

Oregon Area Delegate Report
September 2011 Assembly – McMinnville, Oregon
Hosted by District 22

For the Delegate, the summer quarter is by far the busiest. Most of the Conference reports are given between the May and September Assemblies, and with 37 Districts to visit, the weekends fill up fast. Luckily, some Districts are able to join forces to co-host a Conference report where distances are small, such as in the Portland and Eugene metro areas. So far, I've reported on the 61st General Service Conference (GSC) on 14 occasions to 26 participating Districts, adding 2,923 miles to my car. I have 3 more reports scheduled, including a report to the Mill Creek group in the Oregon State Penitentiary. I still have plenty of open weekends after this Assembly, so I'm hoping the remaining 9 Districts will invite me to come and talk about the Conference ... hint, hint ... ☺ My schedule is posted on the Oregon Area website, www.aa-oregon.org/delegate.

Over the summer I've also attended two regional conferences, the Pacific Northwest Conference in Bend at the end of June, and the Pacific Region Additional Forum in Los Angeles in August. You will hear a combined report on those conferences later today. As you may imagine, just about every weekend this summer has been dedicated to an A.A. event, which makes having a life outside of A.A. quite a challenge. I don't tell you this so you will feel sorry for me ... quite the opposite. I have had a blast traveling around Oregon and meeting all of you along the way. I will be sad when my rotation is over, but my family and friends will probably be happy to have me a bit more available than I have been these past two summers.

The theme for next year's Conference will be: "Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age," and the workshop topic is: "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare." These are wonderful topics for groups and Districts who are hosting workshops to consider. I encourage all of you to be talking about these issues and sharing your experience, strength and hope with your friends, fellow home group members, and with your General Service Representative (GSR) and District Committee Member (DCM). Your individual and group conscience will be important for your next Delegate. On a similar note, ideas for the theme, presentation and workshop topics for the 2013 Conference are now being solicited. I encourage each of you to go to the Area website and look at all the previous Conference themes and come up with ideas of your own. There is a link to a form that can be used for submitting your ideas, or you can simply mail or email them to G.S.O. What a wonderful opportunity for those of you who were assigned to the Agenda Committee and discussed this at last February's Assembly to resurrect your discussions and the list of themes you came up with, pick one or more, and submit them from Oregon Area. Please let me know if you need any help or direction, as I would love to see us send in our suggestions and see if any of them are selected.

Next ... news from A.A.W.S. (Alcoholics Anonymous World Services) and the Grapevine (GV). The General Service Office (G.S.O.) has been working on their "Ebook" project, and I've heard recently that the project may not make the original rollout date of October, but it should rollout by mid November at the latest. What this means is that you will be able to access the "Big Book," the "12 by 12" and other books and pamphlets on your electronic devices. I have not yet heard the cost, but to have the availability of the Conference approved versions of our literature ... published by A.A. for A.A. with profits going to A.A. ... this is very exciting indeed! The iPhone will be first, but the Droid and various tablet versions will quickly follow. The Grapevine is also working toward making our meeting in print accessible on electronic devices. I can't give you a timeline yet, but stay tuned ... it won't be long.

The catalog for 2011-2012 Conference-approved literature is now available, and for the first time it includes Grapevine materials. Hallelujah! You can now find all our publications in one place! A new pamphlet approved by this year's Conference -- "*A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs*"-- is now available and priced at 40¢. Look for it at your local Intergroup office, particularly if you have accessibility issues at the group or District level.

I am in possession of 1,000 Final Conference Reports, but they will soon transfer to your possession. At various times throughout the day, I will be coming around to each District and handing them out. I ordered 1 final report for each Oregon Area group, so DCMs please see that your groups get their copy. If you have one or more groups in your District that haven't participated in District activities and/or haven't contributed to A.A. for some time, taking a Final Conference Report to them is an opportunity to open up a conversation about being involved in A.A. as a whole, both with their physical presence and their contributions. And a BIG thank you to all the DCMs and GSRs who carried the message back to your groups that contributions are needed at all the levels of the A.A. service structure. G.S.O. has noted a slight profit in this last quarter, and you will hear later that our groups have also responded to the Area's financial predicament. We're not out of the woods, however, so please continue to have a dialog about why contributions are needed and what services they support. I've seen how generously we all respond when a need is identified, so be specific and talk about the services that you are passionate about and what would happen if those services were not carried out due to lack of funds.

Thank you for the incredible gift you have given me in allowing me to be your Delegate.

Yours in loving A.A. service,

Anne M., Delegate
Panel 60 Oregon Area 58