

Delegate's Report  
Summer Committee  
May 14, 2016

Hello Area 20 Members

I did attend the 2016 General Service Conference April 17 – 23, 2016 at the Crown Plaza in New York, New York, a few blocks from Times Square.

I arrived in New York one day early so I could take advantage of the trip to Stepping Stones Saturday morning that was put together by the General Service Conference.

Everything was fairly expensive there; it was more expensive than Hawaii. I got to the Hotel Friday late afternoon after learning the how and where to get a taxi. I was warned by a few of the panel 65 delegates about how anyone who touches your luggage expects a tip. As soon as we got out of the taxi cab a porter asked if he could help us with our luggage and just about grabbed all our bags. He walked them about five feet to a holding place until we checked in, tip. Then after checking in we had to wait for someone to bring the luggage up to room, over a half hour, tip. Finally getting unpacked walked around outside to look for a place to get dinner. Then we walked around and went into a few stores; M&Ms, Hershey's and then the Disney store. Most of the stores were three stories as were a few of the Restaurants. We spent a lot of time walking around Times Square later in the evening. I was exhausted and wanted to get some rest to be prepared for the morning trip to Stepping Stones, so I didn't go too much further than Times Square.

We had breakfast in the Hotel the first morning and ended up at different delis the rest of the week. The ride to Stepping Stones took about two hours; there were four buses and we had a small break on the way to wait for all the busses to get together. The fellowship on the ride was great. Just as I have heard many times, sometimes the fellowship before and after the meeting can be better than the actual meeting. I can't believe how emotional I was being in Bill and Lois' house. It was like I was being included to the history of Bill and Lois. It defiantly kept me in check of why I was at the Conference and what my responsibility was; to continue to help the still suffering alcoholic and to help Alcoholics Anonymous to thrive and grow.

On Saturday after returning from the Stepping Stones trip I attended the tail end of the Hospitality for Conference members, where Delegate got a chance to meet and greet and share mementos representing their area; some pins, pens, and bookmarks. This was also done the next couple of days since either they didn't have them with them or just didn't meet everyone. I then went to the 1728 Meetings (12x12x12) then the Remote Communities meeting. Both meetings were great and I was able to share in the Remote Communities meeting some of my

experience with our Spanish districts. When they say “Remote” they mean remote in several different ways. Then I finished the night at the Delegates only meeting which ended at 9:30 pm

In between meetings we went searching for a place for dinner. I met up with a few other delegates and their guest and headed to Olive Gardner due to the limited time we had. They actually added the gratitude on the check, and all we had was soup and salad. The rest of the week Sunday through Saturday the lunches and dinners were included in the conference except for Friday night dinner.

I attended and listened to eight different Panel 66 Area Highlights, nine different presentations/ discussions that were presented by the panel 65 Delegates and a Feasibility report. There was some Board Reports; General Service Board, A.A.W.S. Board, A.A. Grapevine Inc. Power Point presentations included the Grapevine/LaVina and Finance and many hours of committee reports and discussion (agenda items). I will get into more of those topics at the Summer Assembly Post –GSC Delegates report on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to leaving I had some requests from Districts to share about the conference. I attended District 11 on Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be talking at the Alano Club of Waukegan meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and District 40 May 27<sup>th</sup>. I was also asked before I left to share at the 34<sup>th</sup> State of Illinois Hispanic A.A. Convention on May 28<sup>th</sup>. I was told that this is a tradition that the Delegates from Area 19, Chicago and Area 20 present a 15 minute talk about the General Service Conference. It might be useless to talk longer than they want me to since there will be a translator. On June 1<sup>st</sup> I will be presenting at the 12 steps, 12 traditions, 12 concepts and more meeting in Elgin, and then District 22 on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Then for a while my calendar is open until August 19 at which time I will be sharing at District 73.

Thank you all who have asked me to share at your districts and meetings. I would like to thank everyone that e-mailed and texted me while I was in New York.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L.  
Delegate  
Panel 66/NIA 20  
Grapevine Committee