

## **DELEGATE'S NEWSLETTER**

*Mel C., Panel 63 Delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International*

Vol. II - Summer 2013

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### **Delegate Remarks**

Hello friends, my name is Mel and I am an alcoholic. I am a very grateful member of The Hill Group in District 12, Toronto Southwest. If you're ever looking for a meeting at 8:30 pm on a Thursday night (or 7:30 PM on a Monday), come on out and I'll introduce you around to a really great Group Of Drunks.

Well, I'm back from Gotham City where I spent a week in April doing the business of A.A. at the 63rd General Service Conference. My second visit to Manhattan for this event, I guess I was a little ahead of the game. I think the fact that I'd already been took a little fun away from my "Delegate Buddy" Jay D. who was an older man, the Panel 62 Delegate from Area 64, Tennessee. Delegate Buddies are supposed to guide the newbies (the next Panel - me, a "63") through the overwhelming-ness of the experience - and trust me, it is overwhelming. Thing was, he'd been to Rye for last years conference (it rotates) and I'd already been to the Crowne Plaza Manhattan 2 years before for the 61st. Conference filling in for our Delegate who could not attend on account of an emergency. I played a newbie well though - and he herded me around. I think we are all newbies, all the time. It's when we start feeling like old hands that we've got a problem!

Anyway, the Conference - what an experience. Should we have a Face Book Page? Should we sell our literature in stores, on-line or for a profit? Should we have a Pamphlet on Spirituality? How are we measuring up on the inventory of the General Service Conference we're in the middle of? Should AAWS and the Grapevine merge? Are we experiencing "Mission-Drift"?, Should I have cream cheese on that bagel or just have it plainly toasted?.... These and many more questions were asked, pondered and answered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 51st. St and Broadway during that special week. It is truly an honour to be had to be in this company doing this work, something I will never be able to truly explain. When a tear comes to my eye, I'm getting there...

I am doing Delegate's reports at Service Days from Oakville to Pembroke, Messina, NY to Peterborough - come on out to one near you and get a dose of A.A. It's a great time to have, trust me, it'll invigorate you and your programme!

I hope you enjoy this little newsletter and as always, I wish you always another 24 hours of contented sobriety; may your dry date never change,

Yours in Love & Service,

Mel C.  
Delegate, Area 83,  
Eastern Ontario International

## Service Term of the Day

### General Service Conference "Panels"

It was 1950, AA was a teenager of sorts and Bill had so many ideas on what was required - he knew what he wanted to do but there were so many angles to it all! He knew that for the organization to survive the test of time, too much power could not be vested in any one body (him!) and he was firmly committed to the concept of Rotation. What could he do to ensure that the brain trust and institutional memory of A.A. not only survived, but flourished while at the same time ensuring the trusted servants of A.A. didn't come to "own" their jobs and fall into the subtle traps and snares so many other fellowships had discovered only too late.

Rotation. That was the key. Simple, effective and best for the alcoholic - easy to understand! (Keep it Simple Bill!). And turning the running of the fellowship over to the fellowship. That had to happen too.

The first General Service Conference was held in NY in 1951. All who attended that first Conference were called "Panel 1" Delegates. The next year, 1952, the Delegate's who attended were called "Panel 2" Delegates, and so it went. Each year was named a Panel. Delegate's became known by the panels they attended. Over time, as each Delegate serves a 2 year term, it came to pass that half of the Delegate's would be "even" panel Delegates and half would be "odd" Panel Delegates. Area numbers don't have any significance here. As an example: Area 83 (our Area) is an "odd" panel and our Area number is 83(odd) but that is just coincidence. Area 3, Arizona for instance, is an "even" numbered panel. (Confused yet?). All our Area 83 Delegates have been "Odd" numbered Panels.

Anyway - all we need to remember is that the Delegate's term is two years and each year, 1/2 of the Conference Delegates rotate out and new Delegate's rotate in, fresh of ideas and enthusiasm. That's why I mentioned in my opening remarks that my Delegate "Buddy" - a Panel 62, would normally be eager to share his "year more" of experience with a new guy like me, The fact that I attended the 61st GSC is an anomaly.

So now it's 2013 - 63 years after that very first conference where Bill turned the running of the fellowship OVER to the fellowship - it is my first year and that's why I am called the Area 83, Panel 63 Delegate from Eastern Ontario International!

### Information Tid-Bit of the Day - How many Big Book translations do we have?

As at June, 2013, there are 70 Big Book translations with 18 new translations pending. AAWS has published 277 titles (books, booklets, pamphlets, service pieces) in 46 languages; 45 countries are licensed to print 1561 publications in 45 languages.

(...that faint clapping you hear is Bill W. from the great Alcoholics Foundation in the sky)

## News from our **GENERAL SERVICE BOARD**

### New Board Members

As you probably know by now, Ward Ewing, Chair of the General Service Board has rotated on and Terry Bedient has become the new Chair. (see last newsletter). As well, 6 other members rotated and our Boards have a whole new look. Like that rotation! If anyone wants a list of our General Service Board or the Boards of A.A.W.S. or The Grapevine, please let me know - I'd be happy to send you one.

## News from our **GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

### Official Conference Report

The official 2013 General Service Conference report will be in my hands in August and I will bring to our Area Committee Meeting (ACM) for distribution to DCM's for further distribution to our GSR's. No worries about getting a copy - I've ordered over a thousand!

### 2014 Conference Inventory Questions

As part of a 2012 Conference Advisory Action, the General Service Conference is taking its Inventory - over the course of three years. At the Panel 63 Conference, I was part of 1 of the 15 groups that examined 15 questions. Next year, at the 64th, I again be placed in a group and I will participate in examining more of the inventory questions. In general, the questions in 2014 will come from the following areas:

1. Effectiveness of the Conference/Conference Process Overall
2. Composition of The Conference
3. Committee System
4. Yearlong Process Effectiveness
5. Conference Preparation (background, content, delivery etc.)
6. Conference Week Schedule
7. General Service Board/Corporate Boards (A.A.W.S. & Grapevine)
8. Leadership

## News from our **GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE**

### Job Opening

Doug Richardson advised me, and I the fellowship though a mass distribution emailing, that a staff position is coming open at GSO. From his letter....

*Dear Friends,*

*Applications are once again being sought for a G.S.O. staff member. G.S.O. staff are members of Alcoholics Anonymous who rotate through the various assignments such as Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Facilities/Special Needs, Literature, Conference, etc. They also correspond with A.A.'s on all aspects of recovery and service. Additionally, they represent the General Service Office at A.A. functions throughout the U.S. and Canada and provide the primary staff support for the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference.*

*Desirable qualifications include excellent communication and organizational skills, good computer skills, as well as the ability to work independently and as a team member. A.A. service experience will also be taken into consideration in addition to a willingness to relocate to New York City, if necessary. Fluency in French or Spanish is desirable. A minimum of six years sobriety is required. This opening will be available late 2013 or early 2014.*

*Attached is an "A.A.W.S. Application for Staff Employment" that we hope you will share with members who are interested in serving on our staff and meet the basic requirements outlined above.*

*For additional information regarding the General Service Office staff member position, please see the Feb/March 2005 Box 4-5-9 article, "G.S.O. Staff Member – A Job Like No Other" at [www.aa.org/lang/en/en\\_pdfs/en\\_box459\\_febmar05.pdf](http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/en_box459_febmar05.pdf).*

*We will welcome applications up to August 1.....*

I have the application form and contact information and if you would like to have it, please email me directly at [delegate@area83aa.org](mailto:delegate@area83aa.org). Good luck!

#### From the March 2013 AAWS Report

- GSO hosted a visit of the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy in the United States. All were very excited.
- We said a final farewell to Gayle S. R. who retired last month, and welcomed new staff member Steve S. who began work as G.S.O. Staff in March. He will serve on the Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities desk replacing Mary D. who will move over to the Literature assignment.
- Retired Staff member, Eileen G. has returned to G.S.O. on a part time, temporary basis to assist the Publishing Department to manage and evaluate international translations and licenses.

- The Archives Department is making available the selection of five black and white photographs approved by trustees' Archives Committee to be used by A.A. archivists or A.A. groups for the purpose of setting up local displays.
- The annual Anonymity Letter is being prepared for distribution to the media and will go out before the General Service Conference. The P.I. desk is also coordinating mailing a letter regarding cooperation in maintaining the anonymity of A.A. speakers to all known companies that distribute and/or sell A.A. speaker talks.
- The Web site redesign is moving forward, and will simplify access to information on the site for users.
- It was noted that for 2012, contributions to G.S.O. were up 4.7% over 2011. Directors discussed options for revenue strategy going forward, including options of literature price increases; 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Big Book; and ongoing self-support efforts.
- The A.A.W.S. Board discussed a request to share A.A.W.S. and AAGV Board minutes and agreed that the A.A.W.S. Board will share the draft minutes of their meetings with the A.A.W.S., Grapevine and General Service Boards.

*taken from the March 2013 issue, A.A.W.S. Highlights*

### In Memoriam

Sadly, the following announcement came our way from GSO in May:

"We are saddened to let you know that **Warren S.**, our beloved friend and former colleague, passed away on Friday night, May 3rd. Warren worked with A.A. World Services as a Staff Member for fifteen years and his dedicated service to the A.A. Fellowship and his warm personality will not be forgotten."

R.I.P. Warren.

### News from our **EASTERN CANADIAN REGION**

#### Eastern Canadian Regional Trustee Election

As Donald C., our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee will rotate out at the conclusion of the Panel 64 Conference (next April), the position of Eastern Canada Regional Trustee becomes vacant. Each of the 10 eastern Canadian Areas are asked to choose a candidate from their Area for consideration. Toward that end, at our next Assembly in Kingston, we will have an election and vote for those that let their name stand.

Once our Areas candidate is determined, it is the Delegate's job to submit that persons resume no later than Dec 31, 2013 to GSO. This is a very important deadline and I promise to make sure I get it in on time!

At the Panel 64 Conference we will whittle the 10 down to 4 then the 4 down to 1. All very exciting.

### CERAASA

See the following!

### **News from Area 83, EASTERN ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL**

#### Canadian Eastern Region A.A. Service Assembly (CERAASA) 2015

Stop the presses! Hold your Horses! Compose Thyself!

Area 83 decided with an informed group conscience that it would like to host CERAASA 2015 and since our vote we have been awarded that right from the other 9 Eastern Canadian Areas to do so! This is very exciting!

Of the 8 regions in North America (6 in the US, 2 in Canada) we were the only Region NOT to have a bi-yearly Service Assembly. Area 87 started the tradition this year (2013) by hosting the first one in Montreal. Hopefully, we can do as good a job as they in our turn.

Stay tuned for details - a committee is being formed, site selection is being discussed, programme, participants, well, just everything. If you want to be involved, contact me!

### **IDEA for your GROUPS**

#### BRILLIANT IDEA - a Stamp

At my Home Group a little while back, our Group Director approached me for my thoughts around signing a government form for a fellow. She wasn't exactly sure how to handle that. I replied that at the General Service Conference, a conversation around this came up:

One of our Class A Trustees, Judge Rogelio Flores, shared at the conference that the reason HE makes people get these things signed and returned in his court (California) is not to see that the person attended but to GET THE PERSON TALKING TO AT LEAST SOMEONE at an AA meeting! How interesting. He said he could care less whose name

is on the sheet, he just wants to make the sure that the man or women had the best possible chance to "get" the programme. Beautiful.

Further, another Delegate shared that in his Area, many groups have stamps made up that they use! What a brilliant idea. I found out after asking around a-bit that many groups in other Areas do this. I had never heard of it before. You could just have a little stamp made that says your group name, meeting night, address, things of that nature and a place for a signature OR AN INITIAL under "Group Director" or "Secretary!" Easy-peasy AND anonymous!

Another idea for one of those times when you have a few minutes left over at the end of a Business Meeting and nothing to talk about :) Ha!

### **Showcase a Selected DISTRICT**

This month's showcased District is District 58, Ottawa Bytown

District Number	58
Name	Ottawa Bytown
First became a District	1980
First DCM	Stu M.
Current DCM	John V.
Rough District location	Downtown Ottawa & environs
Size	97.5 sq km's
Perimeter length	44.2 km's
No. of registered groups per GSO	44 (active, inactive, merged & unknown)
Number of active groups at Table	16
Estimated AA's in District 58	409

#### **DCM Comment**

Things at 58 are actually going very well, we've been averaging 13 to 16 people at the Table each month and service commitments are 100% covered. We still need a PIC liaison but the other positions are filled.. lots of new young GSR's and alternates in attendance as well ... all financial commitments met for the year and we're looking to

give financial support to other projects as they arise... prudent reserve topped up and still some money to use! In loving service, John V. DCM 58

### **Picture of the day**

Bill at a podium...



### **Delegate Reports and Service Days**

- District 26 & District 28 Service Day June 23, 2013, Peterborough, On
- District 42, 48, 50 Service Day July 6, 2013 Morrisburg, On
- District 78 Service Day, July 13, 2013 Barry's Bay, On
- Lakeshore District's 41st Annual Conference, Aug. 9-11, Oshawa, On

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**THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!**

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