

“As we know, all A.A. progress can be reckoned in terms of just two words: humility and responsibility. Our whole spiritual development can be accurately measured by our degree of adherence to these magnificent standards. Ever-deepening humility, accompanied by an ever-greater willingness to accept and to act upon clear-cut obligations — these are truly our touchstones for all growth in the life of the spirit.” —*Our Great Responsibility*, p. 84

As my calendar fills up with dates to tell the story of the 72nd General Service Conference in your districts, I keep asking myself, what is the most important message to carry to the Fellowship this year?

Last year, we had so many significant changes to report. We really lived up to the 2021 theme: “A.A. in a Time of Change.” The story wrote itself. Some members and groups were happy with those changes, some were not. Either way, the results were quite noteworthy.

Our 2022 theme was “A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service.” I think we lived up to that too. We saw what it means to be back to gathering in person for the first time in three years — the joyful camaraderie, and the realities of the Covid era. We reconsidered some of those 2021 changes, with fresh eyes and more sharing from the Fellowship. We did not undo any of the progress that we made, but we did take a deeper look at our process and ourselves. We reflected on why we have a General Service Conference. We were mindful of making the best use of our time and resources. This year, the group conscience spoke in quieter ways, often in what we didn’t do.

So, what to share with your groups? First, be sure to let them know the outcome of the topics that they talked about. In many cases, that may mean no action was taken. That doesn’t mean their input wasn’t important. I needed every piece of information you gave me going into that week! The detailed chart I shared can help you trace where every topic went. Read through all the Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations to see what grabs your interest. If that feels like too much information, you also have the shorter list of highlights I sent out to help narrow down what to report. Be sure to remind members about the literature projects in development and to send in their stories! Get their feedback on the Area assembly motions before the Summer Assembly on August 13. There will be even more to report as the year goes on.

We are the trusted servants that help keep our service structure and Fellowship healthy and informed. We are links in the chain of communication. My message is one of encouraging people to participate in and trust the process. Recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous depends on faith in a power greater than ourselves, and so does our unity. But we also need to take the steps and do the work.

Thank you for walking shoulder to shoulder with me,
Jennifer B., Panel 71 Delegate