

I am grateful to a past delegate, current delegate, former area officer and my service sponsor for helping me create this report. Just as in my sobriety, I don’t “do this” alone. I can’t do it alone and I don’t want to.

I first want to say that I have been and am being trained to view all of our actions in Alcoholics Anonymous as spiritual practice and growth. Wearing the glasses of “spiritual experience” helps me in my study of the Service Manual, Steps and Tradition to see and use the spiritual principles our society is founded on.

Our A.A. Service Manual actually directs us to inform our groups. On page S59, it notes that even most productive General Service Conference sessions are of little value unless the groups back home hear about it. So that’s where the Delegate’s report can come in handy.

We know our Delegate’s dance card is quickly filling with dates she will report back to individual districts. It’s incumbent on General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs) and District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs) to receive this valuable information and share it with the groups. This sharing completes a circle of communication of group consciences to the Delegate to the Conference and back again to the members. In its healthiest state, this communication flow is consistent and strong, just as with a running river.

Action and Information Flow of the Energy Driving AA as a “Spiritual Corporation”



Our change process is a year-long affair which always begins with the member and the group, so it become our responsibility as trusted servants to take back “The News” of what happens at the General Service Conference.

Part of my job of fulfilling Concept 9’s lofty goal to be a “good service leader” is to examine how seriously I am willing to commit the time and effort to inform and educate our GSRs, groups and members. Recall that Concept 9 states “good service leaders” are at all levels *indispensable for our future functioning and safety*. Talk about responsibility! We also have the responsibility to study and digest the information from the General

Service Conference to pass on the love, passion and vision, which are the antidotes to the apathy of members and groups we witness and hear about.

This commitment I am speaking about is a personal service commitment to do “better and higher quality” Twelve Step work so that more lives can be saved – the core spiritual value of Step 12.

Informed members and groups are at the core of AA's future growth. Our responsibility is often challenging due to apathy and a wariness of general service that gets translated by members as “mumbo jumbo” and “politics.” It's my opinion that it's MY job to apply my excitement and love for AA by taking the time to truly study and interpret the conference actions and be able to see the vision and passion for future AA that is striving to be kindled through them.

As our past Pacific Trustee Joel C. has always said, it's our duty to ask ourselves if this action will help the suffering drunk when s/he finds us. It's my experience that if I keep the news interesting and applicable to the group, members become a little bit more interested in what's happening in General Service.

In my experience, it's also helpful to keep your reports short, uplifting and fun, if you can manage it. And, as our delegate told me, “always let the group know that THIS is where your Seventh Tradition is going” – to fuel our primary purpose.

So, what's the methodology we can use to responsibly inform and inspire our GSRs and groups? Here are a couple of ideas that were transmitted to me:



- Purchase the delegate's CD (or ask her for her report in PDF form). Take notes. Find the nuggets and present them to the groups a few bits at a time. There were 13 Literature Committee actions alone listed in the delegate's report. If you announced two a week at your meeting, that would take you into July!
- When you are presenting this information, try to tie it to the spiritual concepts embedded in our Traditions: Tradition 1 re: our common welfare, Tradition 2 re: leaders as trusted servants, Tradition 5 re: our primary purpose (spiritual concepts of unity, trust, service, understanding, compassion, etc.)
- Let the groups know you'll be feeding them General Service Conference news all summer
- When the Final Conference Report is issued (late summer or August – it's both in print and digitally - create a plan to delegate to GSRs and DCMs to read through a specific talk, presentation or report and present on it and how they relate it to their group, district or AA as a whole. Have them report back to the District or Sub-District. From that report and discussion, GSRs are equipped to share with their groups in a focused -and hopefully fun and meaningful - way. These reports may also start sharing conversations which could turn into workshops or other topics. [I've included a list of the topic in the conference report]

- Use the statistics in the report to create a call for member responsibility. For instance, last year there was a grassroots effort where districts jumped on the “cost per member” information in the financial report and used it to motivate contributions to A.A. World Service. Last year we asked for \$7.27 on July 27 and this year we'll ask for individual donations of \$7.40 on July 4, in celebration of our independence from alcoholism [I've included an example]
- Use the 2019 conference theme as a topic for District or Sub-District meeting. 2019: “Our Big Book - 80 years, 71 Languages”
- As the year winds down and it's time for another panel, begin conversations on Pass-It-Ons. What makes a great Pass-It-on? How can we best orient our replacements? Use November and December for these conversations.

I hope this report will help you in being a responsible trusted servant. Thanks for letting me be of service!

Jacqueline P.

District 10 DCM, SD 03

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The **Final Conference Report** as a News Information Source

The General Service Conference business is truly focused on the work of the 13 conference committees, which will yield a rich vein of information to share with groups. Here are the major sections of the Final Report:

1. Greetings
2. Keynote address – GSRs can read and report back what they related to and what was meaningful to them
3. Advisory Actions – could prompt some interesting reports such as, what IS a floor action?!
4. Presentations – have a GSR report on one and if they have questions or comments, call the staff member, delegate or former delegate and have a conversation
5. Reports from the General Service Board, A.A.W.S., and Grapevine Corporate Boards
6. Literature
7. Trustees Committees & Staff Reports
8. GSO Department Reports
9. Area Service Highlights (Did you know that CNCA06 has the potential of 1551 DCM's?) Additional Committee Considerations, which include Recommendations and Floor Actions Not Resulting in Conference Advisory Actions
10. Financial Statements & Report of the Independent Auditor
11. Budgets & Budget Highlights
12. 2018 Conference Members & New Elected Trustees & Directors