at all as I would be locked away preparing for Conference, reading background material, reviewing the discussions from Pre-Conference and results of the Delegate's Survey. Oh wait, I am still doing all that.

What I want to report to you on in this report is what I have been up to specifically over the last month. I liken it to what delegate's from SENY (Area 49 Southeastern New York) would have experienced in the aftermath the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center; Louisiana (Area 27) just after Katrina hit, or Puerto Rico (Area 77) after Maria. The main difference is that every single area is under the same invasion. It is a great equalizer and strangely comforting that we are all in this together. We are sharing information and swapping experiences faster than they are happening; doing whatever we can to help each other and our Areas forge through this experience.

I didn't know that when I stood for delegate a year and a half ago, what I was really doing was saying that I was willing to guide Area 11 into the digital age. It's fair to note here that I am an Interior Designer by training and trade, not IT. AA's in general have been so fearful of the internet, anonymity, social media, YouTube, Linked-In, Twitter, Facebook and the like. Fear can be crippling. It is only able to be combatted with Faith. Bill talks a lot in his

writings on the Concepts about how we need to be able to experiment and be willing to make mistakes, even with our precious principles. Technology is where we have the least amount of experimenting in the last 30 years. We are slow to try or have written off forms of technology only out of fear. What a difference a global pandemic can make to smashing that fear.

Over the last month, I have received and answered literally thousands of emails, text messages and phone calls regarding technology, the pandemic, the Conference, the Area and the like. The weekend of March 20-22 I couldn't charge my phone fast enough to keep up. It completely died an average of 4 times each of those days. So, what have I been doing since being furloughed from work on March 16th? Every single day I sit at my computer using the technology available to be of maximum and effective service to Area 11. Guiding those out of fear into faith of technology, planning and executing the Pre-Conference Assembly completely on a virtual video platform, working with other delegates to do the same. Conference calls with the other NERDs, our NERT, Conference committee chairs and the General Service Board.

Out of necessity more than willingness, AA has had to adapt to this new normal. Replacing fear with faith, experimentation, action and prudence. Isn't this what the 12 Steps have asked of us all along? Don't be fooled, this technology was here. It is not new. We were just never willing to see it for the life saving tool that it is.

Thank you everyone for participating in Area 11's first virtual video Pre-Conference Assembly. There was a lot of great information from the incredibly heartfelt sharing!! I am truly grateful to all the DCMs, Area officer and Committee Chairs, tech support help and interpreters that went above and beyond to work through their fears!

Other Highlights

Regional/International Events

2020 International Convention:

The 2020 International Convention in Detroit, Michigan scheduled for July 2-5 has been CANCELLED. Refunds and hotel cancellations are expected to be completed by April 30.

https://aa.org/assets/en_US/en_GSBcha/irannouncement.pdf

https://aa.org/pages/en_US/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-cancellation-process-for-the-2020-international-convention

NERD 2020:

The NERD reunion in Sturbridge, MA scheduled for March 13-15 has been postponed to March 2021.

UPCOMING AREA 11 EVENTS:

AREA 11 ROUND-UP

Postponed

Date & location TBD

SPRING ASSEMBLY

In Person Assembly has been cancelled.

Virtual Video Spring Assembly

DATE & TIME TBD

SOBERFEST 2020

Soberfest 2020 has been postponed to June 4,5,6 2021. All reservations will carry into the 2021 event. Registration refund information TBD

ROMPIENDO FRONTERAS

July 25, 2020

First Baptist Church

581 Meriden Ave, Southington

Hope, A Vision Forward:

When Bill speaks of vision in the 9th Concept Essay, these are the moments he refers to as “critical turning points”. Realizing and understanding that the break down of communication is the main problem in Area 11 is the beginning of a road to an improved, solid service structure. Until that stark fact is admitted and accepted, Area 11 will continue to flounder under the weight of its selfishness. With the Traditions as our guide and our Concepts our path, seeing that all 36 principles are required at all levels from group to committee to district to the Conference. Here the vision we need is to become aware of what the problem is, accept that our old ways do not work and action to be able to do our tasks differently, think creatively and make use of the technology before us. By letting go of printing materials for promotion and asking what digital forms can we use, by understanding how the service structure is here to help make communication more effective by letting our committees work together and hold our DCMs to the jobs we have asked of them. This is path we need to foster as we “trudge the road to happy destiny”.

GSO:

With New York in complete lockdown, the GSO office at 475 Riverside Dr in New York City is closed until further notice. The entire staff is working remotely. Please communicate with them by email. Phones are not being monitored. Emails are returned within 15 days.

70th General Service Conference:

The Trustees committee on the General Service Conference in conjunction with the Conference Coordinator Staff assignment is in the process of finalizing plans and strategies for the General Service Conference. The closure of the office has had a huge impact in making final arrangements. The Conference has been moved from the original dates in April to an undetermined date in May as of this report. Polling is being conducted as to availability of Conference members and support staff for final dates.

International Convention:

As announced during the Pre-Conference Assembly, the 2020 International Convention in Detroit has been cancelled. The link to the announcement and FAQs regarding refunds and hotel cancellations is in the box to the left. The decision was a difficult one to make. There was no other option to postpone due to the massive planning that is required. Just a reminder the next International Convention is in Vancouver, BC, Canada 2025.

Other cancellations:

Western Canada Regional Forum to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada the weekend of May 29-31 at the Glenmore Inn and Convention Center has been cancelled. The next Forum to be held is planned for August 21-23 in the Pacific Region at the Westgate, Las Vegas, Nevada.

ERP/NetSuite/MyPortal:

GSO has heard all the concerns regarding implementation of the NetSuite/My Portal. As soon as New York City reopens for normal business, selection process will begin into looking for a new vendor for technical support on this system. This will delay a full rollout of the system to Area registrars.

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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