

2017 February Committee Meeting Delegate's Report

Aloha kakou! Thank you for letting me be of service to Hawai'i Area 17. I've been busy over the course of the last week or so putting together our list of General Service Conference (GSC) agenda topics and the background material that goes along with it. I'll be discussing that separately after this report, but first, let me bring you to date with what else I've been doing and some notes of interest from the General Service Office (GSO), AAWS (AA World Services, Inc.), and GV/La Viña (Grapevine, Inc.).

The General Service Board (GSB) met on the last weekend in January and finalized the agenda topics for the GSC. Joel C. was there at the Pacific Regional Trustee and director of the AA Grapevine. He submitted an early report of the discussion to myself and the other Pacific Region Delegates and then followed that up a week later with our regular delegate conference call. Here are some highlights from the GSB from his report, our conference call, and the subsequent AAWS highlights bulletin.

AAWS

1. There were 4 Regional Forums in 2016, hopefully most of you attended the Pacific Regional Forum held at the end of September on Hawai'i Island. The total attendance for all four was 1,804 including 1,077 first timers.
2. The Rarotongan Language translation (a Maori dialect spoken in the Cook Islands) has been released and brings the total of Big Book translations to 70.
3. Work continues on the large inventory of documents being translated for First Nations/Native American communities.
4. As I mentioned in an earlier letter to Area All and posted on the Delegate's Corner on our Area website, a new service piece, "Safety in AA: Our Common Welfare" has been released. You can find it on aa.org under "Service Material from GSO." I want to remind you that GSO would love to hear your feedback and suggestions on this, or any other service material. These 'service pieces' are created from our shared experience so if you think something needs to be added or clarified, let me GSO know, either directly or through me.
5. AAWS ended the year with an income of \$1,464,625 against what was an expected shortfall of -\$26,690. They really want to express their gratitude to the entire Fellowship, all of us, for participating in increasing contributions. They received \$834,869 more than they'd budgeted in contributions and that was significantly higher than in 2015. However I was also told that a large portion of the income came from unfunded retirements, that is, not replacing several retired workers yet and once those hires are made, income will go back down. I should really remind you that this is NOT the time to decide that because of this great year it's okay to stop contributing to GSO. We see this again and again here in Hawai'i at both the Intergroup and Area levels. A call is made for contributions because there are significant shortfalls. The Fellowship responds wonderfully and we edge into the black briefly. As soon as we announce

that “we’re okay” and in the black, contributions fall off and we are back in the red. Let’s remember Bill’s words: “Though not costly, these service agencies are absolutely essential to our continued existence – to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us.” Strong words. Let’s remember, we don’t make “donations” to fund services as if they were charity, we fund them through our collective contributions because they are one way of reaching out and insuring the doors of AA are open today and tomorrow when someone who hasn’t yet reached out their hand for help.

GV/La Viña

1. La Viña ended with a shortfall of expenses over income of -\$151,651 which is about what was expected. It’s important to remember that La Viña is a service just like CPC or PI. Yes there is an income stream, but it’s service we provide, not a source of revenue. We don’t expect CEC to turn a profit do we?

Archives

1. There were 1450 requests for research in the GSO AA Archives in 2016, up from 1300 in 2015. That’s a good sized jump and just shows you important our archives are to the Fellowship.

Publishing

1. Digital Book Sales for 2016 stood at \$227,611 with 58,277 units distributed. I don’t have a breakdown on just which books, but I imagine this figure will continue to grow in the future.

There’s lot more information available and if you want an update on something I haven’t mentioned, just let me know and I’ll do my best to find the answer to your question. I could go on, but we have a lot of business today in order to distribute our Inform the Delegate agenda items and background, so let me finish this report with by reminding you that the 50th Annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is next weekend.

I know a lot of us are going, and I hope, participating in service. If this is your first PRAASA let me suggest that you buddy up with someone who’s been there before. It can be a bit overwhelming at first, that was my experience when I attended my first in Portland, Oregon. I’m currently working on my presentation on “Are all members, groups, and areas treated equally in the Conference process?” I’ve got about 24 hours to finish writing up my seven minute presentation and if you have any ideas, I’d love to hear them.

Thank you again for allowing me to of service to and all of Hawai’i Area 17.

Yours in fellowship,

Bob H.

Hawaii Area 17 – Panel 67 Delegate