 **Connecting with Love, Unity and Service**

 **Delegate’s Report – A Love Letter to Area 50**

**Area 50 – General Service Assembly – 11/4/23**

Dear Area 50 Family-

Thank you so much for the honor of serving you and AA as a whole for Panel 72. I cannot thank you enough for how much you have allowed me to grow in love and service, but I can try.

Thank you to everyone who has served Area 50 in any way – from coffee makers and set up persons at each of our assemblies to those who made sure food, chairs, paper copies, books and pamphlets, venmo accounts, microphones, video cameras, and projection screens were in place and working. Thank you to Sandy and Jim for circulating hundreds of emails, and to Justin and now Nancy for posting information to keep our Area informed. Thank you to those who took on “extra” duties and served on extra commitees out of your love for AA. Thank you to those who chaired districts and committees or liaised with the intergroups, or participated in the work of committees, districts and intergroups, and made our twelveth step work possible.

Thank you to everyone who came up with a new idea, and had the courage to say it out loud. Thank you to those who heard and accepted the new ideas, and had the courage to say “yes, let’s try it” to the new idea, especially when it wasn’t “the way we’ve always done it.” Thank you for those who exercised their rights of decision and participation, and to those who allowed others to grow under these basic rights in AA. Thank you to all who understand and embrace the need of AA to balance evolution with AA custom and history in order to carry our message of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers, without watering down our message that could mean the difference between life and death.

Thank you to all of the trusted servants that came before me. It is through your example of servant leadership that I learned. Thank you to the Past Delegates whom I have not met, not yet. Thank you to the Past Delegates of Area 50 who have remained active in Area 50 and who made service look attractive: Joanne McC., Terry W., Shawn D’L., Walt C, Mike D., Wally E., Chuck B and of course Hank K. I have met each of you, and you all had significant parts in ensuring that I was prepared. Particularly to Hank K, who allowed me to try new ideas as his alternate, so that when it was my turn, I was not surprised by anything. While I did not have all of the answers, I was prepared, but not surprised. If you have an alternate in your service position, please afford them any responsibility that you are able to, but please also allow them an equal authority to match that responsibility.

Thank you to our Alternate Delegate, Steve J. who like Hank, was an integral part in my growth. While he jokes that his job was to “drive the delegate around”, which is certainly an improvement over his previous joke that his job was to “keep me alive,” he deserves the thanks for keeping me right-sized in my sometimes alcholic service storms. Thank you also to Ryan L, Area Chair during Panel 72, and the most comical park of “the command center.” They are true AA servants, and AA and Area 50 are in good hands with the leadership of Steve J, Ryan L, and incoming Area 50 Chair Amy H.

Thank you to my service sponsor, Area 47 Panel 69 past delegate, Barb C. who showed me how service can be effective and attractive, simultaneously. Thank you to our past North East Regional Trustee Francis G., who demonstrated and embodied that we are all “just taking turns” at our service positions. We don’t own those service positions, and we do not allow them to own us. Thank you to Francis for making abundant opportunities available to me over the past four years. And thank you for the clip board. And for showing me how past “anybodies” should act. I will need this information.

Thank you to our Trustees and Directors who spend countless hours, days and 4-5 day “weekends” away from their families to serve our fellowship. A special thank you to the Class A, non-alcoholic Trustees who

*“In the days when A.A. was unknown, it was the nonalcoholic trustees who held up our hands before the general public. They supplied us with ideas…They voluntarily spent hours on end, working side by side with us and among the grubbiest of details. They gave freely of their professional and financial wisdom.”*

From previous editions of the A.A. Service Manual

Thank you to all of you who sent me notes and texts of encouragement while I was at the General Service Conference, one or both years. You fortified me. I hope, just as the Delegates from the first General Service Confernce did so, is that I have served you in a way that demonstrates my “overwhelming sense of responsibility to (Area 50, the assembly) that selected me” (from Final Report of the First General Service Conference). Thank you to the two or more of you who actually read the Area 50 highlights that I wrote for the Final Report of the 72nd GSC. You know who you are! I do too, because of your helpful and kind comments.

Thank you to the AA Servant who texted me last February to ask if I was “ok with with is going on in NYC” and was prepared to be ok with whatever my answer was, as your trusted servant.

Thank you to my sponsor and to my sponsees and service sponsees, whom God has sent my way to remind me that the General Service Conference upside down triangle, is not the only triangle in town. God has a way of reminding me about first things first, and that it ALWAYS begins with recovery, and followed by unity, and is frequently in the voices of my sponsees and service sponsees.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help carry boxes and papers and even my coffee into the assemblies. Thank you to the GSR who allowed me to help them their food at the last assembly, reminding me that we do this shoulder to shoulder, as equals. We serve each other, as equals.

Finally, my widest and most sincere appreciation and gratitude goes to all the GSR’s and Alternate GSR’s of Area 50 who assume the final responsibility and ultimate authority of AA when they carry their group’s consicence as an expression of God. Thank you for all you do in what is perhaps the most important service position in AA, and which may also be the most difficult service position in AA. Thank you for answering my questions and questionnaires (all of them), and thank YOU for asking YOUR questions. Thank you for not allowing AA to fail in the face of ignorance, apathy or power-seeking. I hope that you continue to raise your hand in willingness to serve, for as you long as you are able. I will continue in quiet service of AA, and I hope that when you look to the sidelines you see me there, sitting quietly, patiently awaiting developments.

**Let’s keep doing this together, Shoulder to Shoulder**. I thank you for the honor of serving A.A. and Area 50. You have changed my life, and have made me a much better agent of God. May His will be done.

Yours in Love and Service,

Denise M.

Area 50 (WNY) Panel 72 Delegate

p72delegate@area50wny.org

