

Delegate's Corner: July 2024

As I continue to share the story of the 74th General Service Conference – my primary responsibilities as Delegate are to attend the Conference and to report back what happened – I am reflecting a lot on what my two-year journey meant to me.

My first Conference, last year, thematically focused inward – mostly on the controversies regarding the Board chair's resignation and the distrust that followed. There were continuing concerns about money (and how we spend it, and whether we spend it effectively), and we reviewed the Plain Language Big Book – but it wasn't ready for publication.

This year, we took some more notable actions. We approved the publication of the Plain Language Big Book, and we approved the development of pamphlets to ensure that everyone approaching AA feels welcomed in our rooms. I'm aware that not everyone is happy with every action that the Conference takes – and that's OK.

We don't have to like everything about AA to love what AA did for us – and what it can do for others.

I know that AA will continue to flourish because the essential parts of AA – one alcoholic, helping another, guiding them through the literature and the steps, won't change. Alcoholics will continue getting to meetings early, setting up the chairs, making the coffee, greeting the newcomers. We will still celebrate 30-day milestones, and we will still all privately prepare what we'll say if we get asked to speak.

But AA will also flourish because I learned over the past two years to trust the process. It's hard to trust sometimes – Steps Two and Three were some of the hardest for me. But the process this year worked – our collective group conscience really does reflect our Higher Power. Last year, we focused inward – a Step 10, almost – and this year, the Conference focused on carrying the message out – Step 12.

I'm grateful I got two so-very-different years.

Yours in service,
Eric Lee, Panel 73 Delegate