

Delegate's Report Fall Assembly 2010

Wow, I can't believe where the time goes. Actually I do know where the time goes - it is what happens when you're active in service. It seems like yesterday that Martin and I met in that back corner and he congratulated me on being elected the Alternate Delegate. That was 3 years ago - last year I became the Delegate.

The first event that I really got my feet wet at (and I don't mean falling in a lake) was the Ontario Delegate's Committee meeting in Ottawa at the end of February. Before I knew it our Pre-Conference Assembly had come and gone and I was in New York. The Conference Theme this year was "Practising A.A. Principles - the Pathway to Unity." Next year the Theme is "We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let it Begin With Us." These Conference Themes come from people just like you. If you have an idea for a Conference Theme please get it to me and I'll pass it along and who knows, the Conference Theme for the 62nd General Service Conference may come out of this room.

The Presentation/Discussion Topics or Workshop Topics also come from people like you. As you read the Conference Final Report you will see that the sharing as a result of these topics is contained in this report. It could be considered as a delayed Ask-It-Basket.

My Conference Committee is the Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee.

I have a 3 inch thick notebook of what happened while I was there and all that information is contained in the 85 page Conference Final Report being distributed here this weekend - each group gets one. Please take the time to read it. I now look at it and say, "That's a week of my life!" Two things that come to mind: 1) Contributions - Online, and 2) the Young People's Animation Video. The URL is as follows:

<http://www.aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=398>

While there you can check out the other videos that are there, as matter of fact, take a day and check out our website at www.aa.org or closer to home check out our Area website at www.area86aa.org . My reports are now available on our Area website so if you wish to go to one of these places – just click on the link.

My first Conference Report was in mid May in Sarnia and was 9 pages written and about 9 pages verbal – the written portion is on the website the verbal portion is still in my mind and will be for a long long time.

Next on the list was the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas. I was able to travel there with my sponsor and his wife. At the last minute, we were joined by some guy named Percy G. Percy and me were roommates for a week and were still friends. The week was a marathon especially the 4 days of the convention. By the way, the total

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attendance for the Convention was little over 53,000 folks. This was also the largest single event ever hosted by the city of San Antonio – congratulations Alcoholics Anonymous. They want us back!

While there I was interrogated by the KGB – actually I was interviewed by a Russian PBS announcer. It was one of those situations where I just happened to be in right place at the right time. I was just making the rounds and saying hi to our G.S.O. staff and was at the Public Information Desk when Mary Clare L. got the request from the Russian PBS announcer. He was looking for someone to talk on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, Mary Clare said what a coincidence, there just happens to be an Area Delegate here – me. I was expecting maybe 24 questions or so and there were only 3 and one of those was why are there so many people here wearing those lime green tee-shirts? The volunteers wore red tee-shirts at the Convention in Toronto. So if you're ever watching one of those late night multi-lingual stations and you see a Russian PBS spot on Alcoholics Anonymous and they are talking to big belly in a lime green shirt named Dean – that's me!

The Eastern Canada Regional Forum was in Trois Rivieres, Quebec and what a weekend of sharing and learning and seeing old friends and meeting new friends. There were a couple things that transpired during Remote Communities Sharing session and the All-Delegates meeting on Friday – I'll address those items during Correspondence tomorrow. I was very grateful to have been given the opportunity to give a presentation at Forum in front of a 700 plus people crowd. The majority of these fine folks were French. I started off by saying that I only know 4 words in French: Bonjour, Merci and Jean Beliveau.

Regional Forums are an excellent way to meet the people of our General Service Office. If you don't think you can ever get to our General Service Office in New York then going to a forum is as close as you can get. By the way, Area 86 our Area is the Host of the Next Forum in 2012.

Our Grapevine sadly is continuing to decline. I mean the magazine – the other items such as Books, CD's, Calendars and Planners, etc. are doing O.K. There are some Evaluation Forms here this weekend that address these issues the Grapevine is experiencing. They are anonymous so please fill ONE out and I will forward these to New York so they perhaps can turn the trend around. I believe the answer to this problem is in a room like this. Not faulting the Grapevine Staff but perhaps they are too close to the problem. Let's see if we as a Fellowship can turn this trend around and find a way to make the Grapevine Self-Supporting.

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The Round Up season is quickly winding down. The Round Up season began in Bradford on February 20th and so far it appears it will end in Orillia on November 13th.

Thank you to all the Districts that kept us active and carrying the service message. Percy and I have been very busy this year and we have even gotten Anil, Jim and Mary out in the field as well. Thanks also to events that are self supporting and defray the costs of sending us to your events. This has been difficult year financially for the Area as we had to dip into the Reserve Fund to get us through – but there again, that's what is there for. We haven't enjoyed the Bank account we have had in years past but we got through and we have you wonderful folks to thank for that. And here's a plug for Mary, keep those contributions coming – thank you.

I'm off to Cambridge next Saturday; I'll be Stratford on November 7th then in Orillia 6 days after that. There is a Service Day in London on the 14th; there are flyers available, hope to see you there.

Once again, I can't thank you enough for keeping me active with all the events, service days, problems, that's right problems. This job has warts but that is how we grow as an Area, we don't just pick the things that make us smile or look good. We take on ALL the tasks that come our way and hopefully build on friendship that can make this fellowship continue to grow despite ourselves. Thanks for all opportunities to encourage service work in Alcoholics Anonymous; we truly need all the help we can get.

Thanks also to all the Districts and Intergroups for sending me your minutes. This is a way sometimes for me to see what squeaky wheel needs the grease.

I will forever be grateful for the blessings you have bestowed upon me by allowing to enhance my sobriety through service work in Alcoholics Anonymous here in Area 86. You cannot put a price tag for what I owe to this fellowship for my sobriety. You have to give it away to receive it, that being said, I'll be busy carrying the message for rest of my life and be happy just to do that.

With much gratitude and humility, I remain your trusted servant,

Dean T.
Panel 60 Delegate
Area 86