

Delegate Report
May 1, 2005
Houghton Lake, MI.

Hello everyone and welcome. It's good to be here and thanks to district 26 for hosting today.

We've just returned from attending the 55th General Service Conference in New York City. What a great experience to be a part of. I shall never be able to repay AA for all the wonderful experiences that have been afforded me in doing service work for our fellowship.

We arrived in NY on Friday after a little incident on our plane, forced us and our fellow passengers to be detained shortly at JFK airport. After gathering our luggage thanks to the good advice from Dennis and Ron we took a yellow cab into the City. Liz and I had gone out a day early in order to see a Broadway play. When we returned from the play there was a message from my conference buddy Randy M, a panel 54 delegate, to call him and set up a time to meet for breakfast. We met on Saturday morning and he took me to the same place his conference buddy had taken him to last year.

Later in the day the NY Intergroup put on a hospitality reception for us to meet & greet the delegates. Group 1728 held an open meeting where AA members shared our experiences on the 5th step with class A trustees (non-Alcoholics)

On Sunday I attended the remote communities meeting and after listening to some of their reports I have a new respect for the delegates serving in these remote areas. Some have to communicate with 50 different languages in their area, some areas cover 2300 by 1100 miles; One travels to the North Pole a 250-mile trip.

When the conference opened and we answered roll call some one said "You are now a seated delegate" Wow what a feeling I had.

New York, April 23,2005- Under the theme "Basics of Our Home Group-Recovery, Unity and Service" the 136 Conference members (delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada, trustees of the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine directors and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff) of A.A.'s 55th General Service Conference met at the Crowne Plaza Times Square, April 17-23.

Delegate chairperson Jimmy Jack B. of Kansas speaking Sunday afternoon said "We are really the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. We need not forget the group conscience of our areas, but you may set those views aside long enough to listen like you have no opinion. It allows me to levitate above the heat of the debate and get a better look at Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. We will see spiritual principles in action and experience the unity of the Conference"

This years conference was chaired by Greg M, G.S.O.'s general manager; Elaine McD., Ph.D. (nonalcoholic) chair of the board; Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee Leonard B., and Jimmy Jack B., delegate chairperson. Eva S, G.S.O. staff was conference coordinator.

Sunday evening Conference members and their guests gathered for the opening dinner, an open A.A. meeting followed.

Spaced throughout the week were reports, workshops, area highlights, Whats on You Mind? Sharing sessions, and presentations. My day started early and it was late night before I returned to my room. Members of the New York City Intergroup entertained Liz and the other guests accompanying them to various places of interest around the City

On Monday the committee members met to go over the agenda items that would come before this year's full conference for approval or disapproval. I am assigned to the Grapevine committee we met

Sunday afternoon with the corporate board of the Grapevine and the Grapevine Committee. Since the Grapevine and La Viña are not conference approved we made recommendations to be brought to the conference floor this was finished on Monday morning .On Tuesday we met and elected new officers for next years GV committee, Naomi Z from Texas is chair, Fran BG from Canada is cochair., We had long discussions on our views on the Grapevine and La Viña throughout the day. On Wednesday we went to the conference floor to present recommendation to the full body where there was a lot of passionate discussion about Grapevine and La Viña material and writings. One committee was on the floor for over 5 hours debating their recommendations.

Wednesday afternoon trustee elections were held. The new Southeast trustee, replacing Dick G will be Howard L of Columbia Mississippi; East Central regional Dorothy M. will be followed by Bob M of Ontonagon, Michigan, and the trustee-at-large/U.S. will be Dorothy W. of Indianapolis filling the spot previously held by Charlie B. New general service trustees are Paul C, Oceanside Calif who will be a director on the A.A.W.S.Board and Ray M of Western Canada on the Grapevine Board.

Also rotating at the end of conference was Elaine McD. who served the General Service Board well since 1992 and as board chair from 2001.Assuming the responsibilities of chairman of the board is Leonard B., L.L.D.of Alberta, Canada, who has served as Class A trustee since 2000.Taking Leonards place on the board will be new Call A trustee Jeanne W. of Benica, California. Delegate chairperson for the 2006 General Service will be Mike S, North Florida; alternate chairperson will be Joyce P., Nevada.

Saturday morning Conference members gathered for the last time at the closing brunch with farewell talks by the rotating trustees. I want to thank our East Central Region rotating trustee Dorothy M. for all her hard work and leadership she has done these past years. I hope she knows how much we truly appreciate her.

Liz and I said our goodbyes to all the new friends we met in New York, took a ride to Central Park and headed to the airport and home.

I want to thank our alternate delegate Larry S. for filling in for me at the Statewide meeting and for all the help he has given me. We talk on a weekly basis.

Dates to Remember

Al-Anon State Convention	May 13-15	Midland, Mi.
International Convention	June 30-July 3	Toronto, Ontario, CA
53rd Mi. State Convention	Aug. 26-28	Mt. Pleasant, Mi.

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