

AFG Area 9 Archives Report

Area World Service Committee

February 7, 2015

Taking Care of Business

1. At the November Turnover meeting I received one box of materials received by Wendy from a dear member as well as several massive convention books to be placed or replaced in our archives. My meeting with Cham who served the area so well in Panel 52 helped me to begin to understand the scope of the task before me in Panel 55. For this newbie, humility is a dish best served with a great element of surprise!
2. TCB Project #1 was to find, secure and populate a new storage unit somewhere near my location in Reddick, Florida. It needed to be a 5x10 feet unit in climate controlled space to ward off the enemies of stored paper such as mildew and insects. Likewise it is best for it to be interior to maximize the benefits of climate control as well as security. Having never rented a storage unit before it was a bit of a challenge. I have a spiritual program thanks to Al-Anon and relied heavily on my Higher Power to help me.
3. We have a storage unit with Storage At Ocala located at 6900 NE Jacksonville Rd., Ocala, FL 34479. The day I inquired about renting the smell of fresh paint was evident and I noticed how immaculately the facility was maintained. Theresa, the manager, was very helpful and reassured me of personal service as it is a locally owned and operated storage place. We negotiated a reduced price of \$49.50 per month based on 3 years occupancy for a 10% monthly reduction from \$55 per month. I purchased a lock and sent the contract to our Chairperson Cindy for her approval. It is on its way back to me now through snail mail.
4. Next part of TCB Project#1 is the removal of Area Archives from the Metro Storage Unit on Gunn Highway in Tampa and transportation to the new unit in Ocala for offloading and placement in the new storage unit along with shelves from the old unit. Original plans were to execute this task on Saturday, January 31 but unforeseen circumstances forced cancellation. Rent on the Tampa Metro Storage has been requested from our treasurer to be paid for one more month to give us time to transfer the archives to Storage @ Ocala unit #186. After we load and vacate the unit in Tampa, we will text Cham to complete the closing of that unit so no further bills will be created.

5. New plans will be made to complete transfer from Tampa to Ocala. After returning to Ocala, we will plan to offload the shelves and items in the truck into the new storage unit. The rent is low enough that we will be able to fit the truck rental(we negotiated a 10% discount with my AAA membership plus a 24 hour rental at a place which is closed on the weekend, a low mileage rate, and a \$19.95 truck rental thanks to the wonderful folks at a local dealer ½ mile from my home) into the \$800 budget for the year. This is a one-time expense for the three year panel.
6. TCB Project #2. Then I shall continue to recruit folks to serve on Archives Committee (I have one volunteer so far). While that is happening, I will spend some considerable time at the new unit becoming familiar with the contents and organizing as much as possible.
7. TCB Project #3. Eventually we will begin to look at how and when we can begin digitizing the materials to place in Google Drive for storage electronically.
8. Please remember I, my Higher Power, my committee and I have three years as do you. I keep hearing in my now more open mind and heart the sweet thought that this is a gentle program of growth framed by our amazing 3 legacies that nurture our spirits. As Cindy wrote to me earlier, we are all in this together!
9. I now see that plans are a wonderful way to help my Higher Power laugh. An unexpected bonus of service is new challenges to my serenity. It has been hard for me to see progress as I begin service in Panel 55 yet I know it is true. I am being shown a deeper humility, greater surrender necessary and the courage needed to change the things I can while I nurture the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. I wish I could tell you I have done well. If effort is valued I have worked hard. If accomplishment is measured, I am not satisfied with that so far. The big comfort lies in the hope it can only get better. Thank you for reading the words of a grateful Al-Anon for very real challenges in his first month plus of service for Panel 55.

Gratefully submitted,

Michael D

Florida North Archives Coordinator

Panel 55