

January 2018 Orientation Assembly Delegate's Report

Welcome to the first Assembly of the new year and the new panel, Panel 68. I am privileged to serve you as your Delegate to the General Service Conference. If you are not sure exactly what that is, you may want to ask a few questions today. I have come to realize there are many people in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous who have no idea about the scope of a Delegate. Today we can begin to shed light on any myths and misconceptions of what we do here.

Thank you to our host districts for making today possible. Thank you for everyone who got up early this Saturday morning, dressed appropriately, possibly carpooled, and arrived here ready to orientate themselves to the work we are doing. If you are a new GSR, I hope you attended the GSR School this morning. If you did you will be receiving your first star towards becoming a 5 Star GSR. If you want to learn more about that coveted title, please see our Alternate Delegate, Jerry S.

I don't believe there is anything more sobering than a morning spent in the Oncology Department of Balboa Hospital. Yesterday, the first day of intravenous Chemotherapy for my mother, was met with a large measure of trepidation but also a remarkable dose of hope. How can you not venture into unknown territory without hope? I believe hope is the gift of a Higher Power so that we can bear what lies ahead. Once the disappointment of my mother's diagnosis was accepted, I believe hope seeped in incrementally. That hope remains today and fuels me for tomorrow. Martin Luther King Junior said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Today, as we listened to many of our trusted servants reveal the work they do and aspire to do, we can rest assure, our hope is infinite. I imagine this transformative hope is what has sustained Alcoholics Anonymous since it's conception.

The 2018 General Service Conference is upon us. I have been assigned a committee and a Conference Buddy. My Committee is Agenda, and my Conference Buddy is Marjorie from Missouri. I am ready to explore the theme of the conference: "A.A. – A Solution for All Generations," and the topics:

- a. Today's Alcoholic: Inclusion, Not Exclusion
- b. Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?
- c. A.A. Technology: Where Innovation Meets the Traditions
- d. Attraction Not Promotion: A.A.'s Relation to the World
- e. Group Conscience: The Guiding Force

The workshop topic will be "Getting the A.A. Message Out." When the agenda topics are revealed we will look at them from this lens. We will begin our work at PRAASA, March 2-4, and I encourage you to attend. The Reno location makes it affordable so talk to your groups or districts about funding this event. The next week the first of 3 Pre-Conference Workshops are beginning. These are designed to show you how to present

ideas to your group members, so we can gather an informed group conscience related to the topics I mentioned. Please look at the calendar for a Pre-Conference Workshop that suits your location and time. Flyers for all three workshops will be available soon. Remember, this is what you elected me to do and I am adamant about having you be part of this informed group conscience.

Last Sunday the San Diego Union Tribune ran a front-page article entitled *Medical Revelations from "Death Diaries."* The article tells of a San Diego doctor's examination of deaths from drug overdoses which found patients mixing substances, long histories of people hopping from provider to provider, and well-meaning physicians who had no idea what was happening. If there was ever a better time for our committee, Cooperation with the Professional Community to be doing service work, it is now. If you have even a remote desire to contribute to the work we do here in Area 08, please sign up to become a member of one of our committees. Your sobriety will be enriched in ways you never thought possible. I have been a part of CPC, Agenda, Policy, H & I, and IT. I loved the work we did on the IT Committee.

The Regional Forum happens every two years in Region 9, the Pacific Region. This year it is taking place in San Jose, California, Sept. 7-9, 2018. I have been fortunate to attend several regional forums in my years of general service work. Regional Forums originated in 1975. They were to be weekend-long sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to general service throughout the A.A. service structure. As all Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, no formal actions result. Sharing at Forums is captured in Forum Final Reports which are distributed to all attendees. Regional Forums Final Reports are available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Website. Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. Regional Forums and Local Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship. Area 8 will be hosting their own Local Forum this August.

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