



DELEGATE'S DISPATCH AREA 60/PANEL 69 WESTERN PA

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This Delegate's Dispatch can also be found at wpaarea60.org under ALERTS

AREA 60'S FIRST ZOOM MEETING

The first Area 60 Zoom meeting took place on May 3rd, 2020, with our Chairperson Jon C. hosting. He was assisted by our Registrar (and Computer Wiz Extrodanaire) Jon M., and our Newsletter Editor (The Pen is Mightier than the Sword) Chad U.!

It was a learning experience for us all. For those who did not attend, the meeting format for our first/trial run was informal. There were no reports beyond the chairperson making announcements and reporting back on a poll taken by the DCM's about how meetings and other business is currently being handled, and the Delegate's report.

As there was no Pre-Conference Assembly* to discuss in depth some of the Conference Agenda Items, we had a brief informal listening session in regard to the agenda items on the poll.

UPDATE ON THE 70TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Although states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada, and especially NYC continue to be on lockdown, there is still going to be a 70th General Service Conference. This conference has to happen in some manner, as it is considered the annual meeting of our corporations—Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, and AA Grapevine—and under New York corporate law and the by-laws of our corporations the annual reports of the corporations must be presented at the annual meeting.

The conference is going to be much different than an in-person conference in many respects. However, the delegates, trustees and staff will still be doing business during the four day event taking place May 16-19, 2020.

On Saturday the conference will be called to order and there will be some kind of a roll call. As to the outline of the entire schedule, that has yet to be announced. I do know that sessions will be running from 1:00 pm to 7:30 or 8:30 p.m (with breaks) for each of the four days. During the morning of those days from 10 a.m. to noon there will be some “unofficial activities” such as recovery meetings, delegate only meetings, remote communities etc. Once official business begins we will meet in our respective committees for three hours. Each of the nine committees will have 45 minutes on the Conference floor to present items which were selected to come to the floor, discuss them, and vote. (It is my understanding that items that do not make it to the floor will be referred to the 71st General Service Conference). If a committee chooses to move all their items to the 71st General Service Conference they may donate their time to the floor for more discussion on matters deemed important by other committees. Also at some point all the board reports will be presented to us in their entirety. The conference will also be handling the trustee elections.

At this point this is all the information that I have. We are having an orientation on May 5th, and a mock conference testing somewhere around May 13th.

I am please asking with a humble heart, for each of you pray for me and the entire conference, as we try to do what is best for the child born today destined for alcoholism—we must keep our doors/phones/computers open! Remember we are a bunch of sober drunks just like you and we need your help and prayers.

DELEGATE'S 2ND QUARTERLY REPORT MAY 3, 2020

****Bullet points should be reported to Districts and Home Groups****

- **This report will be in the minutes, and this Dispatch is available on-line at wpaarea60.org in the ALERTS tab.**
- Don't forget! We are hosting NERAASA (The North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) in 2021. Immediate Past Delegate John K. is the chairperson with Past Delegate Yvette N. assisting. The committee will keep you abreast of developments. This is an event that hopefully our entire Area will be involved with.
- Seventh Tradition Obligations: Although we are no longer meeting in person, in Western PA our Area, our Central Office and Intergroups, and also the General Service Office (even though physical locations may be closed) are still doing daily business. They will need your support now more than ever. Rent, staff salaries, and computer expenses—which are now more important than every still need to be paid. 24-hour hotlines are still being answered and 12-step lists must be maintained, everyone is still carrying the message to the best of their ability. Please remember to do your part—we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- Sheri from District 22 forwarded me information about free interpretation for the deaf and hearing impaired. If you need translations services, contact The Center for Hearing and Deaf Services at <http://www.hdscenter.org/> 412-281-1375 (voice/TTY)"
- The Enterprise Resource Platform (ERP) the new computer operating system at GSO went live on August 5, 2019. However, there are issues with group registrations. There have been no GSR/DCM kits sent out for about 6 months. GSO says they are catching up and have actually hired some part-time people to help out. Until then there is a link on our website to all the information in the kit and it is downloadable. (Is there anyone here who has received a GSR or DCM kit? If you have please contact me.) Training of all registrars was to happen the beginning in February. I know Phase I took place. GSO had to hire a new consulting firm, because the last consultant just wasn't working out. This has backed up the registrar's portal. Jon has better info on this than I do, and hopefully will share that with us at some time today
- At present I have received no information (since our January meeting) that any of the below information about the new NetSuite/ERP (computer system) has changed since our last meeting and the start of the pandemic.
- Credit cards cannot yet be edited or deleted from an account

- Recurring contribution dates cannot yet be changed.
- Contributors cannot stop payments on recurring contributions at this time.
- In addition, if there is a credit card change, G.S.O. currently must deactivate the contributor's account and the contributor will have to log back in and re-enter their credit card info.
- Contributors who would like to change any account information are asked to call Awilda Rivera, Contributions Supervisor at G.S.O. (212) 870-3208.

GSO QUARTERLY REPORT

- Corrections Committee is conducting a full review of corrections literature with a focus on identifying appropriate language based on the audience.
- For the period ending 12/31/19 GSO income statement shows a loss of \$313,530.
- Revenues were 1.94% higher than budgeted.
- Operating expenses were 6.61% greater than budgeted.
- Variances were due to sales of "Our Great Responsibility" falling short, with only 34,137 books sold against a budget forecast of 100,00 copies to be sold.
- Additionally, salary line was up 1.68% and professional fees were up 77.20% due to professional/legal contract reviews.
- Contracted services were also more than expected due to issues with the ERP system.
- 8TH floor construction is still ongoing. This has to do with the state of New York requiring that all employers provide private space for nursing mothers.
- The Reserve Fund is at \$18,126,339 which is 9.17 months of operating expenses. There will most likely be no transfers from 2019 to the Reserve Fund.
- Public Information—The committee reviewed a survey methodology report for the Triennial Membership survey (which I should add was supposed to be completed in 2017. It should be noted that the survey methodology is in its infancy.)
- There has been a change in IT leadership. Lorna Graham (non-alcoholic) is the interim directory of technology services and providing support to the ERP Steering Committee.
- The **Big Book, Twelve and Twelve**, and **Living Sober** have been completed as audio books in English, French, and Spanish. The Young People's Video "Young and Sober in AA: From Drinking to Recovery" is completed and will be posted on the AAWS YouTube Channel.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CANCELLATION

- As reported to the Northeast Regional Delegates by our Trustee, Francis G.; The International Convention was basically cancelled for GSO by the fellowship. However, prior to cancellation there were concerns among staff that the pandemic was going to last for a good while, it was worldwide, and would we even be able to have something so soon in the summer with over 50,000 people in close quarters.
- GSO reached out to the medical school at Duke University due to their expertise in model projection and it was actively discouraged for us to continue with the convention. However, at this point, cancellations were coming in at the rate of 200 a week and but as things started heating up in New York city, cancellations started coming in at 200 a day, making projections a moot point. The cancellations were so high the deal was sealed: There was no way the convention could continue without significant losses.
- There was an effort to find an alternate weekend later and our staff and Tally Management were able to find one. However, it was only a 2-day weekend, and projection where that only 20,000 people would attend because of the shortened time frame; and even with raising the registration fee to \$140.00 per person, there was no breakeven point. A big issue was also the insurance for the weekend would skyrocket because it was so short term. Therefore, there will not be an International until Vancouver in 2025.

- Registrations are slotted to be returned somewhere around May 11-13. My hotel money has already been refunded—and I was staying in Canada. There was no issue with exchange rates.
- The fellowship had a 5-million-dollar event insurance policy which will cover the majority of our losses. The few things that we will lose money on is the travel expenses that have been paid out to staff thus far in planning the event. The attorney fee for reviewing the contracts. (Which were mentioned in the above financials.) Some prepaid deposits (which I assume might be considered non-fundable) will be lost as well...this includes security, transportation, and audio/visual. There will be negotiations to recover some of these costs. The trustee said these costs should not be significant.

CALL FOR SHARED EXPERIENCE:

- Request for Shared Experience - Digital adaption of A.A. Service. Until recently, much of our shared experience in carrying the A.A. message into a correctional, treatment, therapeutic or hospital setting, is based on in-person, "brick and mortar" Twelve Step work. We are requesting shared experiences from service committees or groups on the following topics:
 - ◇ Professionals referring clients to digital A.A. meetings
 - ◇ Providing digital attendance slips at online meetings for those who are mandated
 - ◇ Privacy settings and formats (different for Open vs. Closed digital A.A. meetings?)
 - ◇ Coordinating volunteers to bring digital panels or meetings at a correctional or treatment or therapeutic setting
 - ◇ Digital presentations about A.A. to administrators
 - ◇ Coordinating volunteers for Temporary Contact Service through Bridging the Gap, H&I, Treatment or Corrections Committees

The Trustee's Committee on CPC looks forward to hearing from you. Please email cpc@aa.org your sharing by May 30th, 2020.

UPCOMING SERVICE EVENTS

- 70th General Service Conference, May 16-19th via Zoom
- Area 59 Service Workshop, Tuesday, May 26, 7-9 pm. "How to Build A Three-Legged Stool." <https://zoom.us/j/97697629812>
- NERASSA 2021! February 2021, Pittsburgh, PA, Hosted by US!!!

DELEGATE DISTRICT VISITS

If you would like me to visit your district meeting, via zoom or another internet platform, please send me the date, time and link . There are many of you I had not had a chance to visit before the lockdown. I would still love to be a part of your meeting!

In love and service,

Your delegate,

Margie

Margie S.

Area 60/Panel 69

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*Assembly—At assemblies both GSR's and DCM's vote.

At Quarterly meetings only DCM's have a vote. However, at both meetings, the chairperson can take a vote to just get a "sense of the meeting." In other words, the general feeling of the participants attending at that time.

