

By the time you receive this printed copy of the CNCA Comments, you will likely have already attended – either virtually or in person – the Post-Conference Assembly in Newark, CA. The results of this year's General Service Conference will have been shared by our Delegate, and you may now be wondering – what happens next?

It's something I wondered as a new GSR 11 years ago, coming back from my first Post-Conference Assembly in a car with my service sponsor. I don't remember much of what was in that Delegate report – although I do remember that some of the Agenda Topics my group felt strongly about passed, while others did not. And I definitely didn't understand the financial information that our Delegate shared, or some of the details about what happened on which day of the Conference. I didn't understand a lot of the terms, and I didn't really care where people ate dinner or what pins people got.

But I do remember how that report made me feel. Alcoholism isolated me from the world around me and robbed me of my ability to feel connected to others or to comfortably share how I truly felt. The report that day was a moving spiritual experience for me; I heard a Delegate describe what had happened, how he had felt, and how, even if things didn't turn out the way I wanted them to, I felt secure in the knowledge that every decision had been made with thorough discussion and consideration for suffering alcoholics.

I've always enjoyed General Service because we do service work that saves the lives of people we will likely never meet. It is challenging to connect what happens at the Conference with how it helps an alcoholic stumbling alone in the darkness. But the Conference report is the start of that connection, and you continue that connection by sharing with your groups what happened at the Conference – and how you felt hearing the story of the work that was done and the love behind it.

And now we continue. The General Service process is not a linear one. We sometimes discuss something and it gets voted down, then gets brought up three years later and is approved. And then, sometimes, it gets brought up again and it's rescinded. It's a sometimes maddening process, but the end goal remains the same. We are trying to find solutions against alcoholism, bit by bit, growing in love and understanding as we trudge this road together.

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Alternate Delegate, Panel 71