

Area 50 Delegate's Pre-Conference Report

Background – The General Service Conference and the Role of the Home Groups

For the past 70 years, AA has held an annual General Service Conference to discuss issues important to our Fellowship as a whole. The Conference develops the group conscience on these issues for the entire Fellowship in the US and Canada.

The work of the Conference guides the work of AA's General Service Board, the General Service Office in New York, AA World Services, Inc. and the AA Grapevine. It also guides our Fellowship throughout the US and Canada and serves as an example for AA around the world.

Under Concept I, our home groups have ultimate responsibility for the direction and preservation of AA, so it is essential that the voices of our home groups are heard at the Conference.

Most of the 93 Areas in the US and Canada hold Pre-Conference Assemblies or similar events to review the Conference agenda. These Assemblies provide the Area Delegate with an Area-wide group conscience on the major agenda items when he or she attends the Conference.

Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic

For 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has severely disrupted the Conference process. The Conference itself has been canceled as an in-person event.

At this point, a "virtual" Conference will likely take place in June, using remote technology.

Area 50 also canceled its Pre-Conference Assembly because of the pandemic. Since a virtual Conference is tentatively planned for June, however, we still need to develop an Area 50 group conscience on the major Conference agenda items.

The Area Committee is developing a Pre-Conference plan. Meanwhile, I have prepared this Report and a separate Questionnaire to help our groups and members learn more about the Conference agenda and express the conscience of their group.

The Conference Agenda and this Report

There are over 90 items on the Conference agenda. The Questionnaire addresses what we think are the ones that may interest most members.

Since the Conference is organized by Committee, the Questionnaire follows the same format. At the end, the Questionnaire also addresses a few broad themes that run throughout many of the individual agenda items.

I sit on the Conference Agenda Committee. That means I will have a chance to deal with all the agenda items assigned to that Committee. I will have input on the other Committees' agenda items only if they come to the floor of the entire Conference for resolution.

Nevertheless, the Questionnaire deals with most of the major items on the entire Conference agenda, since at least some of these items will likely come to the floor. We also want our membership to have an opportunity to consider all the major issues the Conference will address.

How to Use the Questionnaire

Home groups and members are free to use this Report and Questionnaire however they would like. It's a detailed Questionnaire, and you may not want to comment on every topic. Feel free to address the questions that interest you! We want to hear from as many groups and members as possible.

Our Area Secretary Sue B will distribute the Report and Questionnaire as Word documents to her Area email list. Download the Questionnaire, fill it out and save it, and return it to me by email (p70delegate@area50wny.org.)

The space for answers to the questions will expand as you type, so feel free to let your thoughts flow!

Also feel free to share the Report and Questionnaire with any group or member in Area 50 that may not be on Sue's list. Individual members as well as groups are welcome to fill out the Questionnaire.

We will also post the Report and Questionnaire on the Area 50 website, along with detailed background information that will help you fill the Questionnaire out. You can also download the Questionnaire from the website, fill it out, save it and email it to me.

To find this material on our website, just go to www.area50wny.org, and click on the link at the top of the Home page.

The entire agenda for the General Service Conference is one of the resources on our website. Conference members have received over 1,100 pages of background material on the agenda Items. A group of Area 50 volunteers has summarized these 1,100 pages of material. This Summary is also on the website. Each question in the Questionnaire gives you the pages in the Area 50 Summary discussing that topic.

The material on our website also includes summaries prepared by several other Areas. These summaries will give you different perspectives on the questions we pose.

If you have further questions, please contact me or Denise, our Alternate Delegate (p70delegate@area50wny.org or p70alternatedelegate@area50wny.org.)

My cell phone number is (716) 866-1020. Denise can be reached at (716) 864-2990. Feel free to give either of us a call!

Conclusion

Under Concept I, our home groups have ultimate responsibility for the future of AA, including the Conference. Filling out this questionnaire will ensure that the voice of your group is heard.

Your participation will be an act of service to AA. Thank you for your service!

Yours in service,

Hank K, Delegate, Area 50, Panel 70, Agenda Committee