

Delegates Report
San Diego Imperial Alcoholics Anonymous – Budget Assembly 2021

11/13/2021

My name is Jerry, and I am an alcoholic and I love Alcoholics Anonymous. And I am honored to serve as our San Diego – Imperial Area 08 Delegate to the General Service Conference. And this is my final Assembly as your delegate. I am filled with so many feelings and I'll strive to bring them together at the end of my report. However, before that, let's look at some current and important pieces of information.

So, our General Service Board recently hosted its first in-person/hybrid Board weekend since the pandemic began. I have posted our anonymity protected Regional Trustee's Report to the Delegates Corner on our Area website. The report is being translated by one of our Regional Translation Committee's that did not happen to have a service event this weekend. The report will be posted in Spanish ASAP.

Many of our members and groups have been phenomenal in participating in the Carry the Message Project with our Grapevine & La Vina. This project funds subscriptions for members behind the bars. I am excited to report that there were over 2000 requests from the Corrections Desk for subscriptions. Unfortunate, however, there were only 1,200 English subscriptions and 401 Spanish subscriptions available. All went into the service of carrying the message through our meeting in print. But we need more!!! Please, bring this specific need back to your groups and help out!

In the posted Trustee Report, there is a healthy amount of information financial in nature. If that's your fix, please dive in and communicate back any questions/concerns. The rough summary is that just about all things money related is tracking on budget for the year. With one small trending exception: Both contributions and literature sales are slowly dipping these past few months. In order to remain on budget and see ourselves through the year, we need to see an increase in these areas.

Our Reserve Fund balance is \$12.8M which represents 8.5 months of operating expenses (Target is 9-12 months).

Just a friendly update regarding the upcoming 72nd GSC – The Board received 178 submitted proposed agenda items. Let's pray that this number is trimmed down, otherwise, please begin to pray for Monty.

So, I just wanted to read an excerpt from the Sharing Session:

A non-trustee director shared that we've been struggling to make everything just like it was - only on Zoom - but we're feeling disconnected, separate, apart. It's reflected in how many agenda items are from individuals rather than coming through a group conscience -- we're not connected like we used to be. Others agreed and have heard about members wanting to bypass their delegate with agenda items. A trustee-at-large shared that there are similar problems in other parts of the world: members disconnected from their groups, not enough board members or other volunteers. Half the number of members are participating in service. She feels the Conference should talk about finding a way through this, perhaps add a day onto the end of Conference or begin with this issue to set the tone. A general service trustee agreed that we need a reset, a time out. He feels we need time together that isn't structured around arguing about who's right and who's wrong. He would love to just hear from delegates, talk together, start over with the spirituality of why we come together. A G.S.O. employee concurred that because of technology we've lost our tempo and it has thrown us off. We talk about the power of pausing in A.A. and we need to find a way we can pause as a Fellowship. It's an uphill bike ride now but it won't be forever. We just have to keep pedaling, keep practicing.

Final remarks: AA has taught me how to glean purpose through sacrifice, determination through adversity and mostly how to prioritize my truth: I am a 12 Step Practitioner. That is my spirituality and I do not apologize for it.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.