

Gratitude, Trust, Joy *

We did it! We held our first-ever virtual Pre-Conference Assembly! Having attended a few in other Areas, I knew it would work from a logistical standpoint, but I had no idea that it would still evoke the feelings I get each year when we gather together in person and inform our Delegate. My heart is full. Teddy is busy reviewing and synthesizing all the group consciences he received from you, so that's why you get to hear from me this month.

As I typed up my handwritten notes for Teddy on the reasons your groups gave for or against the various proposals, I was reflecting not only on what you shared about the topics, but what you shared about your experience during the breaks or what's on your mind. An alternate GSR mentioned how she had never been able to participate in an assembly before. A GSR shared how hearing from other GSRs opened his mind about the topics. And a few more seasoned members mentioned that while it wasn't the same vibe as connecting face to face with our Delegate, seeing everyone's faces as they shared made them feel connected to others in a new way.

As our Panel 67 Delegate Joann shared in the Past Delegate send-off on Sunday (a wonderful small-t tradition that was different this time but no less emotional), we know that Teddy is well-suited to lead the way in this historic, first-ever virtual General Service Conference. The Delegates on each Conference committee are tasked with figuring out what is important to handle this year, what should be forwarded on to 2021, and how to make the most effective use of a much shorter period of time as they gather across seven different time zones. I have absolute faith that as a group, along with the trustees and staff, they will keep what is best for A.A. as a whole in mind as they make those decisions. Our process works under all conditions.

The Post-Conference Assembly with Teddy's report back is right around the corner on June 6th. And perhaps better than any other Assembly we might hold virtually this year, it will lend itself well to the digital format. Please invite all of your home group members, sponsees, etc. to join us from the comfort of their own homes and share the experience! And please thank your groups for their service. No matter what happens or doesn't happen at the Conference this year, their participation matters.

In service and gratitude,

Jennifer B., Panel 69 Alternate Delegate

* See *Our Great Responsibility* pp. 133-144.