

Delegate's Corner

July 2018

Sobriety has taught me to express my concerns. Al-Anon has taught me to say it once, then turn my focus away from others and put it back on myself. What am I doing to contribute to the solution, not the problem? I have now done 6 Delegate reports, which means I have expressed my concerns about the secret facebook groups 5 times more than I would have liked to. But even so, I am not going to take that out of my report because I believe I should give every district the dignity of the same report. But one thing that was not in my report was that even though I went to the conference with great anxiety, my biggest fears did not materialize. That fear was I could find myself in a room of my peers as the minority opinion about the action proposed against the trustees and the God Word pamphlet. I was in a room where there was substantial unanimity to support the actions of the board and that it was the right time to embrace the right of the individual AA member to believe or not believe in a Higher Power.

Bill W.'s quote from "As Bill Sees It" on p. 82 says: "I think this particular General Service Conference holds promise and has been filled with progress—because it has had trouble. And it has converted that trouble into an asset, into some growth, and into a great promise....If this Conference was ruffled, if individuals were deeply disturbed—I say, "This is fine." What parliament, what republic, what democracy has not been disturbed? Friction of opposing viewpoints is the very modus operandi on which they proceed. Then what should we be afraid of?"

So my question now to myself is: What am I doing about the 1st Tradition? What am I doing to promote unity in AA? I am still attending my home groups, and their business meetings and I am still participating. I am looking at my relationships with people I disagree with. Am I treating them with respect, patience, kindness and love? Not always. I can do better here. It is not necessary that we all agree on everything. The only thing I think we need to agree on is the fact we are alcoholics that would die without this program and the fellowship in the rooms. We have a common problem and a common solution. If you are an alcoholic of my type, then you probably need me as much as I need you in order to live. On these things we can agree.

Thank you for letting me be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Joann L.

Panel 67 CNCA 06 Delegate