

Area 86 Delegates Conference report
Fall assembly NOV 3, 2018

Hello Ladies and gentlemen, it is my Honor to serve you as the Area 86 western Ontario Panel 68 Delegate. I am a member of the Thursday night group in Milton Ontario, I am an Alcoholic and my Name is Dale S.

I would like to thank all the districts for inviting me to their events, I love that you include the area in your celebrations. Great food great fellowship great recovery.

I would also like to thank Ken G for his service to area 86 and alcoholics anonymous. We wish you well.

Conference report

My job is to tell you what I saw what I Heard and What I felt at the General Service Conference so here goes.

On Friday April 20, 2018 at 4:30am my wife and I arrived at the airport in Toronto for a 6:30am flight to New York city to attend the 68th Annual General Service Conference. All went well after a short delay we arrived at the General Service Office at 475 Riverside Dr. in time for a tour of the office and then attend the 11am Open AA meeting held every Friday. Because there were over 100 members the meeting was moved to the main floor to a bigger room. We were able to tour the various assignment offices along with Grapevine and the newly

open Archives. All the staff were very accommodating taking time to explain the responsibilities and projects they were working on at the time. We returned to the office later in the week with the conference members with another tour and met all the staff we missed on the Friday because they were busy preparing for the conference.

After the meeting Steve S. escorted us to the subway station with instructions on how to get to the hotel. We proceeded to our destination 52nd street station so we could go for lunch and head to the Crown Plaza Times Square. We checked in and spent the rest of the day and night walking around meeting up with Delegates and their guests and getting familiar with our surroundings inside and outside the hotel.

Saturday morning woke up early headed out for a walk up to Timmy's for a tea and spent the rest of the morning greeting all the Delegates, Trustee's and Staff as most everyone had arrived by this time and we the Panel 68's were itching to get things going. Thank god for the panel 67's who kept us from bursting with excitement, fear and all the other emotions.

Our first official meeting was a meet and greet after lunch were all the conference members got together for the first time from 1 to 3pm.

Next up we attended the 1728 meeting where we had two speakers Mary C. Tradition 9 “A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” and Scott H. on Concept 9 Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. “

We then had the Remote communities meeting which is not officially part of the Conference. We broke up into table discussions talking about remote communities in our respective areas. There is a big push in the U.S. To include military in literature and committees. There was a lot of talk about bases in far away place where members cannot access meeting. and VA hospitals. Canadians talked about the remote community meetings on Skype and other media. We then heard a report from each group.

After Dinner We had our first Delegates Only Meeting where we were given an orientation from the Delegate Chairman Ben B. From Area 57 Oklahoma and other Panel 67's Very informative. They knew we were feeling out of place and tried to lighten the mood to get us to feel a part of. They talked about the conference buddy system and the

benefits it brings. Just like the encouragement I received from our past Delegates before I left for New York. To finish off the night the 68's were encouraged to go to the mic and share how we were feeling at this time. Some said how grateful they were for their buddies and some for all the 67's. I was grateful for them all and I just wanted them to stop warning me that I was going to hit a wall at some point wishing I would hit it, so it was done with. I do understand it today.

Sunday morning, I woke with anticipation and anxiety for the day was going to bring. Headed down for the elevator to seek my morning tea when I ran into Leonard B our past Chairman, as we were chatting the Delegate from South Florida Annie approached she was there to meet Leonard and his wife Linda to go for Breakfast and invited me to join them.

The conference officially opened at 10:30am Sunday when Michele Grinberg invited Bob D. Delegate area 85 North west Ontario to say a few words to get us underway. Next up was roll call conducted by the General Manager Greg T. Then We were Greeted by the Delegate Chair Ben B. After Ben finished Richard B gave a Keynote address and had us all clapping and cheering here we go. To finish off the segment Greg T. and Rick W. Conference coordinator reviewed the Mechanics of the conference and the Agenda. We were then given an opportunity to ask questions.

At lunch we met with Richard B. Eastern Canada Trustee. and the Eastern Canada Delegates.

After lunch we heard some area Highlights and presentations from Scott H. Trustee at large Canada on the 20th Meeting of the Americas {a side note 25th World Service Meeting (2018) be Durban, South Africa} and Mary C G.S.O. staff on AA around the world. At 3pm the committees met for the first time most for one hour, my committee sat for three hours.

At 6:30pm we attended the opening dinner with our guest. An AA meeting followed with five lead speakers then an open mic to share our gratitude or our journey.

I woke up Monday morning and said goodbye to my wife, I was not to see her again for the remainder of the week between 7am and 11pm, Except 20 minutes at GSO. Report and Charter met from 9 until Noon. After lunch we assembled in the main ball room to continue with the conference this is when I was asked to come to the Dias to give my area highlights. That's when it became very real for me as I was sitting waiting for Richard to call my name I was remembering that 17 years earlier almost to the day I was sitting alone in a dark basement thinking I didn't belong anywhere and feeling that nobody cared one way or another what I was about to do in the minutes ahead of me. But for the grace of God I am sitting here at the 68th General service Conference feeling like a new comer attending my first

meeting. Then Richard said next we have the Delegate from Area 86 Dale S. I got up and walked to the Mic when Richard hugged me and whispered in my ear “you got this have fun” I gave my introduction and read my area highlights without looking at the timer, not even once. As I sat down a relieve came over me I knew I wasn’t alone.

We then heard reports from Michele Grinberg, General Service Board Chair. Rich P. A.A.W.S. Board Chair. Carole B. Grapevine Board Chair and Financial report from David Morris General Service Board Treasurer. I will say that David reported a record number of contributions for 2017. He reported \$8,339,397 which is the first time we reached 8 million dollars. The rest of the night was more area highlights and another what’s on your mind sharing session. To finish off the night Scott H. led a group of us 19 and a Baby on a trek to the Brooklyn Bridge via the subway we walked over the bridge and returned.

Tuesday morning our last report and charter committee session. Our Committee had 9 Agenda items to consider. We forwarded 7 to the floor as committee recommendations and decide to take no action on the remaining 2.

The rest of the day was filled with workshops and presentations leaving time for committees not finished their business to get the work done. Most did but some with heavy loads worked through lunch and the

workshops to finish Literature was one of them. After the Delegates dinner we had some more discussion with delegates only about what was going to happen in the next three days. Some sharing from rotating delegates and then each region chose a candidate to put in the hat to become the 69th Delegate Chair. Area 63 South Dakota Anthony F. is the next chair and Becky P. from area 78 Alberta is the alternate. The outgoing chair shared his gratitude to the Delegates for their service and love of AA. After the meeting was finished the Eastern Canadian Delegates and 50 other Delegates went to have Ice Cream at the Stardust Café with Richard and some of the other Regional Trustees.

Wednesday it was off to GSO and the subway again. We arrived to a welcoming reception of coffee and snacks before going on the full tour meeting all the staff in their natural habitat.

After touring the office, we return to the Crown Plaza for lunch with the Eastern Canada Delegates. Where we heard from Jean-Noel area 88 who is the host for the upcoming regional forum in Victoriaville. Then Eric area 90 who is hosting the next CERAASA in Laval, we all agree to talk again in Victoriaville with regards to CERAASA and the agenda moving forward.

After lunch we reconvened the conference with Elections for the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee and the Pacific Regional Trustee. The Pacific Trustee election went to the fifth ballot last vote to give Kathryn F. two thirds majority 20 to 10. In Eastern Canada we had 8 Candidates. After the first Ballot we had one candidate with 5 votes and 4 tied with 3 votes each, the remaining 3 had 1 vote each. The second ballot the leader had 6 and the four tied for second with 3 again until the last vote was counted went to Jan L. to give her 4 she became second alone. After the second ballot if no one has two thirds anyone with less than 5 drops out excepting the top two. After the 3rd ballot Jan went ahead but not two thirds it did not change after the 4th and 5th ballot with the tally being 11 to 9. The two Names went in the hat Jean-Claude from PEI/ NB And Jan from area 86. Elaine M. a past GSB Chair Pulled Jan's name from the Hat. Kathryn and Jan will both serve Alcoholics Anonymous well. I was then given the honour to call Jan and inform her of the results.

After a break and some presentations on various topics including technology/Promotion and inclusion.

At Dinner we had the joint Archives meeting with the trustees and committee after dinner we continued after the Trustees left. We were to meet again Thursday for lunch with the archives committee.

Now onto the committee reports where we consider recommendations and additional recommendations from each committee.

REPORT AND CHARTER;

Item A6. Consider removing the following statement from the area newsletter or bulletins section on pg. S41 of the service manual. “any group or district of the fellowship is free to use the symbol of the circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules or other AA material” The reasoning was that if AAWS Inc. Has discontinued the use of the circle and triangle by association all groups districts and areas of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous should do the same.

The committee chose to take no action. The committee noted that the statement as it stands is informative to those with questions concerning the circle and triangle.

POLICY & ADMISSIONS;

The committee recommended that **Valley K.** general secretary of the General Service Board of A.A. India be admitted to the 68th General Service Conference as an observer. **Passed**

ARCHIVES;

Review draft of proposed publication **OUR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**; *A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970*

The Committee recommended that the proposed new publication, **OUR GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**; A selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970 be approved with minor editorial changes. **Passed**

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE;

The committee noted that some facilities have increased their security restrictions for paper materials and suggested the Trustees committee on Corrections continue to work with the Publishing Dept. to insure access to AA materials for incarcerated alcoholics

CPC COMMITTEE;

The Committee recommended that the text on page 10 of the pamphlet "**AA as a Resource for Health Professionals**" which currently reads **A.A. is listed in most telephone directories or local newspapers, and a phone call is all that is needed for help.**

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at www.aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for "Alcoholics Anonymous" Additionally, online A.A.

meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings' nearby.

FINANCE COMMITTEE;

The committee recommended that the Conference approved the maximum annual contribution from an individual A.A. member to the General Service Board be increased from **\$3,000 to \$5,000. Passed**

LITERATURE COMMITTEE;

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet **“A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic,”** be retitled to **“Experience, Strength and Hope: LGBTQ Alcoholics in A.A.,”** be approved. (amendment) With authority given to publishing to make minor edits regarding use of gender specific language. **PASSED**

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE;

The committee recommended the following slate of trustees of the General Service Board for election at the annual meetings of the members of the General Service Board in April 2018 following presentation at the 2018 General Services Conference for disapproval if any:

APROVED

Class A Trustees

Leslie S. Backus, B.A.
Hon. Christine Carpenter
Michele Grinberg, J.D.
Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle
Peter Luongo, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Nancy McCarthy
David M. Morris, C.P.A.

Class B Trustees

Thomas A.
Cathy B.
Carole B.
Beau B.
Mark E.
Yolanda F.
Kathryn F.
Scott H.
Jan L.
David N.
Newton P.
Richard P.
Ginger R.
Cate W.

AGENDA COMMITTEE;

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2019 General Service Conference.

The committee recommended that the theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: **“Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages.” PASSED**

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE;

The committee recommended that the trustees' Committee on Public Information develop language reflecting that **A.A.'s anonymity Traditions are not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior and that calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions.** A progress report or draft language is requested to be brought back to the 2019 Conference Committee on Public Information. **PASSED**

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE;

The committee recommended that the Scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities, be expanded as follows (additions in bold): The purpose of a Treatment and Accessibilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual A.A. members and groups interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in a wide variety of treatment settings, and to set up means of "bridging the gap" from the treatment setting to the A.A. fellowship. **In addition, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups serving those who experience barriers to accessing the A.A. message and participating in A.A.'s three legacies – recovery, unity, and service. Finally, the committee supports the work of individual A.A. members and groups striving to ensure that A.A. members who live in underserved or remote**

communities — communities difficult to reach because of geography, language or culture — have access to the A.A. message. PASSED

INTER/CONV/REGIONAL FORUMS COMMITTEE;

Selection of cities to be considered as a site for the International Convention in 2030.

The committee recommended that the following two cities, expressed here in alphabetical order, be considered as possible sites for the International Convention in 2030: **Indianapolis, Indiana --St. Louis, Missouri.** Passed

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE;

Review revised text of the pamphlet **“A.A Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meeting in Print.”**

The committee recommended that the revised pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” be approved and title changed to **“A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print and Other Media.”**

We had 8 floor actions to deal with at the end of the night Friday of which 5 were declined. 2 were approved the last one was approved and then after minority reconsidered and the declined. The business of the conference was done. **We adjourned at 10:30 pm. That’s when the 67’s said goodbye to the conference by lining**

up to the three microphones and one at a time said their final words of gratitude and encouragement to the 68's. Very emotional time with tears of joy sadness and lots of laughter.

Saturday Brunch and goodbyes from our rotating trustees Richard and Joel. Michele Grinberg introduced one at a time, as they approached the Dias she pinned a boutonniere on each of them. They both thanked their partners and the conference for the support they received over the many year they served Alcoholics Anonymous. After They were finish Michele Grinberg gave a final address to the conference. Then held up a third boutonniere and said this is for Joe D. he has been here with us this whole week. She then announced the conference closed.

We all got on buses and headed for Stepping Stones to finish of the week.

I tried to report some of the highlights from the conference week. I hope I gave you an idea of what took place. I will say I have much more information on the conference if I didn't report on something you need to know about please feel free to ask today or send me a request email and I will forward the information you would like. The final report will be out in august.

District Committee Members please add me to your distribution list to receive district minutes and announcements I always read them and enjoy keeping up to date with all the districts. Please remind the incoming committee that most of us have new email addresses.

If I can be of service to you, your Group or District please do not hesitate to contact me. If you would like to have me or Sandi attend your District functions, please let me know as soon as possible so we can schedule our time accordingly.

One of the best things I heard at the conferences was from the Chair of AAWS board Rich. P. in a work shop he said. "let's stop spending all our time trying to fix AA and get back out there Saving Lives"

Once again thank you for the honour to serve and Thank you for my sobriety.

Yours in Love & Service
Dale S.
Area 86 Western Ontario
Panel 68 Delegate