

March 8, 2013

## **REPORT OF THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE**

Greetings and salutations to everyone!

And welcome to the 2013 Spring Conference and Assembly. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year that we have had a joint Assembly and Spring Conference. This has been done on a “trial basis” for those 4 years. There is currently an ad-hoc committee that is working on the Procedures for the planning of this conference since last year. I’ve been lucky enough to be on this committee, and it has proved to be challenging. We have taken the perspective that it isn’t broke, so it doesn’t need to be fixed, but that we want to enhance what we already have.

A historic perspective on this effort is that there are Areas in the US that have 60% or more participation of Groups when they have a joint event of conference and Assembly. Compared to our experience where we would consider ourselves lucky if we had 10% participation. NIA 20 has over 1100 registered groups. A 10% group participation would mean we had over 100 GSRs attend. Additionally, with 25 Districts and 13 break-out meetings for committees (including secretaries and treasures) we should have people attend for that. If we were to shoot for a 50% participation of groups and Districts, we would grow to the point where we had roughly 500-600 people at an Assembly. A worthy goal.

The Service Structure VII committee hopes to have a draft ready for your review at the Spring Committee Meeting, for a vote at the Summer Assembly. Of course, we also have a hope that there is someone here today that is interested in hosting the 2014 Conference. To perhaps allay some questions, we haven’t changed much. In fact, most of our work has been to clarify who does what and when so that we can define how to open up the opportunity for service committees to do some additional outreach. The hope is that we give AA members the opportunity to see how they might carry the message of AA in line with some of the General Service Committees such as CPC, PI, Treatment and Corrections. And how might we address AA members with special needs, or help groups understand where their dollar goes, and why it doesn’t go as far any longer.

Work has begun on the General Service Conference. All DCMs and their Alternates were sent copies of the full agenda, along with a disc of the background information. These items were also sent to all Area Service Committee Chairs and their Alternates. Past Delegates should have received their information from Rich directly. A total of 73 envelopes were mailed out by my loving husband for me.

The Workshop this year will again be a stand-alone event. Our NIA Service Handbook shows who hosts which break-out meeting, but I am attaching the list below to start familiarizing you with which committees discuss which topics. GSRs are able to choose between the Agenda break-out of to go to the meeting that their Group has the most interest in.

| <b>Conference Committee</b>                 | <b>Area Service Committee</b> | <b>Chairperson</b>       |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agenda                                      | GSR's                         | Alt. Chairperson         |
| C.P.C.                                      | C.P.C.                        | C.P.C. Chair             |
| Corrections                                 | Corrections                   | Corrections Chair        |
| Finance                                     | Treasurer                     | Treasurer                |
| Grapevine                                   | Grapevine                     | Grapevine Chair          |
| Literature                                  | Literature, Concepts          | Literature Chair         |
| Policy/Admission                            | Secretary, Registrar          | Secretary                |
| Public Information                          | Public Information            | Public Information Chair |
| Treatment                                   | Treatment & Special Needs     | Treatment Chair          |
| Report & Charter                            | D.C.M.'s                      | Alternate Delegate       |
| Trustees                                    | Past Delegates                | A Past Delegates         |
| International Conventions & Regional Forums | Answering Service             | Answering Service Chair  |
| Archives                                    | Archives                      | Archives Chair           |

The event this year will be hosted by Districts 90 & 91. The location is Bethel Baptist Church, Galesburg. I understand that Ed has some hotel options if people would like to come down Friday night. For myself, I plan on doing this. If you will also, we will find a way to plan on having dinner together for those of us arriving early enough to do so. Please let me know, and I'll work with someone in Galesburg to coordinate.

Registration begins at 8am, and the meeting will start at 9am. Remember, everyone who has an interest is encouraged to attend and participate. We don't want to send Rich off to New York without telling him what we think ;-)

Speaking of Rich going to New York, he's definitely going to be busy this year! I've now had a chance to see the schedule for the week, and it's rigorous. This year's conference includes the start of a three year process to take an inventory. There will be break-outs that cover specific questions, along with the normal committee meetings and discussion of agenda topics. Best of luck Rich!

Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.  
NIA Alternate Delegate  
Panel 62 / Area 20