



The Pigeon



Your (Outgoing) Area Delegate's Report

January, 2005, will bring a new slate of officers, committee chairs and D.C.M.s to Area 36. I'm excited about the new trusted servants and am confident they will serve us well over the next two years! Mark M., our new delegate, has many years of experience within our general service structure and understands his responsibilities as delegate! I know you will support him with the same level of enthusiasm you shared with me.

Rotation in A.A. is a good thing, although it seems to come just about the time you've figured out what you should be doing in the

position and have become comfortable with it. Dennis B., a past delegate for our area, gave a great presentation on the "Spirit of Rotation" at the October Area Assembly. He pointed out there are 114 Grapevine articles in the digital archives that mention rotation. You can access this information by going to www.aagrapevine.org and subscribing to the digital archives. Dennis mentioned in his presentation that rotation eliminates us from taking a position hostage (I think ego must have something to do with that). It brings a new view to the task. It brings in new skills and

talents. It expands the service experience of Alcoholics Anonymous – as important as expanding our spiritual condition. However, just because a person has rotated out does not mean they have lost their ability to express a concern about the welfare of A.A. They are not necessarily saying you are doing your job wrong, they are just expressing their view for the good of A.A.

I would like to thank all the groups and A.A. members in Area 36 for the privilege to serve as your delegate for the past two years! It has been an educational, rewarding

experience, and, most importantly, has helped me to stay sober and continue to carry the message of hope to those still suffering. I hope our paths will cross again as we continue to serve the fellowship that gave us life and sustains us in our journey of sobriety – one day at a time!

International Convention

There is lots of updated information to report regarding the International Convention to be held in Toronto, Canada, June 30-July 3, 2005. As of November 1 this year, over 15,000 members have registered for the convention. Pre-registration deadline is May 16, 2005. However, if you wait until then, you may not be able to get hotel accommodations, as they are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. You can register online at www.aa.org. The theme for the convention is "I Am Responsible."

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Your Area Chairperson's Report

Here we are at the end of another rotation. It has been a very rewarding experience serving as your Area Chairperson for the last two years. Coming into this rotation I was wondering if I was up to the task of being chairperson (of course, I have had these same thoughts with every service job I have had), but with the help of my fellow officers, area committee members and past delegates, I feel these last two years have been successful.

I would like to thank my fellow officers and all the committee chairs for their hard work. We have accomplished a lot for service in our area. Our Archives committee has been as busy as ever ensuring we do not lose sight of where we came from. The Correctional Facilities committee is still successfully providing contacts for those

inmates that are about to be released and provide A.A. literature in the prisons. The Grapevine and Literature committees have ensured that our literature is always available to us and the still suffering alcoholic. The Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community committees have made sure our message was made available to the public and professionals. The Treatment Facilities committee continues to carry our message into treatment centers and provide contacts for people leaving those centers. The Web Site and Newsletter committees have helped ensure that we have communication throughout our area. The Finance and Structure committees have helped ensure that we stay on course with our financial and procedural policies. And, finally, the

Remote Communities and Special Needs committee has done an excellent job ensuring our message reaches all alcoholics regardless of their life conditions.

Most of all, I want to thank the groups and their G.S.R.s. Without the active participation of groups and members throughout the area the many twelve step opportunities provided by our committees would never be fulfilled.

As many of you know, I will not be leaving the Area Committee; I have been honored with the opportunity to be your delegate for the upcoming rotation. You will find a report from me as your incoming delegate in this edition of *The Pigeon*.

In Love and Service,
Mark

Your (Incoming) Area Delegate's Report

First of all, I'd like to thank the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly for allowing me the privilege and honor to serve as your delegate to the General Service Conference.

I am very excited about the next two years. I've already started receiving information from the General Service Office, which included a list of materials to read in preparation for the Conference. I am rereading the past couple of Conference Reports, which are being helpful in preparing me in what to expect at the Conference. Next on my list is reviewing the Service Manual, especially with a focus on the Conference Charter.

I know I have a big responsibility ahead of me and I do not take it lightly. With the help of my Higher Power, my sponsor and all of you, I feel that I'll be able to continue the

fine job and example set by the past delegates from our area.

The upcoming West Central Regional Service Conference will be held in Rapid City, SD, on March 4-6, 2005. Flyers will be available at the January Service Conference in Rochester on January 8 & 9.

Our area has been asked to chair the general session on Sunday morning. We will also be chairing one of the breakout sessions. I hope you will all consider a road trip to Rapid City; it's a great weekend!

Our area will be hosting the West Central Regional Service Conference in 2006. Our past delegate, Brenda, will be assisting me in leading up the efforts of putting on this conference.

The upcoming Service Conference in Rochester will also be a

great weekend! The theme for this weekend is also the theme for the upcoming 55th General Service Conference to be held the week of April 17-23, 2003 in New York: "Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service." We also use many of the same presentation/discussion and workshop topics from the conference. Some of those topics we will be discussing in January, as well as in April, will be: "Recovery – 'How it Works' in Our Home Group," "Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code," and "Do I Carry the A.A. Message Or My Own?" I look forward to seeing you in Rochester for an interesting, insightful and fun weekend.

In Love and Service,
Mark

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