

Delegates Report of the 67th General Service Conference

- 1) Hi Everyone, my name is Jade. I'm an alcoholic, honoured to serve as you panel 67 Delegate.
- 2) I'm hoping that you all got a chance to watch the DVD "Your AA General Serviced Office. The Grapevine & the General Service Structure" if you didn't, be sure to take the 21 minutes and go to aa.org to have a peak. It's quite dated as it was made in 1992, (the smoking and old literature give that away), but mostly all the information on our service structure is spot on. Now that you know how it works, and if you think this is still useful information and would like to see it updated ... it starts with YOU.
- 3) There was a whopping 1277 pages of background material that your General Service Committee (GSC), your District Committee Members (DCM's) and your General Service Representatives' (GSR's) sifted through to get out to the groups here in BC/Yukon Area 79. It covered 92 items on this Conference Agenda (the most ever to date). All of it was sent to me through the infamous General Service Conference "Dashboard". It is a password protected Dropbox type website that all Conference members have access to. I won't be reporting here on all 92 items but I will get to some highlights later.
- 4) As it states in our [Service Manual](#) I will try to report to you, "what I saw, heard and felt". This report, along with all Conference Advisory Actions, Committee Considerations and Floor Actions will be available on our bcyukonaa.org website or you may request a hardcopy through your GSR, DCM or myself ☺
- 5) God works in mysterious ways and as many of you know our family has been through the tragic fentanyl overdose of our son 2 months ago. As my husband and I set off New York bound, we brought Nick with us in our hearts and welcomed the adventure!
- 6) I also brought all of you with me in this beautiful notebook. I got to read all the heart felt sentiments the GSC, GSR's & DCM's wrote and presented to me at the Pe-Conference Assembly. That, along with all of the combined efforts put into the report backs that I was able to look through every time I weighed in on something.
- 7) We left our house at 4am Thursday April 20th and arrived in Toronto to find our connecting flight was canceled. Apparently 92 canceled flights due to airport construction. They wanted to fly us to Montréal, sleep at the airport for 14 hours and catch a flight the next day ...so we decided on a road trip. We rented a car and drove to New York. Normally, an 8-hour drive took us 11 through a rain and lightening storm. It rained so hard there was not a fast-enough windshield wiper setting. We had 2 unnecessary trips (in rush hour) across the George Washington bridge at \$15 a pop. It seems that I punched the wrong address into the GPS. It felt like the Griswold's on vacation in New York!
- 8) We arrived at our hotel around 7AM Friday morning bushed! It's only my opinion... but I don't think it matters how much time you have...A husband and wife should not spend that much time hungry, annoyed and tired in a car together...just sayin'.
- 9) As it was a free day ...after a cat nap and a ride on the local wildlife ...we headed to town on the train.
- 10) Our Canada Trustee at Large Scott H. was gracious enough to show us the ropes and some lovely sights...We were very tired from the first part of our adventure and got an early night and some well needed rest.
- 11) On Saturday, we were up bright and early. As some of you know we are considered honorary members of the Pacific Region and were invited along with them on a tour of the "Rockefeller Estate. John D. Rockefeller was a significant part in the history of our Tradition 7 and this was a spectacular 2-hour walkabout. An added little bonus was driving by the office of Dr. Silkworth.
- 12) We returned from our wonderful day and headed into the 1728 meeting. This meeting is held for our Class "A" Trustees to give them some first-hand insight into how we operate as a fellowship regarding our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts...hence 12x12x12=1728. The Remote Communities (RC) Meeting consisted of 3 presentations. Area 90 Eastern Ontario, Area 81 New Brunswick/PEI, and Area 17 Hawaii. The presentations were on Geography, Technology, Culture and Language barriers. It made me so proud of Area 79 to know these are the very same things that we discuss on a regular basis in our RC

Committee. It just so happened that Jon W. Grapevine Senior Editor was at our round table discussion afterwards and he shared that the RC bug had bit him after last years meeting. He remembered our Panel 65 Delegate Jennifer K.'s story in Grapevine and he encourages more stories submitted from people in remote situations. Finally, we ended the evening with a "Delegates only Meeting". The Panel 67 "Newbie" delegates were so grateful. It's like a Delegate "101" going over all the things to expect for the week ahead and giving us helpful tips. Everyone went out of their way to make us feel welcome.

- 13) Sunday was the official start of the Conference. I woke up and took a picture of the beautiful cherry blossom tree outside our room. I also got a peek at my husband Jason's itinerary. The hospitality coordination for the spouses and guests is honestly quite fantastic. Of course, his travels and adventures are all at our own expense. I'm tellin' you, I was a bit jealous but also very happy for him. Many don't realize the sacrifice our significant others and family go through when we start on this general service journey. I can honestly say I could not have done it without him and the rest of my family holding down the fort at home.
- 14) The roll call was an emotional Spiritual Experience. To hear your name called and say "here" ...and to reflect on what it is that you are a part of, is quite humbling.... There were opening statements and presentations were given. The topic that got the most attention was "Safety in AA." A delegate from Louisiana got up to share how their problem was firearms in AA meetings. The argument being "the right to bear arms" from the 2nd Amendment of their Constitution.
- 15) There were some Delegate stats: Average Age- 59. Oldest- 75. Youngest- 37. Everyone was trying to guess who these people were. Average Length of Sobriety- 23 years. Longest Sobriety- 51 years. Shortest Sobriety 10 years.
- 16) We then got to work. I sit on the Public Information Committee. We first met with the PI Trustees Committee to ask any question that we may have of them. They then left us and we got started on our 10 agenda items. We did this for 10.5 hours over three days.
- 17) That evening Jason shared with me all his adventures and upon wakening Monday morning, I captured this amazing angle between the Cherry blossoms.
- 18) In the afternoon after getting out of the PI work room, I walked into the Westchester Ballroom and WOW! I had to pinch myself. I was certain there had been a terrible mistake. This day was particularly emotional as it was 2 months since our loss and what I couldn't help thinking was, what better way to honour his memory than to be in a place where miracles happen. We next had 3 great presentations. The **General Service Board Report Summary:** by Terry B. Class A Trustee General Service Board Chair, shared amongst other things, that "on January 30, 2017, the complaint against A.A. World Services and the General Service Board in the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal was withdrawn. A.A.W.S. and G.S.B. made no settlement, monetary or non-monetary, with the applicant. Subsequently and separately, regarding this complaint, the applicant and the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup agreed to resolve their differences. Information about that agreement was publicly released by those parties and did not involve the General Service Board or the A.A.W.S. Board. It was also reported in **A.A.W.S. Board Report Summary:** by Bill N. AAWS General Service Trustee that on October 28, 2016, A.A.W.S., Inc. passed a resolution to remove the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup from its database directory listings based on Toronto Intergroup's position that they were exempt from a discrimination claim on the basis that they are a religious organization. A.A.W.S. does not list intergroups or central offices that are affiliated with or claim to be religious organizations. In the past, intergroups have been removed from our database for this reason. On March 10, 2017, the board passed a resolution that A.A.W.S., Inc. shall not remove any database directory listings of the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup, based on Toronto Intergroup's recent communication (letter dated March 5, 2017) of the group conscience that states they are not and have never been a religious organization. Two points of note: (a) because we had not yet reprinted the intergroup/central office directory, the action voted by the board in October was not implemented, and

- (b) representatives of the Toronto Intergroup reached out to the board and the office to clarify its group conscience in this matter, which caused the board to take the action voted in March.
- 19) Bill also shared in his report that last year the General Service Office responded to more than 90,000 emails and letters and distributed 7.6 million books and pamphlets. This slide shows a breakdown of that.
 - 20) Also that our AA website aa.org receives over 1,000 visits a day for “Need Help With a Drinking Problem” and received over 13 million visits last year from AA members, suffering alcoholics, distraught family members, professionals, students, the press and others interested in AA.
 - 21) He talked about, how we do things differently today than we have in the past and asked the question... Why should AA be any different? The information is the same but how people access it has changed. We need to keep up with the times.
 - 22) The **Grapevine Board Report Summary: by** Joel C. Pacific Regional Trustee, shared with us that Grapevine (GV) had a great year. They have managed to pay back \$750,000 to the reserve fund over the last 3 years. He encourages Areas to continue to do what they are doing to generate even more enthusiasm and not lose steam. I loved the Grapevine table because it had candy!
 - 23) **The Finance Report- with** David M. General Service Board Treasurer gave us some financial highlights: “Around the Picnic Table”
 - 24) This is for the numbers people!
 - The 7th Tradition of self-support contributions were a record of \$7,934,869, up \$780,723, or 10.9%, from 2015.
 - Costs of services provided to the Fellowship were \$9,906,588, up \$277,089, or 2.9%, from 2015.
 - Difference or shortfall between our 7th Tradition of self-support and the costs of services provided to the Fellowship was \$1,971,669 or 80.1%, compared to \$2,475,353, or 74.3%, in 2015.
 - AAWS gross literature sales were \$13,413,929, up \$693,707, or 5.5%, from 2015.
 - AAWS publishing net income of \$3,424,887 covered the shortfall between our 7th Tradition of self-support and costs of services provided to the Fellowship, resulting in a net profit of \$1,453,218, up \$1,247,593 from 2015.
 - Grapevine subscriptions levels increased in 2016, the first time since 1989, resulting in net income of \$164,539, although down \$76,272, or 31.7%, from 2015. It was because of this that Grapevine thought it not a good time to raise its prices, for worry they would see a decline in sales.
 - General Fund support of La Viña was \$152,082 compared to \$146,378 in 2015.
 - Reserve Fund was \$14,958,734, resulting in a ratio of 10.3 months, compared to 10.2 months in 2015.
 - 25) He asked us to keep in mind a dollar in 1935 is worth \$17.78 today!
 - 26) And, did you know that if we each put in just \$7.27us or \$9.97cad **per year!** We could be self supporting and not be relying on our literature sales.
 - 27) So, I have gone on and on this past year (mostly because of the trend our Alternate Delegate Gail started) about Online Recurring Contribution. It’s so freakin’ easy! I do 5 bucks a month and forget about it...at the end of the year that adds up to \$82.34/yr. cad. I also found out that they are working on a way to do online contributions in Canadian funds. There is no timeline yet as to when that will be done, but we were assured it is coming... Please, if anyone would like a full copy of any of these presentations please ask your GSR, DCM or myself as they will all be available on the password protected side of our bcyukonaa.org website.
 - 28) Tuesday mornings was a spectacular shot from my room! I stayed up a little longer than I would have liked because Jason wanted to share about all the new friends he made on the hospitality tours. I found out that the guests of Delegates are fondly referred to as “DelAnons”!
 - 29) Our last morning in the PI Committee we finished all of our agenda items and elected a Chair and Alternate. Bill W. of course was Chair ☺ and I was privileged to be elected the Alternate.

- 30) We broke for lunch. The food and the company was always enjoyable. It was a wonderful time to relax a bit. I sat at a different spot every time in order to break out of my comfort zone and meet new people.
- 31) There were more Presentations and then it was our turn in the Western Region for the newbie Delegates, Ed from 91 Saskatchewan and myself to give our Area Highlights, we are the smallest with 4 Areas, most regions have 8-16, so Cate (Western Canada Regional Trustee), when introducing us made a funny apology about “taking too long” 😊 ... We couldn’t pass up the chance to get our Western Canada Delegates and trustees in a photo. We had a workshop on Anonymity. Then a Delegates only dinner where we pulled names out of a hat for the 68th General Service Conference Delegate Chair. Ben B. Area 57 Oklahoma, and Alternate Chair, Joanne L. Area 06 North Coast California. We called it a night at around 9pm.
- 32) I woke up Wednesday, said good morning God, and took my pic of the day (I have to admit I’m getting a little sick of Jason’s shenanigans at this point)... I *am* looking forward to the committee reports though! Here are some highlights from them:
- 33) Out of the **Agenda Committee** came the theme of the 2018 General Service Conference, “AA-A solution for all Generations”
- 34) In **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee** it was recommended and passed to retire the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.” There was also an additional committee considerations about the development of a LinkedIn page to “continue to explore establishing a presence on LinkedIn as a tool for CPC efforts”. I’d like to share here that there was a very clear message coming through, that although the Conference only moved forward with one application on one platform in all of the proposals regarding social media, there was a strong clear communication that the fellowship wanted/needed it to move forward exploring new avenues as long a we remain true to our Traditions.
- 35) The **Corrections Committee** when asked to discuss carrying the A.A. message to incarcerated Native American/First Nations/Inuit People, had an additional committee consideration “that local committees were best able to handle this important work. To aid in carrying the message the committee suggested adding the pamphlet, “*Many Paths to Spirituality*” to the Corrections Kit and to the Corrections Group Handbook”
- 36) The **Finance** committee recommended that the suggested area contribution for Delegate Fees for the Conference be increased from \$1600.00US to \$1800.00US It passed. The committee recommended that the Conference approve maximum annual contributions to the General Service Board from an individual AA member of \$3000 be increased to \$5000 and it failed.
- 37) In **Grapevine** both Agenda items on the continued exploration of a Facebook page and Google for Non-profits account resulted in advisory actions that requested Grapevine Inc. to continue exploration and develop a plan to bring a report back to the 2018 Conference committee for consideration. Later there was a floor action submitted almost identical to the Public Information recommendation that passed that a Grapevine Google for Non-profit account be created, with the use limited to YouTube, with a guarantee that comments not be shown. It passed as well.
- 38) The **Literature** committee received a standing ovation at the end of their report back as everyone recognized the massive workload they plugged through with 12 agenda items . New language regarding safety will be added to “The AA Group” pamphlet. The committee reviewed the draft pamphlets “A.A. for the Woman” and “Finding Acceptance: A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic” (formerly titled “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”). They offered additional suggestions for the Trustees Literature Committee to consider and looks forward to reviewing both revised draft pamphlets that may include more stories particularly in the “A.A. for the Woman” for consideration at the 2018 General Service Conference.
- 39) We were also shown hot of the press the new Safety “Yellow” Card.

- 40) In **Policy & Admissions** they recommended that the General Service Conference be held in New York City every other year and it failed. They also recommended that GSO management submit a report on the process implementation and status on the site selection of the General Service Conference for review by the 2018 Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and it passed. They were asked to consider a request to allow regional service committees to bid to host the General Service Conference, and they took no action. It was suggested it may already be in the works and they wanted to see how that panned out first. They considered a request to add a “YPAA (Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Subcommittee” to the service structure and took no action. The committee recognized that YPAA’s are AA entities comprised of young people and encourages them to continue their participation at all levels of service.
- 41) The committee that I sit on, **Public Information**, had a recommendation that passed that a Google for Non-profit account be created, with the use limited to YouTube, with a guarantee that comments not be shown. It was recommended and passed that the pamphlet Understanding Anonymity be rewritten to include material from GSO covering Tradition Eleven and to expand the discussion of humility and that a progress report draft language be brought back to the 2018 Conference Committee on PI. The committee reviewed the report on the implementation of a Twitter account and took no action. They also reviewed the report on the 2017 AA Membership Survey and recommended that they move forward with a 2017 Membership survey and reword the sex/gender question. After much discussion, it failed. It was close but in the end, most wanted a new methodology to conduct the survey before moving ahead and agreed they needed to come up with appropriate language for inclusiveness.
- 42) It was also shared with us that Neilson ranked our Public Service Announcement “Doors” 26 out of 1855 monitored PSA’s and it won 4 awards!
- 43) In **Report & Charter** when discussing The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2018-2020 Edition: it was recommended and passed that:
1. text regarding area websites be added to Chapter Four
 2. to add the bylaws of A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc.
 3. that a new section be added on the General Service Boards “Mission-Vision-Action Statement” to Chapter 9.
- 44) **Treatment & Accessibilities** were asked to review the draft pamphlet “AA for the Alcoholic with Special Needs.” The committee recommended that the pamphlet be approved to include the new name “Accessibilities for all Alcoholics” and it passed. One suggestion was that “Remote Communities” Committees encourage AA members carrying the message within the context of military life to share their experience strength and hope including at the Pre-conference (RC) meeting. An Additional Committee Consideration was suggested that the staff review and revise service material in the Treatment Service Kit. We also learned that the ASL video of the Big Book is at the “test run” stage.
- 45) **Archives** is my secondary committee and was asked to “Consider a proposal for a new publication, Unity in Action: Bill W.’s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970 (working title)” and it passed. Someone asked that they play an excerpt of Bills recordings. They did and the room was silent as we listened in gratitude to his experience strength and hope. The tears flowed.
- 46) **International Conventions & Regional Forums** Committee discussed ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees. At some point discussing YPAA, Josh E. Grapevine Director shared an example of how at the YPAA Conference they had closed circuit capability, so that members who could not be in attendance could watch the speakers. He said for the conference opening ceremonies they had a woman in prison on a closed circuit big screen and he could watch her read “How it Works” through *his* closed-circuit secure connection on his computer. Innovative ideas using today’s technology and keeping with in our Traditions. Note: Don’t forget we have a Western Canada Regional

Forum coming in 2018 in Area 91 Regina Saskatchewan, June 8-10, and after the International Convention in 2020 in Detroit will be our turn here in Vancouver 2025!!!!

- 47) **The Common Agenda Item**- All committees were asked to “Consider a request to add text to the committee’s Composition, Scope and Procedure regarding the option to meet by conference call prior to the Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference.” Five committees put in recommendations and the rest took no action. They were all tabled until the end and after much discussion and confusion the five were withdrawn and no action was taken. It was noted that this is already a practice, as stated in the document “Information and Suggestions” sent to the Delegate Committee Chairs prior to the conference which states “Ask your committee secretary to schedule a conference call meeting prior to Conference so that your committee can handle “housekeeping” items such as voting, breaks, order of agenda items, etc.”
- These are just some highlights, the Final Conference Report comes out in October, and until then more information can be found on our website at bcyukonaa.org on the Delegates page at a GSR level.
- 48) Thursday morning, I had some spare time to get a fun shot in. Nobody cares anymore what the DelAnons are doing, Blah Blah Blah!
- 49) We had another Regional lunch where we got to hang out with some office staff. Ivy R. (Many of us have seen her hard at work at the Forums) and, one of the newest Dianna L. (3 weeks) who is assigned to the Corrections desk and is liaison to our Western Region. I’m hoping we can invite her to one of our Assemblies as a guest this Panel so that all of you can meet her too. Ivy told us that new staff is usually assigned to our Western Region for 2 reasons. One, we are small and it’s a good training ground, but more important, we are very kind she said, and we treat our guests with love. Our other newbie staff member Patrick C. is secretary, Treatment/Accessibilities and also the RC Liaison.
- 50) We came back after lunch and elected East Central Regional Trustee, Mark E., Southeast Regional Trustee, Kathy B. and Trustee at Large US, Newton P. I had a working dinner as this is when the Archives Committee met for the first time with the Trustees and we finished up around 10pm.
- 51) Before we wrapped it up in Archives, I was blessed to be pulled out of a hat for Delegate Chair of the Committee. This means I’ll go to the Board meeting in New York in January 2018 and will sit in the Trustees Committee meeting! We continued report backs, then had the 24th World Service Presentation. Having this every year is a direct result of a motion that our Area 79 submitted in Panel 65. It was also the last presentation for Bob W. Trustee at Large US. It pulled at the heart strings for sure. He is such an all round nice man.
- 52) He tells us that he uses our Scott H. as his “sock” sponsor. It seems they have started quite a trend!! Bob admitted to having a “relapse” when caught wearing black socks one day. In true alcoholic form he rationalized and said, “but they had a pattern on them.” We are not a glum lot!
- 53) Friday, I found the panorama view button on my phone!
- 54) This was another leaky eye day. We’d come from far and wide across Canada and the US and we had completed the task at hand entrusted to us, to the very best of our ability. We heard farewells and best wishes from the Panel 66 Delegates. They are some of the finest servants I’ve had the privilege of working with. Our Western Region then went for ice crème and shared from the heart our individual experiences of the past week.
- 55) Saturday- We said goodbye to some Trustees. These guys are amazing. The hours and the passion they have for this fellowship is phenomenal. Bill F. East Central Regional Trustee, Bill N. AAWS General Service Trustee, Chet P. Southeast Regional Trustee, Bob W. Trustee at Large US and Terry B. Class A Trustee GSB Chair, who unfortunately on Dr.’s orders had to go home early. We finished with the Serenity Prayer and “I am Responsible...” around 11 am.
- 56) I did manage to get into the city again to see a show. This is a first for me and what a treat. We saw a street cartoonist and sat for a portrait...I have no idea what possessed him to make me a mermaid with a martini! We rolled in around 1am and slept well.

- 57) We woke up, walked the grounds, wrestled an alligator that escaped the New York sewers, took the bull by the horns and packed up for our trip home.
- 58) Both of us were full of gratitude for this beautiful fellowship that continues to nurture us through life on life's terms, for the new friends made and for my beautiful tree that helped to centre my soul at the beginning of each day. There are no words to express the love and connectedness that was felt in those rooms this past week. Please know that each and everyone of you were there with me.
- 59) I will end with snips from: **Why Do We Need A Conference?** From the late Bernard B. Smith Class A Trustee 1954: *"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth which brought us back to life. ... "We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors... of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, or what his or her social position is."*
- Thank you, from the bottom of heart BC/Yukon Area 79 for allowing me the privilege to be of service. ♥

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Delegate Panel 67

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