

Delegate Report
Area 08 Committee Meeting

1/21/2021

My name is Jerry and I am alcoholic. It is my pleasure and high honor to serve as our San Diego / Imperial Area 08 Delegate to the General Service Conference.

I want to pause and welcome many of you who are new. Welcome!

The message doesn't change much. It might transform a bit or rearrange itself amongst different kinds of conversations and gatherings, but ultimately its a simple message in all phases of our journey in Alcoholics Anonymous and it sounds something like this: "I'm glad you're here. Please, come all the way in and sit all the way down and stay with us for a while. There is so much work to do and we cannot do it without you."

To those of you that are returning, doing the roundabout dance into your second year: Welcome back! Look around and find a new face and please reach out to them... help them... guide them... give back all that you've received over the past year.

Here's a fun fact for you: In the entire history of our fellowship, there has only been one all virtual conference and it was last year and your efforts and support made it possible and a tremendous success at that! You are the single most qualified persons to support the questions: So how do we do a virtual conference? How do we prepare? How do we connect and communicate with one another? You and only you have the special privilege to share intimate experience on exactly how its done. Those of you and all of our worldwide servant leaders that served throughout the past year are breathing rare air here tonight. You are breathing rare air enriched by the experience of carrying our fellowships services through the first ever global pandemic since the inception of our movement. That is something that each of us should measure with a moderate and balanced sense of pride. And from that pride, I pray you recognize both the tremendous value and responsibility that comes as its price. A value by way of your experience and a responsibility to give it all away... you might only have this next year to realize both. Lets make it a great year and when those of us who are poised to rotate at years end, hang up our hats and look back on 2021, lets do so with satisfaction in our hearts that we left things just a little bit better than the way we found them, arm in arm, a small fraternity of friends that made a handful of sacrifices and creative efforts bound by unity in dedication to the fellowship that saved our lives.

And so with that, let me transition to some pressing business at hand:

1. PRAASA is March 5th-7th. Registration is available online and will see us through a tremendous, shared experience as has always been the case. Let's see how many of our GSR's can finally go, participate, and take away what most of us have been enjoying for years. I need volunteers to participate and support the event:
 - a. (2) Presenters
 - b. (3) Moderators
 - c. (1-2) Readers
 - d. (1-2) Timers
 - e. (2-3) Scribes

Please shoot me a private message right now of your availability. By the end of tonight, I will lock in this list and you will be contacted by an event coordinator with your roll and responsibilities.

2. The 71st General Service Conference is well underway! As many of you know I currently serve on both the Conference Committee to the Grapevine and La Vina as well as our Conference Archives Committee. Both committees' have already had preliminary meetings and are already preparing to juggle the weight of our conference load once it is formally presented. Until then, I am both thrilled and terrified to report that as of two weeks ago, the number of agenda items had eclipsed 95 and was well on its way to see itself past 100. Our Alternate Delegate and I will have the initial responsibility to arrange an abbreviated list that can be sincerely managed by the collective voice of our Assembly.

Committee Chairs, I will be leaning on you and your committees to address a variety of questions and preparation efforts attending to the list of conference agenda items. Please get yourselves ready. You might need to coordinate with some of our other committees to manage the conversation and responsibility. For example:

Hey Literature, there are currently 28 agenda items just for you. So maybe a share effort by our Literature, Archives and YPAACC can manage the need.

It will be a lot for some of us. However, I promise my best foot forward to ensure that the effort does not exhaust our GSR's or our groups in any unusual way. I understand that many of our groups are struggling right now. Some are thriving. Either way, we need your collective voice. We need much of that voice carried through our committee's and the race begins February 15th. That is the soft estimated date that the final list will be released with background information coming shortly thereafter.

Please note that all conference related documents will be IMMEDIATELY posted to the Delegates Corner on our Area Website. If you are questioning what information is available, please start your search there. If it is not there, it is most likely NOT available yet.

Please be sure you are familiar with the Delegates Corner and be sure to share this information with your GSR's and Committee members.

I neither want to overstep my time nor overreach with too many demands and expectations and so with that, my report is complete. Are there any questions?