

Delegate's Corner: June 2024

For the next few months, I will be visiting districts (and occasionally groups) in our Area to share what happened at the General Service Conference this year. Being a link in the chain of communication is one of my biggest responsibilities to the Area. It's how I keep the Conference accountable to our ultimate authority, the group conscience.

So I look forward to sharing with you what happened, how it happened, and why it happened... and what comes next. It's an incredible privilege to serve in this capacity. Thank you for entrusting me. It's a time-consuming and sometimes exhausting endeavor; it is also one of the greatest joys of my life.

Near the tail end of my drinking, I was banned from nearly every bar in the Castro in San Francisco. It's stunning (and a testament to the power of AA) that nearly 15 years later, I am now being welcomed into your communities to share how we will collectively help alcoholics (like that drunk version of me hysterically crying outside of Badlands because the bouncer wouldn't let me in) in the future.

As a Fellowship, we made some big decisions at the Conference this year; we did it collectively, and we now have an opportunity to trust in our collective Higher Powers as we move forward. While I know some people are afraid of what might happen next, I learned to have faith in the process. So let's trust that the Conference helps facilitate Twelfth Step work by making sure our message is accessible. But the day-to-day service work happening at home groups around the world is what keeps our Fellowship thriving.

Please thank the person who arrived early and unlocked the meeting room today and the greeter who remembered that newcomer's name. Thank the speaker, the readers who provide structure to each meeting, the treasurer who's paying the bills on time (something I never managed to do while drunk). We will keep extending our hands out, willing to help a stumbling drunk find the fellowship of the spirit.

The work we do in General Service is meant to facilitate that work. We are in service to you. You are the front lines of service, and I am just a link in a chain letting you know how AA is doing everywhere else.

Yours in service,
Eric Lee, Panel 73 Delegate