

Hello everyone, I am an Alcoholic, a member of the Paradise Group on Hamilton mountain, I have the honor and privilege to be your Panel 64, Area 86 Western Ontario Delegate, and my name is Jim W.

57,000 people attended the 2015 IC in Atlanta Georgia. I was given the opportunity to volunteer not only for the Eastern Canada Hospitality Area, but also at the old timers registration sign up booth. The age limit for the old timers was raised this year to 50 + years of sobriety to have a chance to have your name drawn to speak Saturday night in the Georgia Dome. I have never seen so many disgruntled members with sobriety ranging from 40- 50 years in my life walking away from the booth cursing and yelling, they had something important to say they said. I wondered what step they were working on.

On Friday afternoon I was asked to speak and represent Eastern Canada along with my friend Luc T. from Quebec and David A. from New Brunswick. Just before our meeting was a meeting on Peace and Serenity. There were no vacant chairs available so I took a seat along the wall in the corridor. A young girl named Rachael came to the meeting with her mother. Rachael had less than a year of sobriety and finding out that there were no seats left she had a meltdown in the room. Rachael and her mother joined us in the corridor when we started a meeting of our own. When the meeting was over we all had noticed how

peaceful and serene Rachael was. You just never know when your prayers will be answered. Before my talk I had met 3 sisters I will call Happy, Joyous and Free. They told me that their father who was 39 years sober had arranged for them to come to the conference from Illinois, Florida and California and just after he had paid for the trips and registration he died. We were all in tears when they told me the story.

I also met a group of young people that were sitting in front of us for the Big Meeting on Saturday night. A young girl was among the group, she was just vibrating and full of energy. Her name was Stephani T. from Tucson Arizona who told me that she was celebrating 5 years of sobriety the next day. I asked Stephani how old she was and she replied that she had just turned 20. Stephani was just 15 when she walked through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Now on to business. I received some correspondence from GSO, 7/9/2015 Area # 086 Dear Delegate:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter, which was sent to each group along with the contributions statement for the three month ended 03/31/2015

For your information, the percentage of groups contributing in your area on a comparative basis is:

2015	2014
10.92 %	16.64%

For the three months ended 03/31/2015

Also enclosed is a copy of the letter, sent to each D.C.M. in your area.

This reflex a 5.5% decrease in contributions to GSO which is alarming.

A DOLLAR IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

1945 - \$1.00

2015 - \$13.00



INFLATION CALCULATOR

\$1.00	\$.08
in	in
1945	2015
has the buying power of	has the buying power of
\$13.00	\$ 1.00
in	in
2015	1945

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

Dear Friends

I would like to know your thoughts but especially the thoughts of the members in your Area about our revenues sources. The 7th Tradition contributions Revenues are essentially flat over the last few years, showing little to no growth.

In fact since 2006 our contributions were rather stagnant. The first 6 months of 2015 shows the same trend.

The sales of our publications are also flat over the last several years. If the 75th Big Book anniversary and the 3rd Quarter 2014 bulk purchases are both backed out of the 2014 total revenues and then this adjusted number is compared to 2013 revenues, you will see that growth is very small. The number of actual units sold during the first 6 months of 2015 is actually less than 2014.

Grapevine magazine Sales continues to decline around 4% to 5% per year.

Grapevine has been profitable over the last few years due to the growth of other publishing revenues.

Despite dedicated efforts of the staff and Boards to control spending, operating expenses for both AAWS and Grapevine continue to grow at a 2% to 3% per year due mainly to inflation.

At such a pace, where will we be in 20 years when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous? Should we look for new sources of revenue? Should we start to sale other products like Sober City in Atlanta? Are there services that are offered by the GSO who are not useful? What is the opinion of members in your area to stop our revenues declining?

Our Contributions cover 70% of the services provide by the GSO so if they are flat and are publishing sales decline, what can we do?

You can send me your ideas and suggestions at your time by e-mail. I will submit them to David Morris, class A Trustee and Treasurer of the General Service Board.

I am able to report the following news:

- The Trustees committee on Literature reviewed the 2015 Conference Advisory Action to undertake a comprehensive revision to the retitled pamphlet “Inside AA.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services.” The committee asked the Publishing Department to revise the pamphlet so that it better reflects the full range of AA services and to bring the revised draft pamphlet or a progress report to the January 2016 meeting.
- The Trustees committee on Literature discussed the 2015 Conference Advisory Action to update the

pamphlet “AA and the Gay/Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gender. The chair of the committee appointed a subcommittee to revise the title of the pamphlet to reflect this broader scope and to prepare a draft revised pamphlet or progress report for the January 2016 meeting.

- The Trustees committee on Literature discussed the 2015 Conference Advisory Action to develop literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues by gathering a wide range of AA recovery experience from members with mental health. The chair appointed a subcommittee to work on this project and develop a progress report for the January 2016 meeting.
- The Trustees committee on Literature discussed the 2015 Conference Advisory Action to update the pamphlet AA for the woman. The chair appointed a subcommittee to work on this project and develop a progress report for the January 2016 meeting.
- The trustees committee on Archives requested that the Archives Classified Records Policy be reviewed at their November 2015 meeting.
- The Trustees committee on The General Service Conference discussed a request to consider the development of an Armed Services Conference Committee with establishment of corresponding Armed Services General Service Board Committee

and General Service Office Armed Services staff position to develop strategies and services to assist active duty and veteran alcoholic members of the Armed Services, US and Canada, with gaining more efficient and expedient access to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, both during their active duty service and post discharge. The committee asked the secretary to provide additional background for the October 31, 2015.

- The Trustees committee on The General Service Conference discussed and agree to forward a request that an AA guideline be prepared that lays out what YPAA is, how it operates, what its relationship to the fellowship and the service structure might be, and how young people would go about finding and joining their area YPAA.
- The Trustees committee on Cooperation With the Professional community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities discussed the report on exploring ways to provide electronic versions of the Workbooks and other materials in the kits to committee chairs as an alternative to automatically mailing hard copies was reviewed. The committee expressed appreciation for the work involved, as well as the AAWS Board's request that GSO management develop and report on a plan for consistent delivery of all service workbook and kits in the most efficient and effective manner.

- The Trustees committee on Correction discussed and agreed to add an issue of La Vina to the English language Corrections Kit. The committee also agreed to add an issue of La Vina to the French language Corrections Kit.
- The Trustees committee on Correction discussed the need to look at the feasibility of a Corrections workshop for AA members participating in Corrections service from the US and Canada. The chair appointed a subcommittee to develop a progress report for the November 2015 meeting.
- The Trustees committee on Finance report that the reserve fund is at 10 months operating expenses budget.
- The Trustees committee on International reviewed an updated draft, and adopted the Guidelines for Adequate Interpretation on International Trips.
- The Trustees committee on International considered favorably the idea of an international AA data map that could include information by country about AA presence, available translation, zonal meeting and World Service Meeting participation, etc. the committee asked for additional information for consideration at their November 1, 2015 meeting.
- The Trustees committee on International Convention, Eva gave a brief overview of the 2015 International Convention. Our registration was approximately

57,000. In all, over 1,000 people participated as the invited speakers or chairs in about 250 AA meetings, panels, marathons and Big Meetings. There were 784 registered attendees designated ASL. Eva is still in the process of sending final thank you notes and finalizing Convention reporting so that Julio, the International Convention Coordinator for Detroit in 2020, will have as much documentation as possible. Julio gave a brief report on the Flag Ceremony at the opening Big Meeting where a total of 93 flags were displayed in addition to the Eagle Staff representing the Native American/First Nation.

- The Trustees committee on Nominating discussed the process of electing the Trustee-at-large/Canada and asked the committee secretary to compile information on what would be entailed in changing the ratio of the voting members. (14 Delegates plus an equal numbers of voters).

- The Trustees committee on Public Information reviewed several Additional Committee Considerations from the 2015 Conference Public Information Committee, including suggestions for investigation and report/back on potential uses of social media and social networking platforms. The chairperson appointed a subcommittee to review and develop the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.

- The Trustees committee on Public Information agreed that gathering shared experience from many corners of the Fellowship should begin as soon as possible. To that end, the committee asked the secretary to set up a conference call in the coming week to discuss questions regarding attendance and participation at International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA) and the National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop (NAATW). The committee asked the staff secretary to forward suggestions for increasing local participation in PI efforts to appropriate parties for follow-up as needed.

I wish to thank the Districts that have requested the Delegate or a representative from Area 86 to attend their roundup and give a report. My calendar is quickly becoming full. I will be attending a local forum in Timmins, Ontario along with other members from Area 86 in September. A call for help has come from Area 84 as Timmins is close to becoming dark.

Yours in Service
Jim W. –Delegate
Panel 64 Area 86
Western Ontario