

Delegate's Corner

Perpetual Change

The news that planning for the 71st General Service Conference is proceeding on the basis that it will be virtual, reminds me that our fellowship will continue to rely on new technology for the foreseeable future.

Next time around, I have faith that we will incorporate the lessons learned this year so that next year's Conference can feel more confident about dispatching the business of A.A. and tackling some of the issues that interruption of our comfortable lives has thrown into stark relief. I wonder if we hadn't become a little too complacent and satisfied with things being a certain way.

The purpose of our General Service Conference is to perpetuate A.A., not the status quo. Perpetual change is what we're about. Sometimes those changes can appear trivial, but nothing is trivial when you're in the business of saving lives. The subtleties of the wording and the manner in which our life-giving message of recovery is delivered can make all the difference between life and death. We alcoholics are a sensitive bunch consisting of every diverse shade of humanity and what works for one may repel another. We owe it to our sisters and brothers who have yet to find us to meet them where they are and communicate in terms they understand.

That's why now is such an exciting time, for our fellowship and for General Service. We've discovered that we can adapt and adapt quickly. Hopefully, this gives us courage to cultivate a fresh appetite to get our teeth into some of our stalest fare, not with a change for change sake attitude, but with a searching and fearless mindset.

Our world has been shaken in unpleasant ways, yes, but hopefully also in ways that open up our minds with the same willingness we know we need for inventory.

Yes, it's an exciting time and as Panel 69 draws to a conclusion I feel the import of our Responsibility Declaration reverberate in my heart. Sometimes the hand of A.A. is indeed my hand, but most often it's someone else's, be they home group member, GSR, trustee, or special worker. My responsibility is to ensure that their hands are also there.

I hope you will join me in in our continual opportunity to develop new service leadership so that we can honor this legacy of perpetual change.