

# Delegate's Panel 60 Farewell Report

December 3, 2011

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen: I belong to the Mohawk Serenity Group in Brantford which is in District 1. I am an alcoholic and it is my honour and privilege to serve as your Panel 60 Delegate for Area 86 Western Ontario; my name is Dean.

This will be my final report as your Delegate for this term. It seems like only yesterday that Martin walked across the Assembly floor and congratulated me for being elected the Alternate Delegate; that was a little over four years ago. Today, there are only 28 days before I rotate and become a Past Delegate and watch as my friend Percy begins his journey as the Panel 62 Delegate.

What a privilege it has been to serve as your Delegate for the last two years. Actually, these last four years has been an ongoing road trip: Two years as the Alternate Delegate with Panel 58 and these last two years as Delegate with Panel 60.

There were three Regional Forums during those four years: Truro, Nova Scotia in 2008; Thunder Bay, Ontario in 2009 and Trois Rivieres, Quebec in 2010 as well as the International Convention in San Antonio the same year.

I was selected as part of the Conference Committee of Treatment Facilities Special Needs - Accessibilities. This was the first year as taking on the Special Needs as part of the committee. The one notable function we performed was to give the Special Needs a three ring binder workbook kit to gain parity with all the other committees.

"Practising A.A.'s Principles - the Pathway to Unity" was the theme for the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference last year. As I was at the Dias being introduced by Jo-Anne L (Trustee-At-Large Canada, Interim Eastern Canada Regional Trustee) with all the Panel 60 Delegates from the Eastern Canada Region and looking out at all the other 131 Conference Delegates, this thought crossed my mind as I about to read the Area Highlights for our Area: "What a journey, to go from a drunk being awoken by Cop knocking on his windshield, to an alcoholic proudly reading the Area Highlights from his Area in front of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous". If that doesn't put a lump in your throat then the standing ovation from the General Service Conference sure will - it did for me.

Some of my fondest memories will be: the introduction of On-Line Contributions; being able to have a part in the translation of our Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous into Low-German (this project began in October 2010 and was completed by August 2011) and the surge in contributions to our General Service Office which was about \$2 per member during tough economic times. A little bit went a long way. The Conference wound up with a tour of Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois.

"We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let It Begin with Us" was the theme for the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference this year. Being in Times Square in Manhattan speaks for itself.

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The A.A. Grapevine was already available digitally and had undergone a facelift. Moving their shipping operations ran into some glitches as it does each time you change something.

My Conference Committee made some recommendations this year. The Special Needs now have a Pamphlet and we also approved a couple forms for Bridging the Gap with respect to contact and temporary sponsor for both Inside and Outside members. This year we were able to tour the General Service and Grapevine offices just a subway ride and a short walk from the Conference.

The eTechnology team has been busy getting the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions ready for release via our parent website at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) at a cost of \$6 each. Presently they will be readable by means of an App (application) for iPhones, iPads etc. In the new year an App will be available for Android devices which means all other devices.

The Conference Final Report is usually around 90 pages or so. As I have travelled to the various events such as Round-Ups Conventions, Conferences etc. I have made reference to Country Singer Merle Haggard and his song "The Life of Grandma Hart". There is a line in the song "... there are 90 years to tell about in a few short lines". I have borrowed that line, sort of, by saying "there are 90 pages to talk about in a few short lines". The reason for this: there is no way I can begin to cover what happened at the Conference in 15 or 20 minutes or less! Therefore, I say, "read the report"! And that is not reading between the lines, that is another 90 pages or so or more.

The ball is rolling for the first Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly - acronym C.E.R.A.A.S.A. This will be on the last week of February 2013 in Montreal. This was a privilege to be part of the process from throwing the idea across the table to actually having the event in place.

Once every twenty years an Area hosts the Eastern Canada Regional Forum. Next year it is our turn in St. Catharines on July 6, 7 & 8, 2012. Pass the word along Area 86 is hosting the Eastern Canada Regional Forum in St. Catharines on July 6, 7 & 8, 2012. We are hosting the Eastern Canada Regional Forum on July 6, 7 & 8, 2012 in St. Catharines. Pass the word along and be there.

My last Round-Up was in District 7 at Orillia and I would like to thank the Committee for their warmth and hospitality shown to both Edna and myself.

My last official duty so far was the recent election for the Chair of the Inter-District Committee in Hamilton

These past two years have passed quickly. It is mostly due to being kept active by the Districts and getting me involved with their problems and discussions on how to and

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how not to solve certain issues. Thank you for getting me involved as has aided in my growth and has at times made my skin thicker. Good bad or indifferent I have seen a lot of growth here in Area 86.

We are a Service Area that is being run by the G.S.R.'s of our Area which in turn are an extension of their individual members via their "Group Conscience". It is a fabulous process to be a part of and soon to turn over to the next Panel.

My funny little friend Anil was not able to complete this term due to health reasons but he is on the mend. We had been on 3 Panels and it was good to see Anil recently. He can still make me laugh.

Jim and Mary came on board for Panel 60 and have both been great to work with and really helped to make this a solid Panel. I'm really glad to see both of them move on.

My friend Percy has made these last two years easy for me to be the Delegate. Anytime I needed help, he was there. We have been friends for 12 years or so but even more so these last two years. The travelling frenzy that began with Martin and me during Panel 58 has continued here in Panel 60 with Percy and me. Not to mention the week we spent in San Antonio at the International Convention.

We also have Fredy and Janis coming on board for Panel 62. It is great to rotate out knowing Area 86 is in great hands.

Thanks to all the Districts and Intergroups (Interdistrict) for sending me your minutes as I am able to see how we are doing as an Area by reading the minutes collectively. Sometimes this becomes a way of seeing who's who. Please keep me in your loop and continue to send me your minutes.

Thanks once again to your Districts for all your invitations and for your support. I shall be eternally grateful for your part in my sobriety. If I can ever be of assistance please ask.

I am not saying goodbye but T.T.F.N. At this time I'll wish everyone here or who is reading this a Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous and Sober New Year.

I Love Alcoholics Anonymous and where it has given me the opportunity to go and the blessings I continually receive. Thank you most of all for my sobriety.

I remain yours in humble service,

Dean Thrasher  
Panel 60  
Area 86 Western Ontario