

June 7, 2019

To my fellow ABA members,

The Annual General Meeting on March 31 established the board of directors for the coming year. I am humbled to accept the responsibilities of president. I want to reach out to communicate board activity, advise you of the challenges in front of our organization, **and to seek your support.**

I appreciate all the past presidents, directors, and members who have worked so hard to create the organization we have today. During my term, I want to work with you to produce an even stronger board and fellowship.

ABA Overview

The board continues to see a strong need for ABA support on a global basis. Five of our current twelve board members reside outside Canada. We have approximately 40 active meetings/groups, a number of them actively represented on the GSR Committee.

Our current GSA initiatives include:

- We will hold a retreat on Sept 12 to 15 at the 4H Camp on Battle Lake outside of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This is open to all members. The Theme will be "Revive, Renew & Recover". Details will be on the website as we have them. We will also have a registration form ready for you to print and mail off so watch for that!
- The six active GSA committees are providing input to a plan for the coming year. Please contact any committee chair with your ideas on initiatives. Their contact information is on the website under the "Service" tab. The Literature and Outreach Committee is currently working on a new edition of our book with new stories in part II. Our vice-president Gillian is working to fill numerous vacancies on our board and its committees. The GSR Committee is working very hard to build up its base of representatives and to facilitate communication between the board and the fellowship.

Call to Service

Thank you so much for all the service GSRs, Board members, committee members, meeting attendees, sponsors, sponsees, home group members and individual members who contribute to the wellbeing of our community. Service is such an important foundation to recovery and ABA, and I am excited to see Higher Power work through our group conscience, especially at the board level.

I want to engage every ABA member, including you, in our efforts to build the GSA.

Volunteers power our organization. Volunteer availability currently constrains progress on initiatives. I want to ask you to consider how you can contribute time to assist efforts. I ask the GSRs and contact persons to talk about service work at one of your meetings. Please send information on volunteer interests and availability to Shahin, our office manager. **I invite your participation in any of the committees.** The Literature and Outreach Committee, the Consultative Committee plus the Meeting Support Committee have urgent needs. All three of these committees require chairpersons and members. Sobriety requirements can be found on the website. Also, the office is looking for a volunteer to take care of the website by updating it as needed and a volunteer to take care of the security needs of the website (these could be the same person).

ABA Financial Situation

The board has undertaken a review of our financial situation. For the past three years, our expenditures have exceeded revenues. This has depleted our reserves. We lack cash to cover the shortfall, respond to unexpected events, or undertake new initiatives. Steps we are taking to address this problem include:

- Improve our financial accounting process. Our annual production of financial reports limits ability to manage expenditures. We will implement monthly report production.
- An upgraded accounting process will enable effective management of donations contributed to specific initiatives.
- We are developing an annual financial budget that aligns with our result objectives. This will improve our ability to manage cash flow and balance expenditures.
- We are examining cost reduction options such as closing the GSA office space to save on rent.

I ask for your financial support. Our budget is tiny compared to other organizations, but the GSA currently lacks cash to meet our obligations. **We urgently need your prompt donation.** I ask the GSRs and other group contacts to raise the topic for discussion at meetings.

Our 7th tradition states that we are fully self-supporting so that our primary aim is not muddled. I feel that as members we can each ask ourselves the following questions:

What am I doing to ensure that the fellowship continues to be able to help the still suffering anorexic, bulimic and compulsive eater?

What am I personally doing at the service level?

Am I giving back in order to return some of the assistance and support that I have received?

Currently our annual budget is approximately \$35,000. With \$6,000 provided to us via sales we count on donations for the remaining \$29,000. That is about \$12 per month for the approximately 200 active members we have in the fellowship. Please consider whether this is doable on a regular basis for you. If this is doable for you, please go to the Donations tab on the website www.aba12steps.org to subscribe to a monthly donation or to provide a one-time donation. Alternatively, you can send in a donation by cheque to the address on the website.

We need to continue to work together within the fellowship in order to be there for each other and the still suffering anorexic, bulimic and compulsive eater. I look forward to working with you to keep our fellowship flourishing. I am confident our efforts will produce a continuously improving organization supporting each member's needs.

In service,

Amy G.

GSA Board President