

Western Ontario General Service

Delegate Report

Remarks to the Area Assembly– March 9th,2024 A.D

In the Immortal words of Fleetwood Mac:

“Don't stop thinking about tomorrow, don't stop, it'll soon be here.”

It is with great anticipation that we await the advent of the 74th General Service Conference in New York!

Welcome to Oakville and the first of our four assemblies scheduled in Panel 74.

If you are new, and or a returning trusted servant I wholeheartedly thank you for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous and please accept my best wishes for a beneficial AA experience this weekend.

I have attempted to keep this report short as I know the next one will (by its very nature) be longer.

Almost 4 years ago to the day that we “shut down” society as we understand it, I can sense there is a renewed energy and optimism throughout Alcoholics Anonymous. AA is back, standing tall, looking to the future with courage, confidence, and hope.

I am powerless over alcohol, and I am an active member of the Triangle Action Group in Hamilton, and my name is Dan. Triangle Action is in District 21 on Hamilton Mountain, and we meet at the Mount Hamilton Baptist Church at the corner of Fennell and Upper Wentworth at 8pm every Wednesday night right across from Value Village.

And if you do not like what we have to offer, we have what secondhand Hamilton has to offer!

Business is booming, as we have also started up a closed discussion meeting on Sunday morning at a funeral home around the corner and the irony is not lost on me.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve with and for Area 86 as your Delegate here in Panel 74

Since we last met in Oakville last November, I have received my committee assignment from New York (Drum Roll Please) and I am the only sitting Canadian member of the CPC committee (Co-operation with the Professional Community), a position I held at the Area level as a sub-committee chair back in 2008-2009.

In addition, I have my “buddy” assignment which is Thomas G from Hawaii, and he is also a member of the CPC Committee.

I will take all the help I can get.

The CPC Committee has 7 members, 4 from Panel 73 and 3 from Panel 74 and our composition is from coast to coast of the contiguous USA and Hawaii.

The CPC Committee has met once via Zoom for a 2 hour “Meet and Greet” to familiarize the new members of the committee on how business is conducted at our committee.

The meeting was highly informative and set the framework for when we meet the Trustees Committee on March 18 via Zoom and after that when we meet in New York in April.

The General Service Conference

The conference organizers have staged a series of Zoom Meetings to reduce the cost of the Conference and to the fellowship at large.

To illustrate:

- Cancelled coverage of hotel for one day – saving @12,000
- Rescheduled the opening Saturday events such as the delegates only conference and the 1728 meeting to Zoom resulting in a savings of @30,000US.
- Outsourcing the Wednesday Lunch & Dinner on Wednesday (Casual day) will save an estimated 11,000US.
- Reducing the number of Coffee stations will result in a saving @24,000. It is worth noting that a cup of coffee at the hotel jumped from \$19 last year to \$22 this year.

On the road to the General Service Conference 2 additional meetings (via Zoom) have been added at the request of the delegates.

It would be more than fair to say there is great interest in the Equitable Distribution of Work (EDW) and greater and almost uniform interest in the founder’s writings among all 90+ delegates that were on the session.

The Dates of the meetings are March 12 and March 20 as a lead up to the conference.

The conference has a total of eighty-eight items for deliberations and or vote: Starting with:

Agenda – 7/76

CPC – 5/16

Corrections – 5/17

Finance – 4/19

Grapevine – 5/26

Literature – 11/54

Policy/Admissions – 5/85

Public Information – 19/113

Report /Charter – 3/9

Treatment and Accessibilities – 9/34

Trustees – 7/34

Archives – 1/2

International Conventions/Regional Forums – 7/77

For a grand total of eighty-eight items with 552 pages of background material

Now while the numbers/committee may appear somewhat in line (save a few) committees (i.e. Pl/Archives) there are some subjects of significant interest such as the Founders Writings, Reserve fund, Plain Language Big Book and last but not least the Grapevine and its Funding which I am sure will eat up a lion's share of debate.

And while we are on the topic of Equitable Distribution of Workload, I have distributed to all the sub-committee chairs, Area Officers and Volunteers the requisite background material and our Jay has scheduled Individual Zoom meetings for all those who are putting on their presentations.

I would like to thank all the Sub-Committee Chairs, Area Officers, and Volunteers for taking the time to carry out this important and vital task of providing an area conscience on these issues.

I would encourage all Area 86 trusted servants and guests to participate in these workshops and let your voice be heard on these issues.

Why two workshops?

The accelerated arrival of our Assembly has provided us a golden opportunity to achieve two goals, to provide education to the area on your relevant discipline at hand at the assembly and provide an area conscience on the above agenda items through a series of Zoom Calls that are scheduled to be set up March 18-April 3?

Why! Many reasons! Allow me to name them!

As a past Subcommittee chair, I was at times conflicted by the demands of serving the delegate and serving the needs of the greater Area 86 populace. The demands of each constituency are not always congruent. Being the first assembly for many new people I found many of them expressed to me that some of the topics were beyond their level of understanding and experience. And they were being polite!

Experience has taught me that we must crawl before we can walk. We can (and are) executing this idea by having education at the assembly and Zoom meetings on Conference Agenda items shortly afterward.

Another benefit to this format is that it gives those who have more than one interest the ability to attend more than one workshop as they are not competing with each one another due to the time and space requirements of the assembly.

I also cannot stress enough the importance of anonymity with this material (and any names associated with it).

The material should not be shared or posted outside regular AA Channels. This material has not gone through the conference process and is confidential. The goal here is to minimize the risk of disinformation and any related harm that this may cause.

The 74th General Service Conference is scheduled for April 14th -20th in Brooklyn New York with the theme of Connecting with Love, Unity, and Service

Meanwhile, back in Area 86 we found ourselves travelling throughout the Western Ontario region carrying the Area message.

Since the last Area Committee meeting in St. Thomas on January 13 I was in Oakville with our Chair Jay on January 16th factfinding and negotiating Hotel rates, Availability of dates for future assemblies and gathering intel on the audio-video arrangements the hotel has.

It was a productive meeting, and much was gleaned.

On January 28, I found myself in Chatham at the District 15 round up and our Panel 72 Delegate (AKA Ordinary Member) gave a presentation on how agenda items work at the GSC.

It was a day filled with excellent speakers and cuisine and I would like to thank the district 15 Round Up Committee through District 15 DCM Perry Hulme for the invitation and hospitality.

On February 3 I was invited to the district 19 Fellowship Dinner to deliver the area message but ended up having the honor of performing grace. My old parish priest would be proud.

It was filled with fellowship, good homemade lasagna, and a great speaker (My service sponsor's wife). I would like to thank Brent for the invitation and congratulate the committee on a job well done.

Meanwhile on the CERAASA front, the Steering Committee met on Monday January 22 at 7pm on Zoom in our ongoing preparations for the 2025 CERAASA assembly which will be held at the Delta Burnside in Dartmouth Nova Scotia February 21-23, 2025, A.D.

Discussion ensued around translation and speaker positioning at the assembly with a focus on delivering the best bang for the AA dollar.

I have brought 3 motions to the March assembly on behalf of the Area for translation services for ongoing business (I.E. Sterring Committee Meetings, the ECDO (Eastern Canadian Delegates Orientation) taking place March 17 (On Zoom) and the CERAASA Conference itself in February 2025 in Dartmouth Nova Scotia.

Our next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday March 25 on Zoom

Stay tuned, as more will be revealed on the CERAASA!

I am honored and indeed privileged to have been invited to some of the round ups, Service Days, and miscellaneous events in Area 86. In keeping with established protocol if you would like the area(through the delegate) to attend any area event to deliver the area message, please run it by me first and then if there is a scheduling conflict, I am sure our Alternate Delegate Tammy or one of the fellow Area Officers would be happy to attend.

If you wish one of the Sub-Committee chairs to attend, please run it by the Chair, Jay R.

I would humbly ask, if possible, if you get your requests in ASAP as the calendar fills up quickly, sooner is indeed better than later.

I would like to thank all of you who sent me your district minutes and related correspondence, it helps keep me apprised of the district.

As we open the page on Panel 74, I would like to leave you with a few thoughts that have sustained me in times of doubt and uncertainty.

I have learned (the hard way) that there is nothing more important than the idea of gratitude, (Aka, the language of GOD) a sense that our sobriety is based on provenance and a belief that our sobriety lies in how we attempt to live up to these ideals, and how we can be of service to others.

Moving forward, we have a purpose that very few have and or can conduct.

Whence before, no one would trust us and now we have been entrusted to carry GOD's message of hope to the suffering alcoholic (through the aegis of the service structure)

To quote one of my spondee's, it is not that I must do it, but I get to do it.

And yet, for all our achievements, our greatest tasks remain before us.

In closing, I would like to thank all my fellow officers for their commitment to service in Area 86 and to all the Area Committee who carried and are carrying the message during these challenging times.

Our work here will not be forgotten.

If I can be of any service, please drop me a line at area86delegatep74@gmail.com and or delegate@area86aa.org

Look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous!

Thanking you for your Sobriety and my Life

I Remain:

Dan D

Delegate

CPC Committee

Panel 74 Area 86