

Delegate's Corner: April 2024

On the eve of my second (and last) General Service Conference as your Delegate, I want to express my deep gratitude to everyone who has participated in this experience with me.

I have started to receive group consciences via email, and, by the time you read this, I will have heard all your group consciences at the Pre-Conference Assembly. Depending on the timing of when this newsletter is sent out, I might even be on the plane to New York already.

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.

The decisions we make in General Service ensure that our program remains available to anyone seeking out our recovery.

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 12th Step work continues to be effective as AA comes of age.

In a time in which it is sometimes easier to just disengage – or to toss out opinions on the Internet without wanting an actual conversation – our process, even though it is slow, ensures that an informed group conscience develops. The loudest voices in the room are not necessarily speaking for everyone.

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.

Thank you for all the service you do for AA. The actions we take will save people's lives.

Yours in service,
Eric Lee, Panel 73 Delegate