



VOLUME 38, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014

msca09aa.org

MSCA

P.O. Box 51446

Irvine, CA 92619-1446

DELEGATE's Corner

I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for welcoming me in your Districts, central offices committees or groups. It has and continues to be an honor to do service in our wonderful Area 09. As we see how 2014 is almost gone, our General Service Office along with the Conference Coordinator, and other trusted servants are getting ready for next year's General Service Conference. Here is some information from our General Service Office and The AA Grapevine.

- ◆ **The 23rd World Service Meeting -- October 12-16, 2014 in Warsaw, Poland:** 61 delegates representing 41 countries and zones traveled to share their experience, strength and hope at the 23rd World Service Meeting. Rick W. and his assistant, Ayleen M. did an excellent job in coordinating this event and Jim M., Steve S. and Clay R. were key in supporting the committees with reports.
- ◆ **International Convention:** Planning continues for the 2015 International Convention. After the initial rush, registration has slowed down. At this date, over 27,000 people have registered, which is still above the numbers from previous conventions.
- ◆ **475 Riverside Drive, 11 Floor Co-location Project:** As a result of numerous meetings during the past two months between the architectural firm, the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine, a floor plan has been agreed to. The final draft plan was submitted to the General Service Board's Joint Initiatives Committee for their review. Next steps include sending out request for construction bids. We are on track to complete Phase 1 of the co-location plan by the end of the year.
- ◆ **The Corrections Desk** has received 4,870 letters and 2,742 emails through the third quarter of 2014. During these nine months, we linked 651 male alcoholics and 237 female alcoholics for a total of 888 through our Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.). The vendor proposals to create the new Corrections video are currently being reviewed.

[Continued on Page 2]

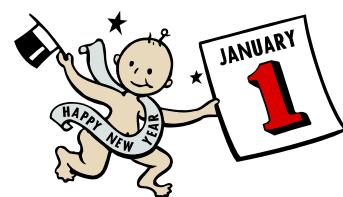


A bar in New York City, the night before prohibition began, 1920

AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14—Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 17

December 15—DEADLINE
65th Conference Agenda Items



January 11—Sunday
ASSEMBLY
Hosted by District 21

February 8—Sunday
Area Service Committee
Hosted by District 19

♦ **Technology/Communication/Services:** The Board approved the recommendation of the Technology/Communication/ Services (TCS) committee that the 2014 3rd Quarter Report on G.S.O.'s A.A. Website Activities be forwarded to the trustees' Public Information Committee.

The Board approved the TCS recommendation that the Report on A.A. Regional Directories be forwarded to the Conference Committee on Report and Charter with a recommendation that a limited run of printed directories be considered.

♦ **G.S.O.'s Group Services** coordinator attended the 29th Annual Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S./AAGV Seminar in Chicago, Illinois on September 25-28, 2014 where G.S.O. had the opportunity to hear detailed, shared experience from local A.A. offices about a wide range of challenges and solutions on the frontlines of A.A. support services.

♦ **Publishing:** January through September 2014, total gross sales are \$14,345,500 which is \$1,870,000 (15%) over estimate for year to date. September sales, prior to the implementation of the book price increase showed \$3,868,044 in actual gross sales vs. the \$2,589,150 estimate, which is \$1,278.894 over budget (49.4%) for the month.

♦ **Sales** from our two online stores (B2B for bulk orders and B2C for direct-to-consumer sales) accounted for 60.73% of all sales in the month of September. For the year to date, web orders total \$6,471,157, or 53.5% of total sales for A.A. literature. This is the highest percentage and highest dollar sales amount for the year.

2014 started out with web orders representing 44.14% of total sales, and reached a high of 57.89% of total online sales in the month of April (also the highest total sales overall with sale of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of the Big Book).

Ebook sales continue and prices have not been increased for eBook titles. A.A. *Comes of Age* (English) is now available as a digital book on three major platforms: Kindle, Apple and Nook; the translations into French and Spanish are being worked on. As *Bill Sees It* is next in line for publication as an eBook.

♦ **Completion of new** publications approved by the 2014 General Service Conference is done. *Circles of Love and Service* pamphlet (revised); *Markings on the Journey* video (3 languages); and the *Many Paths to Spirituality* pamphlet has sold more than 68,000 copies.

♦ **Finance:** The unaudited G.S.O. financial update for the 9 months ended September 30, 2014 show:

Net sales	\$14,147,000
Gross Profit (Literature)	\$ 8,708,000
Contributions	\$ 4,911,000
Total operating expenses	\$11,379,000

Despite a slight drop in contributions this quarter, 3rd quarter ended \$1,210,961.50 over budget due to increased sales before the October 1, 2014 literature increase.

Service is Legacy of Love,
Cesar F.
Panel 64 Delegate Area 09

A.A. HISTORY DECEMBER

As we are in the midst of a busy holiday season, let us all pause to reflect on a date to be thankful for, **December 11, 1934**.

This date may not have any significance in your life; in fact if you search the date on the internet, you find there really isn't anything noteworthy. However, in A.A. history, this date is highly significant. December 11, 1934 is the date of Bill's last drink and fourth and last admittance to Town's Hospital.

Bill would write about his experience and last drink many times since that date. An excerpt taken from a July 1962 article he wrote for A.A. Grapevine reflects his thoughts on his spiritual experience.

"I was the recipient in 1934 of a tremendous mystic experience or 'illumination.' It was accompanied by a sense of intense white light, by a sudden gift of faith in the goodness of God, and by a profound conviction of His presence. At first it was very natural for me to feel that this experience staked me out for somebody very special.

"But as I now look back upon this tremendous event, I can only feel very especially grateful. It now seems clear that the only special feature of my experience was its electric suddenness and the overwhelming and immediate conviction that it carried to me.



"And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all."

Tradition Twelve, in its mood of humble anonymity, plainly enough comprehends the preceding eleven. The Twelve Points of Tradition are little else than a specific application of the spirit of the Twelve Steps of recovery to our group life and to our relations with society in general. The recovery steps would make each individual AA whole and one with God; the Twelve Points of Tradition would make us one with each other and whole with the world about us. Unity is our aim.

Our AA Traditions are, we trust, securely anchored in those precepts; charity, gratitude, and humility. Nor have we forgotten prudence. May these virtues ever stand clear before us in our meditations; may Alcoholics Anonymous serve God in happy unison for as long as He may need us.

-- The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., November 1948



"The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action."

In its long form, the Twelfth Concept is actually Article 12 of the Conference Charter. It is considered so important that it can be changed only by written consent of three-quarters vote of the directory-listed AA groups, and then only after six months has been allowed for deliberation.



A.A. HISTORY DECEMBER - continued

In all other respects, however, I am sure that my own experience was not in the least different than that received by every AA member who has strenuously practiced our recovery program."

Whether or not alcoholism has touched your life, let us all take a moment to be grateful for Bill's experience so he could use it to help others achieve sobriety, his strength to create Traditions and Concepts that give us all stability in A.A., and his hope for A.A.'s future.

The Archives Department - Anonymous

"LA VIÑA "

The Spanish Speaking Community currently holds a significant place in our structure of Alcoholics Anonymous in U.S. and Canada. In 1985 our conference began a project called elucidative literature and since then our AA World Service Inc. produces literature in English, Spanish and French. Currently the Hispanic community corresponds to the maximum in this project.

In 1944 comes something very significant for our structure -- the birth of the Grapevine our magazine that was considered from its beginnings as an excellent means of communication and then became a vital 12-step tool and a printed meeting as well. The Hispanic community welcomed it with open hands because the Grapevine covers our greatest needs, "to carry the message". Initially in English, it was necessary to create a new corporation to take responsibility for translation -- as time pass the goals and expectations are achieved Grapevine Corporation who is responsible for meeting our needs was created.

[Continued on Page 4]

It was also the growing of the Hispanic community in AA that in 1996 took the responsibility of having their own magazine in Spanish. And at the same time assumes the full responsibility to participate in its elaboration, that's how La Viña became a great source of communication among our Spanish speaking community in AA.

In the Pacific regional Forum of 2010, the Spanish speaking community agrees to celebrate the 15 birthday of our magazine. All the areas agree that could be done if we all participate if get that solemn commitment to support such brilliant idea with subscriptions and by writing articles for the elaboration of La Viña during the process other areas joined us to support this event. **But the goal would be to increase the subscriptions and to write as many stories as possible** that's how began this process of events below we share their results.

- **On the 15th anniversary held in Bakersfield 806 subscriptions were made.**
- **On the 16 anniversary held in Washington 604 subscriptions were made.**
- **On the 17 anniversary held in Fullerton CA 895 subscriptions were made.**
- **In the 18th anniversary held in Las Vegas NV 820 subscriptions were made so we are talking about 3125 subscriptions!!**

Achieved by the 4 anniversaries and where all of you were extensively involved. Also take into account the large number of written histories as a result of this work plan. It still is working pretty well here in our Pacific region and in the Hispanic community nationwide.

On the 18th anniversary held in Las Vegas we realized a need to develop some guidelines so we formed an Ad hoc committee to ensure the main objective of the anniversary celebration and to help and facilitate the hosting areas to achieve the goals of this event. For this reason we request reps from 7 Areas to be present to decide and form part of an Ad Hoc committee to do this work.

September 13 we formed the Ad Hoc committee. The meeting was held in Bakersfield. Area representatives are Mauricio T., District 24 and Leandro C., District 20. A meeting was at 11945 S. W. Pacific Hwy # 236 Tigard, Oregon on November 1, 2014.

We also inform you that Area 06 from San José CA will be the hosting area of the 19th anniversary. The hosting Area Committee is inviting all of you to participate in the elaboration of the theme and logo for this event the deadline will be November 30th. Will receive our material soon to support the La Viña magazine, we will forward it to you with your RLV thanks for your attention until the next time.

-- Leandro C.
Ad hoc committee



From the Original Manuscript –

Having had a spiritual experience as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

As it has been printed since the Second Printing of the First Edition 1955 –

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

NOTE:

Works Publishing Company, New York City, 1941. The second printing of the Big Book was necessitated by the Jack Alexander article in the Saturday Evening Post. It had a press run of 5,000 copies. The most important change to this printing was the REWORDING OF THE 12TH STEP and the ADDITION OF THE APPENDIX ON "SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE".

In the two years between the first and second printings, the word "experience" in the Twelfth Step was discussed at length. As time went by, letters from alcoholics started to come in to the main office from people who did the work out of the Big Book and did NOT have the "White Light" spiritual experience that Bill Wilson had. They were writing to see if the more gradual spiritual awakening that they were having meant that they could not recover from alcoholism. This was the reason for adding Appendix II. Eventually the word "experience" was replaced with the word "awakening" in the Twelfth Step. The Big Book authors made this modification in order to include those whose lives had truly changed, but more slowly over a period of time.

Many ... will find this to be the case also. Your life has changed, but gradually rather than suddenly. You may not be able to point to a specific experience that brought about the change, but the spiritual awakening has occurred nonetheless.

– Bill L.