

Personal Notes to Delegate Report-Back 7/18/26

1. 17 of us present in Virginia at Peace United Methodist Church.

2. At the conference,

- The average age of attendees was 58 (35-80 years old)

- Average sobriety was 22 years (7-41 years)

- Average years of service 17 years (7-41 years)

3. 136 people were present-68% delegates, 12% staff...

4. Floor Actions that passed:

- The suggested area contribution for delegate expenses to attend the conference is increased from \$2200 to \$3000.

(the first proposal was \$4800 and that was voted down)

- AAWS print version of the Final Conference Report will end for the 2027 General Service Conference. It will be available in digital form. We will be able to buy it through our Literature Department for \$7.65 about 2 months after the digital version is available. This is cheaper than trying to print it yourself. It costs the fellowship about \$80,000 to print it and distribute it for free-to-the-individual now.

- The word, "Eskimo" will be removed from the 12 X 12 in the chapter on Tradition Eight and be replaced with a neutral, non-racial term.

(There was discussion that literature changes need to be brought back to the groups before being instituted. Area 35 is strong in wanting to keep Bill's original writings intact. This has been disagreed with at the Conference, using the Right of Decision perspective. Pat, our Delegate, says the Right of Decision applies to topics that need a decision quickly-not topics of literature wording changes.)

The 5th Edition of the Big Book is supposed to be out by the 1st of 2027. They print the Big Book twice/year.

Discussion was held that we don't like the groups being bypassed in literature changes. We can do a PAI (proposed agenda item). That is always an option.

On that topic, there was discussion that the Trustees are the ones who decide which agenda items will make it to conference floor. It is believed that the ones who do not make it are no longer thrown away, but kept on file.

There was discussion also that the process of anyone being able to submit an PAI (Proposed Agenda Item to be included as an agenda item) individually circumvents the groups' authority. We would like to see PAI's come through a group, that district, and that area. This would help cut

down wild hares and random changes. It would be more in the keeping of Tradition 10 and weeding out outside issues.

Our West Central Region is not entirely happy with how things are being done currently. But the coastal regions carry much more voting power and bring in new ideas (we feel outside issues).

Twice, there was a proposal or more delegates to be included in a committee to approve PAIs being brought to the conference and these proposals were not approved.

There was a proposal to not print the 5th edition of the Big Book until “Founder’s Writings” is defined. They are proceeding anyway.

There was mention of the dread of the word, “God” being removed from our literature. That has been mentioned over the past few years and we are afraid of the slippery slope of changing literature without the groups’ input.

Processes in AA that circumvent group power are:

1. PAI’s being accepted by individuals and not restricted to groups, districts, and areas.
2. Individuals being able to make contributions apart from their groups. This reduces the Power of the Purse for groups—a group’s only power.
3. The AAWS Meeting Guide is open to central offices, intergroups, and the service structure. Only in MN are groups required to be registered as an official group with GSO to be listed on the Meeting Guide. This circumvents a registered group’s influence in our fellowship.

My personal thought: Can having too-open of procedures circumvent groups’ authority as it was intended?

AA is a \$12 million dollar non-profit. Bill wrote that 9-12 months’ budget should be held in a Prudent Reserve. We struggle with that, of course. In 1967, the General Service Conference issued an Advisory Action that “The GSB make use of investment income from the Reserve Fund for whatever purpose the Board may authorize.” Of course, we struggle with how the Board spends money, with dipping more and more into the Prudent Reserve.

The groups need to have a voice and change what we can. When we can’t, the solution is to accept the things we can’t change. We can pray for the wisdom to know the difference and file PAI’s to make our voices heard.

Personal notes only, Phyll

7/18/2026

