

Delegate's Corner: March 2023

Greetings from 30,000 feet up in the air. I am on a plane flying south to the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA). This will be the first in-person PRAASA since 2020, a gathering of more than 1,000 alcoholics committed to ensuring that Alcoholics Anonymous remains accessible to all who seek our help. It is a weekend of sharing and of thought-provoking conversation. It will also be our turn next March to host in San Francisco. You will hear a lot more about that in the coming months.

PRAASA has traditionally been the start of what becomes a very busy two months of General Service activity, culminating in the General Service Conference in New York in April. Your District Chairs should have sent by now a final list of "agenda topics" that will be discussed at the Conference, background regarding all of those topics, and a summary of the background created by this Area (called the Agenda Topic Summaries).

While some agenda topics are administrative (electing the next Trustee-at-Large for Canada, for example), and others are parts of the agenda every year (reviewing a workbook for a specific committee), many of these topics are *potential solutions to problems AA members have identified that may be impacting our ability to successfully deliver the AA message. The question becomes not whether we think there's a problem – someone went to the trouble to make a motion, so at least to some people, something isn't working – but whether the solution being proposed is the best solution possible.*

Actions taken at past General Service Conferences continue to impact how we work our AA program today. The publication of much of our literature, stories in the back of the book, our pamphlets, our public service announcements, the updated preamble, and the people we ask to represent us to the public are all actions taken by past Conferences. What we are doing literally saves lives. My life was saved specifically by actions taken at the 1985 and 1989 General Service Conferences.

I desperately want to hear from all of you on these topics. Each agenda topic in the summaries includes a section titled "What the Delegate needs to know." I actually do need to know, and I am very curious to hear from groups about these topics. While I may have some thoughts on specific topics, my mind has oddly enough become relatively receptive to more ideas. AA taught me to trust the process, and while I am nervous about going to the Conference and feeling that weight of responsibility (actions I take do change people's lives), I am trusting the process, and trusting I will be informed.

I have started delving into the background already, but I want to hear from all of you at next month's Pre-Conference Assembly. You can also submit group consciences to me through a form on the Area website or by email.

Yours in service,
Eric L. Panel 73 Delegate