

**Delegate's Corner: April 2023**

“Love is action. If you love somebody, do something for him.”

I was moved at the Pre-Conference Assembly by the active participation of all your groups and districts in our Conference process. I understand that at times, we must battle apathy and confusion about the process. Our deliberative pace can sometimes feel too slow, the number of acronyms can be discombobulating, and the personalities sometimes do get in the way of the principles we strive to practice. But the Conference process is essential to ensuring that 12 th Step work continues to be effective as AA comes of age.

And I am so grateful that so many groups across our Area took time to share with each other, with the Area, and with me, their thoughts about the many agenda topics we will be discussing at the General Service Conference. Your business meetings, special sessions, email and text chains, and conversations have helped me prepare for one of the biggest responsibilities of my life.

I cannot do this alone. I could not get sober alone – trust me, I tried. And I definitely cannot be a Delegate all alone. I feel this great responsibility to represent you well, so thank you for trusting me.

My job now is to represent our Area and ensure that the voices of every AA member who chooses to participate is heard at the Conference. I have copious notes (my own, along with more from our Recording Secretary and Alternate Delegate) and nearly a hundred emails to read and synthesize so that I can speak up for all of you.

Alcoholism robbed me of my voice. When I was drinking, I was often too lost in a daze to actually communicate, and when I did, my incoherent ramblings meant most people tuned me out quite quickly. I am still banned from some bars in San Francisco. When I would shout, I'd often just be told to leave. And most people avoided me after one too many bad interactions.

I came to AA silenced. But slowly, I found my voice. As a GSR, I learned that my voice matters to the rest of AA. Because it was not just me speaking, it was the group that I loved that had saved my life I was speaking for. Thank you for loving AA the way you do that you have helped me love AA the way I do.

Yours in service,  
Eric L. Panel 73 Delegate