

Delegate's Report

Fall Assembly 2011

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my honour and privilege to serve as your Panel 60 Delegate for Area 86 Western Ontario: my name is Dean.

My home group is the Mohawk Serenity Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are a Big Book discussion group that meets Saturday mornings at 10:30 in Heritage United Church in Brantford. If you are ever in need of a meeting down that way, check us out, we'd love to see you there.

I would like to thank my friend Percy for taking on the responsibility as the Area Chairperson created when Anil G. was forced to resign for health reasons. I visited with Anil briefly a couple weeks ago and he is doing well and is on the mend. Anil said to say hi and thanks you for your best wishes.

It really has been my honour and privilege to serve as your Delegate in Area 86 for the last 674 days and will continue (God willing) for another 56 days. Don't laugh; this is a day at time program.

Panel 60 broke down like this: The 60th General Service Conference "*Practising A.A.'s Principles - the Pathway to Unity*" was held in Rye Brook, New York and was shared with the Panel 59 Delegates. The 61st General Service Conference "*We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let It Begin With Us*" was in Manhattan and shared with the Panel 61 Delegates.

Conversely Panel 62 will go as follows: The 62nd General Service Conference "*Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age*" will be in Rye Brook, New York and shared with the Panel 61 Delegates. The 63rd General Service Conference (*the theme will be determined at the 62nd Conference*) will be in Manhattan and shared with the Panel 63 Delegates.

There are a lot of memories from the last two years some fonder than others. I was selected for the Treatment Facilities/Special Needs - Accessibilities Committee. As a committee we made a few requests but had no recommendations during Panel 60.

From the first year: The video Hope approved at the 59th General Service Conference was causing ripples through A.A. communities because of the full face showing of the actors. Panel 60 spent a fair amount of time trying to even out the ripples then sent the issue to the Trustees Committee to have a recommendation at the next conference. The 61st Conference introduced some clear-cut guidelines to consider when taking another project which is this type. The video Animation: depicting young people through animation was well received. The characters were: a bird; a fish and a robot. My favourite is the advent of On-Line Contributions available on our parent website at: www.aa.org; if you haven't heard my joke on this - just ask me.

From the second year: Our Committee became the Treatment/Special Needs - Accessibilities Committee. We sent the video Hope back to the Trustees Committee for re-evaluation due to script text issues. We also approved a pamphlet for Special Needs titled A.A. for the Alcoholic with Special Needs. The Trustees Committee began with 49

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stories and narrowed the list down to 11 for our approval. While giving this report at the Leamington Roundup I learned that one of the story contributors was present in the audience. This was really quite moving to go from reading the story, approving the pamphlet and meeting one of the writers. This is just another case of God working anonymously in my life. We also reworded a couple documents to be used for Bridging the Gap. These forms are for both inside and outside members. These forms were edited so carefully that they can be used in either Treatment or Correctional Settings.

Also, later this month, the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous and the book 12 Steps and 12 Traditions will be available for download on-line digitally and readable on such devices as smart phones e-readers and tablets with aid of an App also downloadable from our parent website at www.aa.org. The cost will be \$6.00 each.

In the Panel 60 final Conference report my area highlights were on page 58. During the second year, we second year delegates are given a loving invitation. Usually it is a presentation that is found in the final Conference report. My loving invitation was to be a Moderator for a discussion topic workshop and there is no mention of this in the final Conference report. However, if you check on page 52 I did get an honourable mention.

In October of 2010 I was contacted by the Publishing Director requesting me to research the need for the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous to be translated into Low German. I went to a local roundup where I thought the need was generated and there were 2 requests. My thought was the need wasn't sufficient. The Director told me, one was sufficient if we are reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic and the budget is set up to do just that. During the Conference in May 2011, I asked the Director how the translation process was going. Her reply was: that a member was doing translation at a reduced cost. Three months ago in August I received a letter that the book was for sale. Isn't that just fantastic!

The International Convention in San Antonio was a tremendous success and an experience of a lifetime. The convention enjoyed a profit of \$845,545; this has not been the norm. Congratulations to the 2010 Convention Committee. For me, being interviewed by the Russian P.B.S. on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions was just one of the many God moments that I have received in sobriety.

The Eastern Canada Regional Forum in Trois Rivières, Quebec was a resounding success as well. Our French neighbours to the east in Area 87 Southwest Quebec did a fabulous job. Area 90 Northwest Quebec will host the forum in 2014. It is **OUR** turn next year in St. Catherines on July 6th, 7th and 8th at the Holiday Inn. Please pass the word along. Pass the word along. Pass the word along. This is a unique opportunity in that it will be 20 years before we will host a forum again.

During my term as the Alternate Delegate the Intra-Area Remote Communities Work Group was formed. Currently I believe that 11 of the 14 Areas in Canada and Alaska are involved. There are so many positives from this committee. Of late, they have taken a

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page from Bridging-the-gap with respect to getting some translated A.A. literature into some correction facilities in our Area. I'll talk briefly on this tomorrow.

In 2006 our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Denis V. passed away shortly after being elected. The delegates from the Region chose to leave to post vacant until the next rotation. The Trustee-At-Large Canada Murray M filled for a year until he rotated in 2007. Tom K. the Western Canada Regional Trustee filled in for a year until he rotated in 2008. Jo-Anne L., Trustee-At-Large Canada, filled in for the remaining 2 years until Donald C. was elected Eastern Canada Regional Trustee in 2010.

It was during Jo-Anne's term that I first learned about the possible formation of a committee called the Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (C.E.R.A.A.S.A.). I will talk more on this later today. I also have a note from Jo-Anne that I'll share tomorrow.

This year we hosted the Area 83/86 Unity Day where the Chairman of the Board of Alcoholics Anonymous The Very Reverend Ward B. Ewing (Class A Trustee) was our guest. As the Host Delegate my wife Edna and I hosted both Ward and his wife Jenny - what an honour. I have a letter from Ward that I'll read tomorrow.

I would also like to thank you individually and as groups and districts for your contributions at all levels of A.A. and being Self-supporting via the 7th Tradition. 2010 was a tough year financially. When you compare the financial figures from year-end 2009 to year-end 2010, my thought was: if we maintained the same or little lower contribution level, I wouldn't be surprised. The figures in 2010 were about \$20,000 higher which amortises out to about \$2 per member here in Area 86. What an effort - give yourselves a hand!

On the subject of self-support, my expenses are really low. I will take a little credit for that but here again; you people are the ones to thank for that. This year the Ontario Delegate's Committee meeting (O.D.C.) was hosted by our Area, in my backyard (close to it anyway) so my travel expenses were nill. Also, we didn't have a forum this year.

After the Committee meeting in August and in September, I was on the Friday night Service Panel at the Dunnville Convention on the 9th and off to Strathroy for their Roundup on the 24th. Both these events were self-supporting. Unity Day was on the 17th.

During October I attended 3 events: The Autumn Leaf Roundup in Hamilton; the District 25 Roundup in Ballinafad and the Western Ontario Conference in London. All were great events and were completely self-supporting. On a special note: I have attended 4 of the 6 roundups in District 25 and the growth there is very visible. Thank you Michael M., Dale S. and Ken F. the past and current D.C.M.'s.

As it looks now, my last hurrah will be the District 7 Roundup in Orillia on November 12th. And you guessed it - they self-supporting also.

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The events that are self-supporting offset our expenses and allow us to channel funds to other needed expenditures.

All this self-supporting is very important and a good lesson in the spirit of self-support at all levels of Alcoholics Anonymous. It starts when you take seat and put something in the basket during the meeting. Here we pass the basket also and we have a basket outside where the coffee is.

I thank each and every one of you for my growth this past 2 years. You have to give it away to keep it and in 57 days, 9 hours and 2 minutes I will rotate with thanks.

I have had the privilege of working with some special people since coming to head table in 2008. Martin A., Percy G., Anil G. and Carol G. from Panel 58. Percy G., Mary K., Jim W. and Anil G. from this panel, Panel 60.

The path before me was paved by some hard working and dedicated people some of whom who are no longer with us: Martin A., Tom V., Jan L., Paul H., the late Ivan G., the late Vic B., Jim D., the late Judy A., Jack G., the late Dan P., Frank S., the late Tom S., Mel H. and John R. I have met and/or worked with all these wonderful trusted servants in some way or another. I will consider it an honour to join these fine folks and become an O.M. (ordinary member) when I rotate.

Tomorrow we will elect our Panel 62 Area Officers. I too would like to thank those who are standing for positions. A loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience will prevail as always. I wish all the best to those who are elected and those who aren't. Although not everybody can win; nobody loses either.

Thank you to all the districts and your committees for your invitations to your events and allowing us to carry the message of service to the people we rotate out of the way for. You have kept this committee very active and we thank you for that.

I wish thank all the districts and intergroups for sending me your minutes. I do read them so I can keep on top of things and fully informed as to how we are doing here in Area 86.

I will be forever grateful for this opportunity you have bestowed upon me by allowing me to serve as your Panel 60 Delegate. I continue to thank you for enhancing my sobriety through service. I thank you most of all for my sobriety.

May God Bless each and every one us and Alcoholics Anonymous forever as I remain yours in humble service,

Dean T
Panel 60 Delegate
Area 86 Western Ontario