

January 2021

Happy New Year! And welcome to Panel 71! Our theme for this year's General Service Conference (GSC) is "A.A. in a Time of Change" and your service and leadership to your groups is a vital part of how we will keep our members informed and engaged in making decisions for our Fellowship. If you're a new General Service Representative (GSR), this year will be different in many respects, but the essential upside-down triangle structure and your role as a link between your group and the Delegate, and A.A. as a whole, has not changed.

Each of the 93 Area Delegates is assigned to a Conference committee for the two years they serve, and my assignment is the Trustees committee. What's that about, you ask? I took a look at its "Committee Scope and Procedures" document and here's what I learned. Since the 1951 GSC when the first five members were drawn by lot, this committee has been mainly involved in the qualifications and procedures for election of Class B (alcoholic) regional trustees and trustees-at-large. Members of this committee are part of the voting body and the chairperson of this committee co-chairs the elections. The responsibility of this committee has evolved over the years to include the qualifications and procedures for selection of Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees, General Service trustees, corporate board directors, and appointed committee members.

The Trustees committee reviews the resumes of all newly-nominated trustees of the General Service Board and non-trustee directors of the corporate boards (A.A.W.S. and the A.A. Grapevine). The committee also reviews the slates of members and officers of the General Service Board and the slates of corporate board directors and expresses disapproval, if any.

We will have eight trustees rotating at the GSC this year, including the Chair of the General Service Board. We will also be welcoming a new General Manager of the General Service Office, who will serve on the A.A.W.S. Board. It's a lot of change in a time of change, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service.

Chapters Nine and Ten in your *A.A. Service Manual* are a good place to start wrapping your brain around all of the different types of trusted servants we have at the bottom of our triangle. While I'm very excited to be serving on this committee, I recognize that your groups may be more interested in discussion topics that relate to Literature, Grapevine/La Vina, Public Information, and so on. And that's normal. Like every other Delegate, I will need to be informed about how our Area feels about all the GSC agenda topics in order to be well prepared for the Conference each year. I look forward to meeting with you and hearing all you have to share with me.

In love and service,  
Jennifer B., Panel 71 Delegate