

Delegate's Corner

The Golden Time

Congratulations! You have made it through half of Panel 69! By now, you may have an inkling as to what you are supposed to be doing and how to do it.

Next April, I will attend the General Service Conference on your behalf as a "veteran," ready to lend a helping hand to the newbies of Panel 70.

We are about to enter what I like to think of as the "Golden Time" of the panel. We've figured out what we're doing. It's too early to rotate (emotionally as well as practically). And so, we enter that golden period in which we can contemplate what adjustments to our commitment and our way of doing things might prove beneficial to the next panel, and panels to come. A classic example of this is our Area committees reviewing their Guidelines, matching those with their experience, and asking the rest of us to consider improvements.

But don't leave it too late!

Rotation (real and imagined) will be upon us all by the Fall, if not before, and if our suggested improvements require consultation with others (as envisioned by the Right of Decision), not to mention approval by the Area or our district, we will need to be on it in these precious months ahead. Perhaps it was something that was passed on to us, that is dated or has outlived its utility. Maybe, it's a bright idea we have had to increase participation. It could even be an adjustment to our process, district or area, that might help us make the best use of our time together.

Now, is the time.

It's the time to look forward to another year of service, but also to activate our housecleaning instincts, see what we can learn from the recent round of inventories and, hopefully, discern how we can be of maximum service to our fellows and the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tempting as it is, now is not the time for complacency or the softer easier way.

I wish you all a happy new year, fertile with new ideas and organic growth.