

2015 FALL COMMITTEE MEETING
DELEGATE'S REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

The 2014 Conference Reports have arrived! I admit freely that I looked at the pictures first. Yes, there are pictures in our report. I then took a moment to read the keynote address, delivered by J. Gary L., Northeast regional trustee. It was something that moved me at the Conference. I would encourage all to read it as it hits on several current and relevant topics. It was also interesting for me to read the report section on the Inventory questions from this year. In particular those questions that I participated and reported on. To see interspersed in the writing the various comments that came out of my group and how they were written so as to flow with all the other comments was humbling.

If this is your first look at a Conference Report, don't get so overwhelmed you put it down and never pick it up again. While there may be a few of us who read the Big Book cover to cover the first time we picked it up, probably most of us didn't. Read a little at a time. Look over the contents and pick something that sounds interesting. Was there a particular agenda item that interests you? Try looking in the Advisory Actions to see if anything came out of it.

It's rotation time for some of the Districts. If you are having elections in your Districts, please make sure you get updated information to Dawn for Fellowship New Vision (FNV) so that everyone is on the mailing list after the first of the year for the General Service Office (GSO) and the Area. I'd like to suggest that new DCMs and their Alternate's get Kelly, Robert & Marilyn your e-mail addresses as soon as they are elected to so I can get them on their lists right away. I'm guessing they would be happy to start including you now in communication also.

Speaking of rotation, I'm getting lots of e-mails from all the Areas that are rotating. What a pleasure to be able to reach out to newly elected Delegates and welcome them to this adventure. I was so amazed at the number of Delegates who reached out to me when I was elected. This year of course it is bittersweet. I got the wonderful chance of introducing Kelly & Robert to the Panel 64 & 65 Delegates. This communication went out as soon as I was home. I also updated the General Service Office (GSO) with all the election information on Monday morning as soon as I could scan it to send. This will allow our newly elected trusted servants to start getting communications.

I had an interesting opportunity to participate in "Donuts with the Delegate" hosted by Dean B. from Area 8, San Diego/Imperial California. Dean arranged for the meeting to have conference call capabilities, and then got three of us to call in to the meeting. This allowed the people attending to here from myself, Bruce D. from Alaska, and Mary Clare L. staff member from the General Service Office (GSO). While it was not his intention, all three of us served on the Literature Committee. It was great to hear the other two talk about things that had slipped my mind in the few short months since the Conference.

I initiated in a Delegate's Sharing request regarding workshops and expenses. This was in light of some discussion we have had here in NIA about the same. I specifically asked these questions:

1. When it comes to workshops, what does the Area pay for? (rent, coffee, literature, etc.)
2. If it's an all day workshop, does the Area cover the cost of lunch? Or is that paid for by attendees?

3. Does your Area distinguish between an Area sponsored workshop and one sponsored by a District? If so, how? In the event of this distinction, does the Area provide any funding?

4. And finally, if an Area trusted servant attends a District workshop, what expenses are reimbursed?

As is usually the case, most of the answers were quite diverse. I found it interesting that a number of the Areas do not hold workshops outside of their regular Area events. These Areas also have multiple day events, similar to our combined Spring Assembly and Conference. A number of the response included mention of potluck meals, the majority responded that attendees either pay for their meals in a manner like we do at our Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings, or they are completely on their own. Those that do not as the attendees pay specifically for the food pass the baskets, sometimes more than once until enough money has been collected to cover the costs.

Upcoming Events

The NIA Big Book Conference is on the horizon. Scheduled for next Saturday, October 24th in Palatine, it will be hosted by District 21. One of the things that many of us are guilty of is waiting to register and not planning in advance. This makes it very stressful on the planning committees. They cannot guess how many people will attend. While “paying at the door” may seem easier for you, please consider that this committees need to place orders for food based on what they guess will just show up. If you arrive late, you may not be able to buy lunch. And if we don’t get enough people attending and buying lunch, we may not be fully self-supporting.

The East Central Regional Forum will be held November 13-14 in Milwaukee. This is your chance to meet members of the General Service Office staff and General Service Board. It's also your opportunity to ask questions. This is one place where it doesn't matter if you are at the top of our inverted service triangle or down closer to the bottom where I currently sit. Any AA member can go to the microphone and say what they're thinking. Online registration for all of the 2015 Regional Forums is available at www.aa.org where the Regional Forum Flyers and Registration Forms can also be viewed and printed.

Planning is underway for the 2016 Panel 66 General Service Conference. They are looking for suggestions to list as potential ideas for the theme, presentation topics, and sharing sessions. I will forward out this memo to the Area Committee. These are needed by December 15th. I'd like to suggest that perhaps any District interested in participating add this to their agenda and give their GSRs the chance to participate in a small way with the conference. It appears that you can send your suggests in yourself, although if you wish to have me forward them I will be happy to.

We will be hosting the Illinois State Conference and East Central Regional Conference in August. I'm sure Carl will be having a report. Please consider volunteering to help plan.



Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.
NIA 20 Panel 64 Delegate
Literature Committee