

Delegate's Report – Spring Assembly 2011

Pre-Conference Assembly

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to the London Hilton. We are well into the second year of the Panel 60 term. Things will start to happen very quickly and before you know it this time next year, the Panel 62 Delegate will be standing here. As I try to live 'One Day At A Time' the Panel 62 Delegate can wait their turn, until midnight December 31, 2011.

Another slogan that comes to mind is 'First Things First' or the here and now – so here goes:

Our first service function was the January Area Committee meeting in Cambridge (District 18) and it snowed. But, this is Canada eh! If you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes. We did; it got worse. Inside, however, all was well.

On Valentine's Day, I was privileged to travel with Martin A. (Panel 58 Delegate) and Jim W. (Secretary/Registrar) to the Forest Lakeside Group. Jan L. (Panel 54 Delegate) and Mary B. (D.C.M. District 14) both celebrated 20 years – Jim was the speaker. Percy G. (Alt. Delegate) and Mary K. (Treasurer) were also in attendance.

At the end of the week (February 19th) I was in Bradford and it snowed there too. I spent more time on the last 3 kilometres of Highway 400 before the Bradford cut-off than I did at the Roundup – just kidding. As nasty as it was outside, you would never know it inside with the sharing and the fellowship. The sharing and the fellowship is always constant year after year there.

I would also like to thank a local fellow Ed S. (D.C.M. District 11) for a job well done at their G.S.R. Workshop on February 27th. I travelled there with Martin and it was good day all round. Martin and Ed did the presentations and I helped Martin with the Ask-It-Basket to round out the day. Even Mary K. (Treasurer) managed to find her way there as well.

One of the most rewarding moments in my service history to date, took place in my Home Area; Home District; and my Hometown. The Ontario Delegate's Committee meeting was hosted by our Area at the Hampton Inn in Brantford. It was a tremendous success – in my opinion. I was so proud to be the Host Delegate – and I'm still receiving accolades from that weekend. Thank you Area 86 and to all who took part and attended that weekend.

Special thanks to Janice F (Paris) whom I contacted about a year ago to help organize this event – she and those that helped her did a fantastic job and thank you District 1. Thanks also to Anil G. (Chairperson) for acting as the Secretary for the O.D.C. Thanks you as well to our Eastern Canada Regional Trustee Donald C. for your report and sharing. This really was a milestone with respect to the O.D.C. in that it was 20th Annual meeting of this committee. So thanks also to my friend Martin A. (Panel 58 Delegate) for chairing this meeting. {*A presentation was made to Martin*} By the way, Martin made the coffee at the first one.

For your information, the Ontario Delegate's Committee meeting brings all 4 Area Delegates and Alternate Delegates from Ontario along with the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee together for a meeting prior to the General Service Conference/Pre-Conference Assembly. The purpose of this meeting is for the orientation the newly elected Delegate(s) with the Conference Process. In Ontario we have one even panel Area (ours – 86) and three odd panel Areas: 83, 84 and 85.

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This year is the odd year panel hence Panel 61 in 2011. This process began in 1951 with Panel 1.

This year Percy and I both were attending as 2nd year members; the other three Areas were attending as 1st year members. The Delegate's give their Area Highlights and a presentation of the Agenda items for the Conference Committee they have been assigned to. The Alternate Delegates are assigned a Presentation/Discussion topic for the current Conference. As was the case last year, Percy did an outstanding job once again. When you get the Conference Final Report, a second year Delegate will be assigned one of these Presentation/Discussion topics as well – there are actually 12 in total.

These are referred to as a '*Loving Invitation*'. All second year Delegates that are not the Delegate Chair or Alternate or Committee Chair or Alternate will be given the opportunity for a '*Loving Invitation*' which means you will be speaking in front of the Conference at some point – solo.

By the way, my '*Loving Invitation*' is to serve as moderator for the Conference Workshop; "How to Increase Participation in A.A. – Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs". We actually break the Conference Delegates into 10 groups to maximize the sharing from the most amount of people. Also, the Conference Committee I belong to is: Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities Committee.

This year our General Service Conference will have 135 members. That is one short of a full Conference. Last year we had 131 members.

They break down like this:

Ninety-three Area Delegates elected by the service areas of the U.S. and Canada and make up 68.9% of the voting body. The Area Delegates always make up more than two-thirds of the voting members.

The General Service Board of Trustees, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and Grapevine Directors, totaling 27, make up 20% of the voting members.

The General Service Office (G.S.O.) Staff and General Manager, Grapevine Office Staff and the Grapevine Executive Editor totaling 15, equaling 11.1% of the total.

All 135 members of the Conference are referred to as Conference Delegates. Everyone is an equal voting member of the Conference.

The structure of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous consists of twenty-one trustee members. We have seven Class A Trustees that are nonalcoholic. Class A Trustees bring to the Board special expertise in areas such as business, medicine, and law, and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms.

There are fourteen alcoholic (Class B) Trustees that serve four-year terms. Eight are elected to serve as Regional Trustees six from the U.S. and two from Canada. Two are elected as Trustees-At-Large, one representing the U.S. and one representing Canada. The remaining four General Service Trustees are selected based on their expertise in areas of finance,

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publishing or other fields that would be helpful to the General Service Board and its corporate boards. Two General Service Trustees serve on the A.A.W.S. Board, and two serve on the Grapevine Board.

The A.A.W.S. Board oversees the publishing activities of Alcoholics Anonymous and the General Service Office. This board is made up of nine Directors: two Regional Trustees, two General Service Trustees, three Non-Trustee Directors, the General Manager of G.S.O. and the G.S.O. Staff Coordinator.

The Grapevine Board oversees the operation of the A.A. Grapevine, and is composed of nine members, including one Class A Trustee, two General Service Trustees, two Regional Trustees, three Non-Trustee Directors and the Grapevine Executive Editor.

This year the Conference is moving back the Crowne Plaza-Manhattan at Times Square. We will also get the G.S.O. and Grapevine Office tour. Once again, next year as a cost saving measure in 2012, the Conference will be back in Rye Brook, New York.

Another activity I'll experience again this year is taking part in a Trustee election. This election will be for the Trustee-At-Large Canada. There are 10 Areas in the Eastern Canada Region, 9 have nominees for this position. As you all should know, our nominee is our Panel 58 delegate Martin A. In total Canada has 14 Areas – Western Canada having 4.

Thank you for keeping me active throughout the Area sharing at your various functions. My calendar is just beginning to fill up. Bearing in mind my workplace needs me for at least one Saturday a month; please get your requests to me A.S.A.P. so I can let my employer know which ones I'll be available.

Presently I have Fort Erie on April 2nd; District 10 on April 16th; District 2 on April 17th and I'm away for the General Service Conference from April 28th to May 7th. Our Area Committee meeting is on May 14th. The Midland Roundup is also on the 14th but I've made other arrangements if I can't get away our Area meeting in good time. The Spring Fling is on the May 21st. In June there is the Mid-Season Campout on Father's Day weekend. In July the Essex County Convention on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th and I'll stop there. If you can fill some blanks by all means do so. Percy helped me out a great deal last year and will be doing the same this year. If Percy and I are both busy, there are three other Area Officers that can help out as well. We truly thank you for keeping us active.

Last year I heard someone refer to the 1100 pages of background material being the equivalent of reading the Big Book cover to cover 2 times. This year we only have 606 pages of background material or like reading How It Works 303 times.

As always I thank all the Districts and Intergroups for sending me their minutes. I do read them as you give me a better idea how we are doing here in Area 86.

I thank you most of all for my sobriety as I remain yours in humble service,

Dean T
Panel 60 Delegate
Area 86 Western Ontario