

Dean B.

The 65th General Service Conference Was held May 19-26th in NYC. It's so good to be back. For me, it was an endless series of challenging, but spiritual experiences. I believe in looking back that I did the best I could to fully and actively participate. The experiences learning how to work with the Conference Finance Committee as Chairperson, getting to know the new panel 65 delegates full of heart for AA, was a rocketing experience. I left feeling overwhelmed to have such an opportunity to represent my San Diego Area and came back even more appreciative.

I am hoping all DCMs will look at their district calendar and find time to invite me to a district meeting between June and September. These visits are not substitutes for what is shared at the pre conference assembly, but instead an opportunity to share updates on ongoing activities of the conference. It's also a good time for GSRs to ask questions once they've had time to absorb the conference information. And last, it helps me as a Delegate to fulfill my duty to hear feedback from Groups regarding conference decisions. **DCMs – please request visitation dates at soonest opportunity possible.**

Post Conference Assembly – May 30, 2015 Torrey Pines Christian Church

8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr N, La Jolla, CA 92037

New GSR Orientation 8:00a by Alt. Delegate Jane G.

Registration 8:30a Start Assembly 9:00a

This assembly is vital for all GSRs to attend. Is it open for all to attend? All members in General Service are encouraged to “invite a friend” to this assembly. Many members have found interest in General Service as a result of a simple invite.

Can't I just get a list of actions that passed and share that with my group? Listings of what happened at the general service conference will be available online at Area8aa.org in coming days. Those listings won't describe “why” things didn't pass or what was proposed that didn't pass. All items the San Diego area reviewed will be included in the delegates report at Assembly, along with reasons (to the best of my ability) I felt things passed or didn't. Some expressed their groups are mainly interested in what passed, what didn't, and why. Hence, I will try my best to meet that request.

Is sharing the Delegate's written report as effective as attending the assembly? Something is better than nothing, as they say. My hope is the written report will help those who attend and don't attend to feel like they've been to the conference. Last year I heard from many who were new to an assembly for the first time that being there in person to hear stories of what happened at the conference helped them feel like they were there. Other long time attenders to the assembly shared similar input, however what caught my ear most was the input of “newcomers”.

What Report Formats will be available?

- 1) Written report based on what I “saw, heard, and felt” along with summaries of agenda items that passed, didn't pass, and why.

- 2) The newsletter style bulletin that describes only what some would consider “Key Items of Interest” at the conference. This format was well accepted last year and requested to be brought back for this year.

Can you Report on agenda items first at the assembly so we are sure to have this information for our groups? I have had some requests to do this. Last year we had technical difficulties to start the assembly, and had business items scheduled after the Conference Report so time to discuss agenda items was compressed. I was also new to the job and could have done better to ensure more time was given to agenda items. This year I have time set aside before lunch to describe my experience and the conference. Then **all the time in afternoon is devoted to agenda item outcomes and open sharing from the floor.** I fully understand the intention of the request to move “business first”, however I am also trying to take in to account that many are new to the Conference Process and based on last year’s input from newcomers that hearing personal experience first helped them to better understand the overall process.

International Convention Atlanta, Georgia July 2-5

The International Convention is right around the corner. Flights were available earlier this week ranging \$460-\$480. Lodging is still available in the Atlanta area using the Transit system to attend the convention fairly easily. Go to AA.org and follow the Convention Link on the front page of website.

Urgent Need for Male A.A. Members to Participate in Corrections Correspondence:

This program arranges A.A. member on the outside to correspond with inmates to share A.A. experience, strength, and hope. This is not a pen-pal service and Alcoholics Anonymous does not assign sponsors; however, this process can link you to an outside A.A. member with whom you can share your experience, as it relates to your problems with alcohol, through our Corrections Correspondence Service. Once the inmate has made contact, A.A. member may or may not make a decision to sponsor.

How it works: Inmates request correspondence by completing the bottom portion of the attached letter and mailing it back to GSO.

AA members who wish to correspond with inmates complete the form (AA Brochure F 26) and mails to GSO. These brochures may be available from Central Office and always GSO. They can also be downloaded from the aa.org website.

Please let your districts know I am glad to schedule group or District visits either in a group setting or business meeting setting. Just call me and we can work out the time and date.

Gratefully with Love & Service,

If I can be of help in any way, just call or email. I'm available to visit groups or districts if invited.

Dean B.
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