



DELEGATE'S DISPATCH AREA 60/PANEL 69 WESTERN PA

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What's Happening with the Conference?

On April 13, Greg Tobin, manager of the General Service Office communicated to all GSC members that a modified General Service conference, via an on-line platform will take place May 16, through May 19, 2020. Stay tuned for updates!

CANCELLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & REFUNDS

Registrants should have received an email from GSO outlining procedures for returning registrations, and hotel deposits. This email only affects those who registered and procured lodging through GSO.

If you procured lodging on your own, it will be your responsibility to try and recoup deposits, advanced payments, etc. GSO, however states that all registrations should be returned no later than May 11, 2020.

If you registered for the event, and you did not receive an email, please contact me and I will forward you the pertinent information.

FUN TIPS FOR AAWS HIGHLIGHTS!

The AAWS Highlights are attached to this email. Please take time to read them and to share some of the information. As a GSR or DCM, how can you use the AAWS highlights? See some tips below:

- GSR's—instead of “no report” in between district meetings, incorporate something interesting from the Highlights in your meeting report. Such as “69.33% of our literature sales are now done online!”
- DCM's—There is a plethora of info in AAWS highlights to report to your area. In this issue alone, six pamphlets were updated to audio—this is great info for your accessibilities committees!
- AAWS Highlights can also be a resource for financial highlight workshops, or group discussions about just what AAWS does for our members.

The Group Conscience in a Time of Crisis

Our fellowship along with our nation and most of the world is facing an unprecedented crisis. We are dealing with a small invisible enemy and we must operate with an abundance of caution. However, we must also be vigilant and adhere to the core values and tenants of our Steps and Traditions.

So what can we do during this time? First, we need to maintain a solid informed group conscience. We are fortunate to be able to do this via phone or internet. What should we be discussing? We don't have rent, coffee, snacks, and we can't physically distribute literature (although a group could choose to ship or mail literature)? What do we need to talk about some might ask?

Discussions might center around how to make sure we meet our 7th Tradition obligations. Should each member be on the honor system? Should members send their contributions to the group treasurer for disbursement—these are issues that each group should consider on their own. It is prudent to remember that group zoom accounts or phone numbers, local and area websites and zoom or online communication platforms, and intergroup and district hotlines cost money and are suddenly more vital now than ever! Also, the General Service Office is still operating, albeit most everyone is working from home, but phone calls are still being taken from those looking for meetings and those in the fellowship, forums and conferences are still being planned, archives need maintained, and day-to-day business goes on.

Another issue that keeps recurring in this “new normal” is, “What about meeting in person? What should our discussions look like,” members have asked? Again, an informed Group Conscience is the first step. “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience...” When discussion occurs on this (or on any other serious issue) members may want to ask themselves: Have I informed myself about the issue? Am I willing to listen to other members with an open mind and really try to understand their point of view? Am I voting for what is best for AA as whole, not just what is best for me, or even my group? Am I voting out of pride and/or ego? Other questions in regard to meeting in person until the lockdown is lifted might be: Are we setting ourselves above the law? If so are we operating out of pride and ego because we won't consider a different way or we think we know what is best? How many meetings that are still physically meeting have first-timers walking in on their own? (Most members are referred to AA through rehabs, 12 step calls or contacting an AA number) Should our group investigate if those services such as 12-step phone lines, are still pairing new callers with sober members? Are those members referring newcomers to online meetings, or to the physical meetings still operating? Are newcomers finding AA online? What contingencies should we make if someone contracts Covid-19? Who do we inform? i.e. Dept of Health, other members, etc. Will we all quarantine if that happens? What about anonymity if/when contact tracing resumes? What haven't we thought of in regard to this issue?

The last part of the group conscience is voting and minority opinions. The outcome of any serious vote should be substantial unanimity. After a vote is taken, the minority opinion should always be heard and then members should be asked if anyone wishes to change their vote. In AA experience, if members do their part, our higher power will do his/her and the outcome will be as it should be.

DELEGATE DISTRICT VISITS

If you would like me to visit your district meeting, via zoom or another internet platform, please send me the date, time and link . There are many of you I had not had a chance to visit before the lockdown. I would still love to be a part of your meeting!

In love and service,
Your delegate,
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