

59th General Service Conference Delegates Report – April 25th to May 2nd 2009

Our commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Actions

First thing again, I want to say thank-you and how humbled I am by the opportunity to serve AA and the NWTX Area. I have truly been blessed by this experience.

The GSC was a lot different for me this year. I went out to NYC on Saturday and returned the following Saturday. I took no extra time to view the sites, especially since we went to "Stepping Stones" last year.

I and my family showed up Saturday around 3 P.M. which gave me a few hours to get ready for our first Delegate's only meeting and orientation. During this time Linda got to attend the 1728 meeting. It is a meeting for the Class A's so they can learn more about our steps, traditions and concepts. For those of you who didn't learn last year, it was named the 1728 meeting because $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$.

This year the Delegate statistics were: Average age-53, Oldest-75, Youngest-33, Average length of sobriety-18, Longest sobriety-36, Shortest sobriety-8, Longest in service-33 and Shortest in service-5.

The Conference this year was made up of 131 voting members, 93 Delegates which comprises 71%, 24 Trustees, AAWS directors and GV directors, comprising 18.3% and 14 GSO and GV Staff making up the remaining 10.7%. "Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views."

I started Sunday out by picking up our Delegate notebooks and meeting and greeting some of the other 132 voting members, including 92 other delegates, 25 GSB, AAWS and GV trustees and directors and 15 members of the GSO and Grapevine staff. This was followed by our first SW Regional luncheon where the eleven delegates of our Region read the qualifications of their candidates for Trustee at Large, US.

After lunch we adjourned to the GSC floor for our Opening session which included Roll Call and Remarks by Leonard Blumenthal, Chairman of the Board and Phyllis H., General Manager. Next up on Sunday was our joint Trustee and Conference committee meeting – mine being literature. It was attended by my eight other Delegate literature committee members and the trustee from the Trustees Literature committee, with myself and Dorothy H. chairing. We discussed the hows and whys of the Agenda items they passed and didn't pass onto my committee. We finished our Sunday with the Opening Dinner and A.A. meeting for all the conference members and their guests.

Due to the length of our Literature Agenda, we had already decided to start early Monday, 8:30 AM and stay late until 12:30 that night to work on our Agenda items. Before we started on the Agenda items, we had to approve the trustees report and review our scope & procedure. After lunch we adjourned to the GSC floor for Panel 59 highlights and GSB, AAWS and GV Board and Trustees Finance Reports, followed by sharing sessions on each. Next was a presentation on Humility and Sacrifice and another general sharing session.

Tuesday brought another early start (8:30 A.M.) for my committee to finish the work on our Agenda items and elections of the 2010 Literature Committee Chair and Co-Chair. After lunch we finished Panel 59 highlights including our Southwest Region and followed by a presentation with discussion on "Enthusiasm and Gratitude." Tuesday concluded with a trip and tour of GSO followed by our second Delegates only meeting and dinner where we selected our 2010 Delegate Chair, Lowell and Alternate Chair, Betsy G. from our Southeast Area in Texas.

Wednesday started at 9 A.M. with a two hour workshop – "Language of the Heart – Keeping it Simple" followed by our second Southwest Regional Luncheon, where we voted on and approved our candidate, Clayton V., a Panel 49 from Missouri, for our Regional Trustee at Large, US candidate.

After lunch we adjourned to the GSC floor to hold third legacy elections for the Southeast Regional Trustee, the East Central Regional Trustee and the Trustee at Large, US – followed by another Presentation – the AA Grapevine. At 7:30 we met back at the GSC floor to start work on our Committee reports, vote on recommendations and ask questions on the additional considerations. We started on Agenda which had 3, Report and Charter with 6 and CFC with 2 (see Advisory Actions Handout) We finished the night at 10 PM. Then our Regional Delegates and Trustee met for Ice Cream at Serendipity.

Thursday started at 9 AM by finishing tabled items for CFC and Report and Charter. Next we went to my Literature committee report where we discussed and voted for six hours on my committee alone. Out of the recommendations from my committee 5 of them passed. PI had 7 pass. In between Committee Reports we had presentations on "Spiritual Program in Action" and the 2010 International Convention. We worked on the PI, CPC and the Treatment committee reports until 11 PM.

Friday morning started at 8 AM with a presentation on the 20th AA World Service Meeting, followed by a very, very, very long day of Committee reports with the committees having the following number of advisory actions: CPC – 1, TF – 2, Policy & Admissions – 7, Archives – None, Trustees – 5, Finance – 2, Grapevine – None, International Convention – 2 and eight floor actions. The night ended at 2:30 AM. We concluded the Friday night (Saturday morning) session with the Serenity Prayer in three languages, French, Spanish and English.

Saturday morning started at 7:30 with closing talks by our Rotating Trustees, Two Class A's including Leonard, our Chairman of the Board, two General Service Trustees, Two Regional Trustees and Dorothy W., the Trustee at Large, US.

I thank-you again, for the chance to serve you and am available to give my Delegates report at any of your Group, District or AA functions.

Leon R.
Panel 58, Area 66 Delegate