

Report from the August 16, 2015 Area 55 General Service Assembly

Box 459 was just received and can be accessed on aa.org. Some highlights I wish to mention: A great overview of the International Convention in Atlanta: staff Rotation on September 14, 2015: Introduction of 4 new Class B Trustees and 2 new Class A Trustees: Announcing Central Office/Intergroup Seminar in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., Sept. 18-20, 2015: Jim M. leaving GSO to pursue a career in filmmaking and storytelling.

A CALL FOR STORIES: I received a letter from Mary Clare L. secretary to the trustee's literature Committee.

At the 2015 Conference, it was voted by the Conference (Advisory Action) that the Trustee's Literature Committee revised the following pamphlets:

“AA for the Woman” - revisions are to include current sharing from women in AA, including stories from women in the military, single mothers and women of diverse backgrounds.

“AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic” – they are seeking stories from AA members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. Also another Advisory Action request that the Trustee's Literature Committee develop literature for “alcoholics with mental health issues”. For this project the committee is requesting a wide range of AA recovery experience from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members. Stories regarding any of the above three topics should be 500 – 800 words. Double spaced. Include your complete name, address and email/phone information. Anonymity of all authors will be observed. Email your share to Literature@aa.org and put the name of the pamphlet or topic you are addressing in the subject line of the message. You may mail to literature Coordinator, GSO, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York NY. Deadline for submissions is October 15, 2015. This information is also in Box 459, on the website aa.org.

Part of its response to a committee consideration of the 2015 Conference Committee on Public information, the trustees' P.I. Committee is gathering information about how AA members, groups, and service entities are currently using social media and social networking platforms (such as, but not limited to, Twitter, Instagram and Google+) for AA purposes. Information should be sent via email to publicinfo@aa.org or by postal mail to P.I. Desk, GSO, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. We are asked to submit this information no later than December 30, 2015.

ECR Regional Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 13 – 15, 2015. This is a wonderful opportunity for sharing experience and exchanging information about AA members interested in service, local trusted servants, and the General Service Board, AAWS and Grapevine. Staff from both the GSO and Grapevine will be there. See John C. or me if you are interested in going. We are discussing some transportation alternatives for decreasing travel expenses to and from.

Our General Service Office is in the middle of renovation which will include Grapevine offices on the same floor as the General Service offices.

The General Service Board has appointed Greg Tobin as the new General Manager of the General Service Office, effective October 1, 2015. Greg has been AAWS Publishing Director since 2013. He has served on the Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board, AA Grapevine Corporate Board as director and chair and as a General Service Trustee on the General Service Board. He is active in his home group and in step and service sponsorship.