

Delegate's Corner: June 2023

For the next few months, I will be visiting districts (and occasionally groups) in our Area to share what happened at the General Service Conference this year. Being a link in the chain of communication is one of my biggest responsibilities to the Area. It's how I keep the Conference accountable to our ultimate authority, the group conscience.

So I look forward to sharing with you what happened, how it happened, and why it happened... and what comes next. It's an incredible privilege to serve in this capacity.

It is a privilege because it's something so few people have gotten to do. But it doesn't make me an AA wizard. Sometimes, we place people in service on pedestals. I've done it a lot – I see these “fancy service people” and all the work that they do, and I imagine they have some magic secret. And I've noticed recently that some people treat me that way too. But I'm really just a drunk who found sobriety and stumbled into General Service and got the opportunity to serve in a bunch of cool different roles.

And I have to keep reminding myself that while people are nice to me, when they're particularly effusive, what they're really effusive about is how amazing AA is. This anarchic society of former problem drinkers has managed to sustain itself for decades, often because of the service work that is happening at home groups around the world.

Someone arrives early and unlocks the meeting room, sets up the chairs, perhaps makes the coffee. Another person stands by the door and welcomes people in. Someone probably went to Central Office and bought some books. Another person collects money and pays rent for the hall. Someone reads, another speaks, and another extends their hand willing to help a stumbling drunk figure out what we all did to find sobriety.

The work we do in General Service is meant to facilitate that work. We are in service to you. You are the front lines of service, and I am just a link in a chain letting you know how AA is doing everywhere else.

Yours in service,
Eric L., Panel 73 Delegate