

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all who participated in the workshops this morning, the Sub Committee Chairs, DCM's, past Delegates, the secretaries who turned in really neat notes and also my Alternate Delegate Fredy who conducted the Intergroup Workshop which included literature. Your feedback is appreciated and will be most helpful in keeping me informed and up to date on your views, thoughts and I will have the right questions to ask before voting at the General Service Conference.

Now for a look at what's on the agenda for the General Service Conference:

1. Trustees CPC/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities agreed to forward to the Conference CPC Committee changes to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional".
2. Trustees Corrections Committee agreed to forward to the Conference Corrections Committee a request to consider a new corrections video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."
3. Trustees Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums agreed to forward to its corresponding Conference Committee two items approving anonymity protected photos and internet broadcast of the Flag Ceremony at the 2015 International Convention.
4. Trustee's Literature Committee agreed to forward to its corresponding Conference Committee:
 - (i) a draft pamphlet that focuses on spirituality.
 - (ii) a draft copy of the revised pamphlet "Circles of Love and Service"
 - (iii) a suggestion to reconsider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial AA Service mark on Conference-approved literature.
 - (iv) a suggestion to add "Non-alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers" to the blue card.

(v) a correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices in the Preface of the Big Book.

5. The Trustees Nominating Committee sent the GSB, AAWS & Grapevine slates for 2015 to the Conference Trustees Committee.

6. Trustees PI Committee sent the following agenda items to Conference PI Committee:

(i) a request to discuss how delegates might stimulate local discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns.

(ii) an updated report from the Subcommittee on Video PSAs.

(iii) a final report on the 2014 Membership Survey.

(iv) the 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan.

(v) a suggestion to revise the Anonymity Card.

(vi) A progress report on the development of a brief anonymity video.

There were also a number of other significant Board actions and reports:

a. During 2013, AAWS made a profit of \$93,500 & Grapevine made \$315,000.

b. Budgets for 2014 predicted a profit for AAWS of \$295,000 and GV of \$94,000.

c. The GSB approved a transfer of \$1,500,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Pension Plan.

d. Trustees Finance Committee adopted a policy on literature pricing.

e. Trustees Finance appointed a subcommittee to review La Vina reporting and support.

f. The fee for the 2015 International Convention will be \$100 in advance and \$110 on site.

g. Revisions to the hiring procedures for the General Manager and GV Chief Executive were approved.

- h. A revision to the procedure for selecting the Chairperson of the General Service Board was approved.
- i. A General Service Board Policy on Confidentiality was approved.
- j. Revisions to the Service Manual were approved to be forwarded to the Conference.
- k. A report on safety in AA was received.
- l. The General Service Board approved the following actions to be taken with respect to its space at 475 Riverside Drive:
 - (i) The GV lease on the 12th floor will be renewed to run until November 2015.
 - (ii) A feasibility study regarding the relocation of AA offices from 475 Riverside to another location will be made and completed by the GSB August meeting.
 - (iii) The GSB will hire an architect to perform a needs assessment and design a remodeling of the 11th floor space at 475 Riverside Drive to combine GSO and GV operations on a single floor. The study and design are to be completed by the GSB August meeting.
 - (iv) Construction to be completed by November 2015.

I have received all my background material on these items and have been in the process of reading, making notes, and developing questions to ask for the General Service Conference.

I was assigned to the Trustees Committee which will meet three times during the week of the Conference.

1. Since the 1951 Conference, this committee has been mainly involved in the qualifications and procedures for election of Class B regional trustees and trustees-at-large. Members of this committee are part of the voting body and the chairperson of this committee co-chairs the election. The responsibility of this committee has evolved to include the qualifications and procedures for selection of Class A trustees, General Service trustees, corporate board directors, and appointed committee members.

2. The committee reviews the resumes of all newly-nominated Class A and Class B trustees of the General Service Board and nontrustee directors of

the corporate boards (A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine). The committee reviews the slates of members and officers of the General Service Board and the slates of corporate board directors, before the Conference meeting, and expresses disapproval, if any.

3. The chairperson of this committee presents the slate of members and officers of the General Service Board, and the slates of corporate board directors (A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine), to the entire Conference for disapproval, if any, before election at the annual meeting of the members of the General Service Board following the Conference.

4. The committee reviews resumes of appointed committee members recommended to serve on the trustees' committees, i.e., Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities, Corrections, Literature, and Public Information.

5. If any unexpired term of a Class A or General Service trustee must be filled between Conferences, the nominee's resume is sent to the committee members for review - prior to a mail poll of all Conference delegates for disapproval, if any.

6. The committee approves the geographical areas which constitute the present eight regions*six in the United States, two in Canada-and the procedures for electing trustee candidates submitted for an eligible region'

During my time on this Committee I will be involved with the process of talking on behalf of our Area 86 Nominee Martin A. Then the election process will begin for the election of our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee which I will participate in. I will also be involved in the process and election of the Pacific Coast Regional Trustee as well.

The Archives Committee is another Committee that I was assigned to as well as a General Service Conference Inventory Group.

On February 22 Fredy and I attended the Bradford roundup where I gave my first Delegate's report for a roundup. The day was filled with wonderful speakers from all over Ontario, the food was great and I am proud to say that during my report no one drifted off to sleep, which to me can only be a good sign.

On February 28th – March 1st Fredy and I attended the Ontario Delegates Committee Meeting hosted by Area 83 in the city of Toronto.

On Saturday 3 out of the 4 Ontario Delegates read their 2 minute Area Highlight which will be read at the General Service Conference when you are introduced by region. Unfortunately Ken B. Area 85 suffered a heart attack in January and did not make the ODC nor will he be able to attend the 64th General Service Conference. Ken as some of you know went straight from GSR to Delegate. Ken's Alternate did attend the ODC and will attend the General Service Conference in Ken's place. That's why it's so important to keep your Alternate up to date on all matters which is what I have done with Fredy as well as our Chair Dale.

Later Saturday afternoon we heard presentations from the Alternate Delegates on Theme topics from this year's General Service Conference.

- Area 83 Alternate Delegate, Joyce S. "Recovery, Unity and Service - Our Responsibility"
- Area 84 Alternate Delegate, Jim C. "Passing It on Through Sponsorship"
- Area 85 Alternate Delegate, Jennie H. "Participating in Our Common Welfare through Contributions"
- Area 86 Alternate Delegate, Fredy M. "Inventory – A Guiding Tool for Our Future"

All four presentations were exceptional, a great job done by all. Fredy made a comment before his presentation that it would be something like him "Short, sweet and to the point" In Alcoholics Anonymous we do have the tools to not only look at ourselves but also whatever level of Service that we are associated with. Great job Fredy! You represented Area 86 well.

Another topic on the agenda for the ODC was a Discussion on - "CERAASA and the future of the Ontario Delegates' Committee Meeting". The ODC was started in 1991 with the first one held in Hamilton. It's a meeting designed to get the current Delegates and their alternates up to speed on the General Service Conference Process, presentations are done on themes, overviews of Delegates Committees are given as well as a presentation on the agenda week. I am proud to announce that Area 86 will be hosting the next ODC in Hamilton on February 27th , Feb 28th and March 1st 2015. I am assembling a committee and we are working toward planning this event. This is open to anyone that is service minded, a great

opportunity to learn about the General Service Conference and what takes place during Conference week.

Area 83 volunteered to host CERAASA in 2015 and wanted to inject the ODC somehow into it. No details or plans were introduced or given on how this would happen. My only experience on CERAASA was at the first one last year in Montreal, where I attended a Delegates and Alternates sharing session on the General Service Conference. All 10 Eastern Canada Delegates and their Alternates attended. That sharing session reflected a small portion of what I have learned at the ODC. The rest of CERAASA proved to be unorganized, an out of control business meeting and presentations not related to the General Service Conference. With this being my only experience I could not vote on injecting the ODC into something that has not proven to be successful. However I do believe that with the success of the Ontario Delegates Committee Meeting which does reflect on the General Service Conference an open invitation could be extended to the other 6 Areas in Eastern Canada to join in and even participate in the future.

On April 5th I will be at the 32nd Spring Roundup in Fort Erie, and on the 13th I will be in St. Jacobs at the KW Roundup and while I am away at the 64th General Service Conference Fredy will be in Barrie and Dale will be in Chatham on the 26th of April, and on May 3rd Fredy will be in Burlington.

I have heard someone say that “**Area 86 Rocks**”, and I am proud to say that yes we do.

Yours in Love and Service
Jim W. Area 86, Western Ontario
Panel 64 Delegate
Trustee/Archives Committees