

WESTERN ONTARIO GENERAL SERVICE AREA 86 PANEL 66

Hi Ladies and Gentlemen:

I'm an alcoholic member of the Sunday Nighters for Uptighters Group in Barrie and I currently have the honor and privilege of serving as Area 86 Western Ontario Panel 66 Delegate and my name is Fredy M.

First of all, I want to thank all members of the groups in Area 86 for giving me, through their GSRs, the opportunity to serve as Delegate to the General Service Conference. A few weeks ago, talking to a friend, she pointed out that it's a great privilege and honor to be the Delegate, she said "you are going to be the voice of more than 11000 recovered alcoholics at the General Service Conference." And in deed it is a great honor and privilege.

Right after the election, at our past Fall Assembly, I started getting congratulatory emails from Delegates all over North America. One common sentence was "get ready for the ride of your life"... I'm not too sure what they mean by that, but I'm guessing a lot of work and a lot of deep emotions. I started thinking how is this possible that over 12 or 13 years ago, I was drinking cheap wine and Chinese cooking wine at the park on Bathurst and Dundas in Toronto, and by surrendering and accepting to take simple actions and work the 12 steps program of AA, now I'm going to represent you at the Conference... This wasn't in my plans when I came to AA, I didn't have any plans anyway... Just for the grace of the God of my understanding that I found after working the 12 steps I'm here presenting my first report as your Panel 66 Delegate.

Activities in and for Area 86:

- I attended the orientation meeting in Bracebridge on Saturday January 9, 2016.
- My first service as Delegate was to present a GSR workshop at my own District 8 on January 10, 2016 ;
- I also presented a report at the Bradford round up February 20, 2016.
- I also attended the Ontario Delegates Committee in Sudbury on March 4--7, 2016

There were a few hiccups getting the Delegates Conference Kit, but eventually I received it in the mail. I'm one of the lucky ones that was assigned to two Committees and they are Grapevine and International Conventions/Regional Forums

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Grapevine Committee:

These are the items that this committee will be dealing with at the Conference:

A. Review Audio Strategy status update:

Grapevine began collecting audio story submissions from the Fellowship in January 2013. As of Jan 13, 2016 Grapevine has collected 252 audio stories, out of those 252 came through the "Simple Voice Center" dial in telephone service. The cost of this service per month is \$11.99 and the subscription to audio editing software is \$20 per month. This software permits editing to be performed in house by GV editorial staff. Nine free stories have been published on Grapevine website since 2013 and are available as examples for others who wish to record. In the future GV plans to offer audio stories for sale through third party vendors by topic at price points similar to other online audio offerings. Currently, that is about \$1.301.75 for single tracks and \$9.99 for compilations. GV is in the process of collecting, expanding, evaluating and cataloging the collection of audio stories in the growing audio archive in order to eventually produce compilations for sale.

- B. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 or later
AAGV items are published for several reasons: first, to carry the message of AA stories from members and friends of the fellowship; and second, to help GV maintain its self-supporting status. This service is provided in various formats: print, audio and digital. Four proposed titles:
- Young & Sober II: members who came into AA in their teens, 20s, and 30s share their experience, from stories previously published in GV magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org
 - Stories by Atheist & Agnostic AA members: A Collection of stories by AA members who are atheist or agnostic, from stories previously published in GV magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org
 - Steps Four and Five: Members tell helpful, hopeful stories about how they did Step Four and/or Step Five and how it changed their lives, from stories previously published in GV magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org
 - Beginners II: Stories by members about their early days in AA, including helpful experiences for beginners. From stories previously published in GV magazine and/or AAGrapevine.org

more information on Grapevine:

- As of the second week in January 2016, AA Grapevine Inc. is now co-located on the 11th floor with AAWS.

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- Existing engagement efforts for both print magazines and Grapevine Online will continue as per the GVB's plans including the announcement of 2015 Subscription Challenge winners (ending 12/20/15) and the Carry the Message effort that focuses on sponsoring subscriptions through Subscription Gift Certificates.
- Planning for a "mobile friendly" version of GV magazine is slated for launch at the Conference in line with the Grapevine Board's strategic plan. The SMS project for La Viña is underway.
- 1Grapevine's print circulation has decreased by 529 in the 4rd quarter of 2015, and La Viña's circulation increased by 45 for the same period. Digital circulation for Grapevine has increased by 3 for the same period.
- For the year ended December 31, 2015, Grapevine realized Net Income of \$245,204 in comparison to a budgeted Net Loss of \$14,614. This is ahead of budget by \$259,818. Total Income, including interest from the Reserve Fund, was \$1,978,540 or \$31,920 ahead of budget. Total Grapevine expenses were \$1,733,336 or \$227,899 under the budget of \$1,961,235.

International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee

These are the items this committee will be dealing with at the Conference:

- A. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees:
I believe this agenda item will bring a lot of new ideas that can be used to promote Regional Forums and get more members to attend them. It was my attendance to a Regional Forum that really got me interested in service. The Eastern Canada Regional Forum in Thunder Bay is quickly approaching and this should be a good opportunity to put in practice some of the suggestions below: Some of the ideas that presented in 2015 are:
- That delegates and area trusted servants communicate the value of the Forum participation early and often:
 - Share with the Fellowship the easy availability of one on one conversations with trustees, directors and staff members that can be found at the forums;
 - Consider utilizing AA Conventions and other AA events as opportunities to share the new Regional Forum Flyers with the Fellowship.
- B. Discuss report on the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta Georgia:
Important information contained in the report:
- 56900 people attended the International Convention in Atlanta GA
 - the largest international contingent was from Mexico with 812 members registered, followed by UK with 381; and Germany with 202.
 - The most significant number was the 784 registered attendees who designated ADL(American Sign Language).

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- Over 1000 people participated in over 250 AA meetings, panels, marathons and the Big Meetings.
- Meetings were held in Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and in ASL.
- 106 oldtimers with 50 or more years signed up to participate at the Oldtimers Meeting. Among them there were 10 members with over 60 years of sobriety.
- New to the Convention was the “Carry the Message Pavilion” and its purpose was to raise awareness about service and to inspire members to get involved in committee work.
- On the financial side, the 2015 Convention reported that Revenues exceeded budget by approximately \$829,000.00 and expenses also exceeded budget by \$ 1,119,000.00 which produced a deficit of \$210,431.00 (income \$ 5,929,139 – expenses \$6,139,569= --- \$210,431)A

I emailed all of the Area Committee members the agenda items that the 2016 General Service Conference will be dealing with. Some of them were discussed today in the subcommittee workshops and all of your ideas and suggestions will help me in making an informed decision on those items at the Conference.

Ontario Delegates Committee (ODC):

On the weekend of March 4-6 of this year, the ODC took place in Sudbury, hosted by Area 84.

In attendance were the 4 Delegates and 4 Alternate Delegates of Ontario areas 83, 84, 85, 86; 24 observers; the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee and the ODC 2016 Chairperson and Secretary. It was a well-organized event to the point that even the weather was excellent unlike other previous events.

For those not familiar with the ODC, it's a vehicle through which the 4 areas in Ontario get united to share experiences and discuss upcoming General Services Conference items. Through presentations and workshops, it gives the newly elected Delegates and all the Alternate Delegates a “sense of the GS Conference”.

Quebec that attended as observers and they were delighted and very enthusiastic about the experience they had at the ODC. Some of them manifested their interest in trying to organize something similar for their province.

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It was great to see people from this area attending the ODC. A few DCMs, the Area Chairperson, the Area Secretary, and the Archives Sub-committee chair were there.

An important issue that the ODC dealt with was to change the ODC from a yearly to an every other year event. CEERASA is an every other year event, so there is a conflict in the year that the two events take place. Some areas struggle to send their Delegates and Alternates to the two events as they usually take place one right after the other. The 2017 CEERASA organizing committee has agreed to run an event similar to ODC that year and it will include the 10 Eastern Canada Areas. Based on that the 4 Delegates and 4 Alternate Delegates voted in favor of changing ODC to an every other year event, to take place on the year that there is no CEERASA. This would allow for all 4 areas to have a relief on the expenses they would incur and also to have the opportunity for the rest of the Eastern Canada areas to experience it at CEERASA. I might say that if the event in CEERASA doesn't work that well, the 4 areas of Ontario might consider going back to a yearly event.

There were also some changes made to the ODC guidelines. You'll see them on the copy of the ODC minutes that I'll be emailing to all DCMs and they in turn will forward it to all of their GSR's. Please keep in mind the confidentiality of those documents in the sense that full names are used.

I'd like to remind to all members of groups in Area 86, especially to those in service position that the Eastern Canada Regional Forum will be held this year in Thunder Bay the weekend of July 8-10, 2016. Registration is now open and it can be done by going to AA website, look for Regional Forums and then chose Eastern Canada Regional Forum.. Registration is free...

Again, I want to thank you all for this great honor and privilege that you have granted me to serve you as your Delegate Panel 66.

Yours in Service,

Fredy M.

Area 86 Western Ontario

Panel 66 Delegate

Conference committee assignments:

Grapevine and International Conventions/Regional Forums