

Delegates Report Post Conference Assembly Area 69

May 18, 2013

Provo, Utah

I would like to start by saying thank you for the honor of being the Delegate for Area 69. My General Service Conference experience began when I saw Rod B. (Pacific Region Trustee) at the gate for the flight to New York City. Rod was at the first AA meeting that I attended (December 26, 1987); in other words Rod has been a part of my sobriety since the beginning. I am grateful that he was a part of my General Service Conference experience. I could not have asked for a better person to guide me when I was confused or simply too tired to understand what was going on.

Rod and I went to a dinner party the same day that we arrive in New York City. For us, getting a taxi was not as easy as I had seen on TV.

The hostess answered the door and I felt welcome from the beginning. I felt very comfortable my first evening in New York City which I contribute to the guests at the dinner party. Several of the guests that I met that evening also attended the General Service Conference so when the conference started I already knew some of the delegates.

The conference started that Sunday, 21 April 2013 with the opening session. What a wonderful opportunity to be a part of AA service. However, my expectation for the conference was very high, which turned out to be about my ego rather than being of service at the conference. By Tuesday, 23 April 2013, I hit a wall; focusing on what was going on became difficult for me. But, this was my opportunity to grow and I did.

During the committee report backs, I saw how an informed group conscience works. Words like floor action, friendly amendment, amendment, additional committee consideration, motion failed, reconsider, motion passed became action verbs for the conference language that I was learning. At this point I began to enjoy the conference experience. Also, there was an AA meeting every morning before the start of the conference. Going to this meeting everyday help me to prepare for the long days and mountain of information that given out daily.

Everyone should have received a copy of the Agenda Items with the action that was taken by the conference. We decided to focus on 10 agenda items but before we discuss those items I would like to talk about some hot topics at the conference.

Here are two examples:

1. The Trustee Committee did not support the proposed plan for interlocking directorate therefore the committee took no action. This motion came back as a floor action, which is

someone saying I believe we should continue to discuss this motion and maybe vote it in. I learned that floor actions need to be accepted by the conference members before it will be discussed and voted on. The conference members voted not to discuss the floor action. I believe an informed group conscience was made and the outcome was the correct one.

2. The archive committee recommended that a commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of the first edition, first printing of Alcoholics Anonymous be published in April 2014. The motion failed and the minority opinion was heard. The conference members voted to reconsider the motion and the reconsider passed. The motion was discussed again. This time after the discussions the motion passed.

The most surprising thing about the conference was the inventory. I thought that I would not have had to add or learn from the inventory because I was not familiar with the conference process. But I learn a lot by asking a lot of questions.

Only 42 percent of the groups contribute. Would like AA to be self supporting through contribution. A lot of discussions about not depending on literature sales.