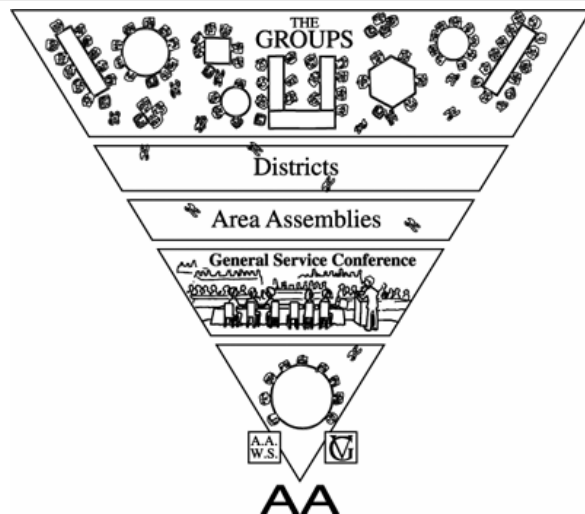




whether it is on the Group, District, or Area level, go to your meetings and take notes so that you make a two minute report. If you can't make the meeting, call someone that can go there and take your place. This year we will be in Beachwood for our Mini-Conference. Give your Home Group a couple of decent two minute reports and I would be willing to bet they will pay for your hotel room and registration (all of mine did)! Last but not least, may the Grace of God be with you in all of your daily endeavors.

Love and Service,  
 Danny F., Panel 59 Delegate



***In gratitude, for allowing me to serve...***

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served the last two and a half years as your delegate to the General Service Conference. Over those 30+ months, you've welcomed me warmly into your homes and your home groups, your anniversaries and your business meetings. At the beginning of this panel in January 2007, I pledged to visit every district. I came close to completing that promise. Given Northeast Ohio's 1,500+ groups however, I feel as though I only scratched the surface.

By the time you read this, we'll have a new delegate and area committee in place. So, my thoughts turn these days to whether I left the area better than I found it. The area is on a sound financial footing. Contributions are up. Participation at the area assembly and in the districts is better than I've seen in six or seven years. Folks are beginning to learn and appreciate the many services that the area and GSO provide and have responded in gratitude.

Since 1975, we have held a Mini-Conference just prior to the General Service Conference to give your Delegate the informed area conscience on actual agenda items from the GSC which allows you personally experience the committee system and a voting conference. Our 34<sup>th</sup> such gathering will take place in

Beachwood OH, April 3-5, 2009. All AAs are welcome and encouraged to attend.

When Bill W. set out to plan the 1<sup>st</sup> International Convention in 1950, he chose Cleveland, Ohio for several reasons. The decade leading up to the convention saw individuals rising above "the greater whole" and pulling AA in different directions. Bill knew unity of the groups was necessary to AA's survival. Dr. Bob's failing health also convinced Bill that a system was needed to turn the founders' roles over to the members of the groups. To these ends, the 1<sup>st</sup> International Convention attendees adopted the Twelve Traditions that unite our groups and an experimental system of representation by members that would become the General Service Conference.

AA has continued to grow and flourish in Northeast Ohio since that time. I certainly owe my life and continued sobriety to AA in Northeast Ohio. I owe a debt of gratitude to you all of which I can barely begin to pay the interest.

We, in Northeast Ohio-Area 54, should be proud that once again the voice of even one member can be heard and recognized on issues of concern. At the 58<sup>th</sup> Conference this year, many delegates noted, with frustration, how hard it was to get

their area's items accepted on to the agenda. Most agenda item submissions are rejected by the trustees for various reasons. During the previous four years, our area has successfully obtained a place on the agenda of the GSC four times, with little to no difficulties. We were responsible for these:

- 2005 – Information on service sponsorship added to *Q&A on Sponsorship*.
  - 2007 – Individual contribution limit raised from \$2K to \$3K.
  - 2008 – Finance Committee Workbook resulting in a rework of the Finance folio, which will now appear in the literature catalog.
  - 2008 – Request for Corrections Desk to collect local sharing on the use of the new Corrections DVD.
  - 2009 – Request to consider rotating the General Service Conference out of NYC in alternate years, starting with Cleveland/Akron.
  - 2009 – Request for revisions to outmoded language in *Q&A on Sponsorship*.
  - 2009 – Request for revision to archives policies concerning access and photocopies.
  - 2009 - Request to evaluate a locally produced video on "God as We Understand Him" as a potential conference-approved item.
- Continued on Next Page...***

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I believe this speaks to the quality of sobriety and service work being done in Northeast Ohio. It underlines the essence of the Conference structure – to operate for the good of AA-as-a-whole and ever keeping in mind our primary purpose, that of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic wherever s/he may be.

It is difficult to express in words the gratitude and enthusiasm that I have for AA service work after being to the General Service Conference in NYC. As I remind my sponsees on a regular basis, “Don’t tell me about your gratitude, show me!” Therefore, I will be showing my gratitude as your new Literature Committee chair.

This will be my last message to you as your delegate. My experience over the last two-plus years in this role has been nothing less than the ride-of-a-lifetime. “It is an

experience you must not miss...” Thank you all for making it possible for this drunk to clean up, suit up and show up – One Day at a Time – to learn and then try to pass on the wonders and gratitude of my involvement in AA-as-a-whole.

Jeff Y., [57/54] Delegate



### more words from the outgoing and incoming panel....

Hello to all in Area 54:

I can't believe this is a new year 2009, wow!! Time has always gone by at the same speed, but I have not. Since I have been in AA and actually participating in AA, time seems to have sped up. I really loved being recording secretary for area 54 so much, the two years just flew by. I learned so much more about Alcoholics Anonymous and there is so much more to learn. Unfortunately I didn't feel as though I would be able to give my all at this time due to my MS. However, I knew I wanted to continue to be a part of, so I agreed to be Finance Chairperson. I look forward to beginning this year with a different hat. I will be soliciting for committee members so anyone interested in joining the Finance Committee, please get in touch with me. I look forward to working with panel 59 and all of the other committee chairs, all of AA as a matter of fact. I love Alcoholics Anonymous.  
Yours in Service Always,

Jamie A Bailey

Finance Chairperson

Outgoing Recording Secretary

*More from Danny F...*

Hi everyone my name is Danny F. and I am your outgoing Alternate Delegate for Panel 57. I was asked to share on the Alternate position and all I can say is it was an incredible ride! The position is as demanding as the Delegate position the only difference with this position is that you DO NOT go to New York with the Delegate. Everyone must have thought Jeff Y. and I were the Blues Brothers because we were always with each other at Area Functions and out of state conferences. We were always dressed in our "Sunday best" because that is what our Panel 55 Delegate told us to do. In February of the first year of the panel you enter into a new realm of service, the Region. You will meet AA's who have the same service position you have at the Conference of Delegates, Past and Present. On Friday evening you enter into a boardroom with your Delegate. You find a chair in the perimeter of the room with the Alternates from the Region and sit quietly (me?) and watch the committee process happen. The Delegate Chair produces a mock agenda item to be discussed. The delegates all share and vote upon said item. This is a preview of coming attractions for the General Service Conference. The other task for the

Alternate is to work with the Districts and attend district meetings, as well as their workshops and picnics. It is demanding also because you want to help "relight" the dark districts and help the district committee members procure and retain general service representatives. I found the aspect of this service position the most rewarding because you have an opportunity to meet so many members who want to be at the service level and who are hungry to learn our AA Traditions.

Yours in Love and Service,

Danny F.

Alt. Delegate [57/54] Outgoing



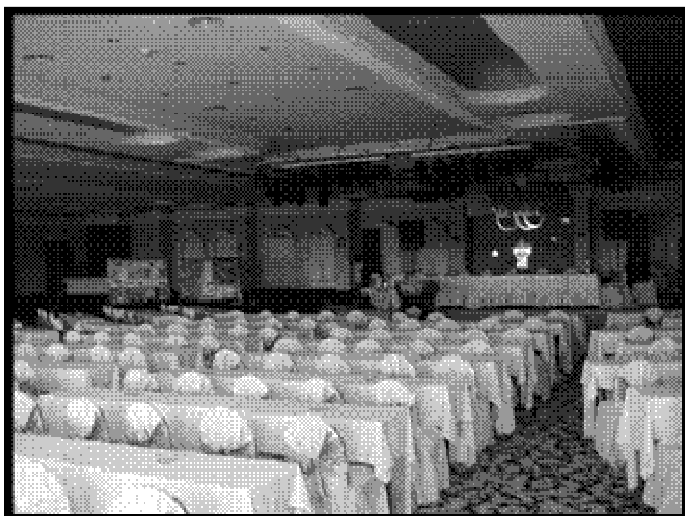




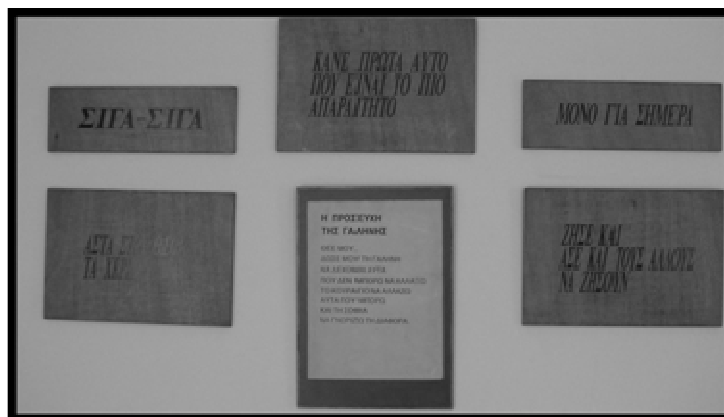
Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica



Fethiye, Turkey



AA convention. Kusadasi, Turkey



Slogans and the Serenity Prayer in Athens, Greece

## RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our AA experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole Authority. World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy. Our meetings are informative and educational. They are held so that the Committee Members, GSR's and all interested members may be better equipped to carry the message of World Service back to their home groups and individual members, thus giving a better understanding to our purpose, our hopes and our work.

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