

Delegates Corner
January 2017

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Panel 67, especially if you are new to General Service. The theme for the 2017 General Service Conference is "Supporting our Future." All of you are already supporting our future by your commitment and your time serving the fellowship for the next two years. The outlook of Alcoholics Anonymous would not happen if it were not for the dedicated trusted servants like you who work long hours to care for our service structure and our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. When people ask me why we need General Service, I like to say it helps us do our 12 step work.

We have some interesting presentation and discussion topics this year's conference: Growth, Participation and Contributions. The Feasibility Study last year looked hard at these same three areas. And interestingly, the General Service Board came out last February with a "Strategic Plan" which actually has some action items that address these topics. I say interestingly because the Strategic Plan and the Feasibility Study were parallel yet independent of each other, but after reading them, I thought they complimented each other. I guess it's just the way we think in A.A. You take an inventory, and then look for amends or corrective measures or actions to take.

I hope that the new General Service Representatives for this panel will bring some of these discussion topics to their home groups. In my home group, we call this "courageous conversations" which start with a group inventory, then discussion on how we can carry out a corrective plan. They tell me action is the magic word. Recovery happens with action. Action is the key that will open the door to a brighter future for Alcoholics Anonymous. I applaud all of you for taking action to be a part of General Service.

It will be my honor and privilege to meet with you, talk with you and serve you as the delegate to the 2017 General Service Conference. Together we will care for A.A.

With deep gratitude,
Joann L.
Delegate
Panel 67