

DELEGATE REPORT WINTER COMMITTEE JANUARY 26th, 2013

Hello Committee

Welcome to newly rotating DCMs, and the newly elected Standing Committee Members. I find myself getting geared up for the 63rd General Service Conference in April. Talking to other Delegates including the other Delegates making up the Conference Grapevine Committee. Also to a couple staff members asking some questions regarding the Preliminary Agenda. All second year Delegates are paired up with a first year Delegate as a Buddy System, to feel a part of the Conference and share some experience. Last year the Area 1 Delegate, Alabama never did contact me. I wasn't bothered by this since I was actually pretty prepared and new a number of people there. I did contact my buddy Linda, Area 44 Northern New Jersey. I knew the Delegate before her and a few people she knows from the Northeast Region. We get along good and look forward to meeting.

I'm sure a lot of you do not already have the April 13th, Pre-General Service Conference Workshop foremost on your minds right now, but I have been looking at Board Reports, thinking about our Area Committees, and having that day to share our combined thoughts and information with each other. And getting Agendas and Background Information to Cheryl on a timely basis so that you all have the time to read, share and discuss. Which also hopefully includes us talking to you individuals, Groups and Districts, prior to the Conference. And I hope to be fortunate enough to share with as many of you as I did last year with Post-Delegate Reporting.

At the Conference, along with the work in Committee and voting on recommendations, there is other work through the week. And I was asked to do a presentation on Sunday afternoon "Self-Support- What does it Mean to the Fellowship?" I am excited to participate, and to be selected as one of four Delegates doing Presentations. We will also be dividing into Groups to talk about and answer groups of five inventory questions each. One of our Group's questions is "What more can be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship?" I am looking forward to this especially since four years ago now, I had no real intention of standing as Alternate Delegate and Delegate, but what I saw as lack of true attempt at true transparency by some Board Members and some Conference Members, I made this decision to try to make a difference. I have gotten a lot of positive feedback in regards as to my efforts to keep all of you as informed as possible throughout the year. I will get more detailed

on that during the Spring Committee Meeting and Summer Assembly, when I will be asking all of you to look inside yourselves and ask, what it is that you are willing to do to guarantee the future of Alcoholics Anonymous?

In three weeks, February 15-17 some of us will be in LaPorte, Indiana, for the Conference of Delegates Past and Present. Though the title doesn't sound very inviting for all, all AA members are welcome to attend. And next year Area 20 will be hosting this Conference. I have been invited to bring a panel to the East Central Regional Conference in Appleton Wisconsin, July 19-21. We will discuss a motion today that I hope will be presented at the Spring Assembly March 9th in Rockford. On February 9th, myself and a couple others will be in Rockford for a "District 70 Website Workshop and a Forum on AA and It's Future." On December 20th, two others from my Home Group, The Hope Factory in Crystal Lake, and myself were the three speakers at the Pacific Group in Chicago. And today January 24th, (as I write this) I was in Rock Falls With Corrections Chairperson Bill W. and three District 12 Correction Volunteers, meeting up with local volunteer, Alternate Grapevine Chair Wally L., and a friend, for the Summit of Hope, which I am sure will be reported on. I am still a Corrections Volunteer at the McHenry County Jail, and I thoroughly enjoyed today, talking to other volunteers and parolees and men and women on probation, about Alcoholics Anonymous and recovery from alcoholism.

STILL WHERE MY HEART IS AT IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

THANK YOU

Rich

Rich H.

Panel 62/Area 20

Delegate

Northern Illinois