

## **Delegate's Corner**

### **June 2018**

The 68<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference came to a close on April 27<sup>th</sup>. I have returned home and started the journey of telling the story of what happened to all of the districts in the California Northern Coastal Area. This should keep me busy until the Election Assembly in November. One of the things that I find hard to keep up with is the questions that I did not answer during my Delegate's Reports. For this I need your help. If I promised you an answer and I did not follow up with you, please remind me of your question in an email. I have a tendency to write notes while I am speaking on whatever paper is close to me, then I lose track of all these pieces of paper. In fact I just found one this morning. So I need help here. I want to answer your questions.

I know how important it is to get the information about the conference out to the fellowship. Try as we may, communication is not always perfect. But one of the beautiful things about our way of life is when we make a mistake we can promptly admit it and make amends and move on. This has been the greatest gift I have received from service. I am not expected to be perfect. I can be myself, so wonderfully flawed by the disease of alcoholism, and still be accepted because there is a 10<sup>th</sup> step. I can clean up the messes I make as I go along. But as with everything else in Alcoholics Anonymous, I have learned that I don't do this alone. I need those who point out my failings, whether lovingly or not so lovingly, and I get the opportunity to look and see if there is any truth to them. As Bill points out in the Service Manual, if there is even a little bit of truth to it, we say thank you, correct the error and move on. Yes, we say thank you to our critics. That is the second blessing to this. I don't have to fear what people think of me. If there is truth to it, I can grow from it. If there is no truth to it, I do not have to be offended. But I always hope I will be open to looking. I pray to keep an open mind and an open heart.

I woke up Tuesday morning and noticed I had a less than loving attitude that day. When I had a few minutes of quiet time to examine that attitude, I found that I had a fixed idea of what I thought was happening and I would have proceeded with that fixed idea had I not been uncomfortable to begin with. My discomfort comes when I have a less than loving attitude towards others. That just doesn't sit well any more. The answer was to open my mind to other possibilities, to see things from another perspective. Thank you, General Service, for this wonderful gift. Thank you for this wonderful experience of service.

Thank you for letting me be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous,  
Joann L.  
Panel 67 CNCA 06 Delegate