

Hello friends, my name is Judy Cameron, your area Delegate, Panel 73, Treatment and Accessibilities Committee. My home group is the Northwood Group in Thunder Bay, and I am an alcoholic.

It is my distinct pleasure to give you my second and final Conference Report and to inform you of the events of the past year. I will do my best to inform you and I welcome any questions or comments following my report.

As you may recall from last year's report the 2023 conference experienced some disharmony regarding actions taken by the General Service Board regarding the resignation of a Class A, non-alcoholic Trustee. Although the main issue was resolved, some negative issues found their way into the 2024 Conference as well.

Before I get to that, however, I would like to fill you in on the activities since I last reported to Area 85 at the Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Kenora Round-ups last year. Our General Service structure has been maintained by District 1 primarily and with the help of some groups in Districts 2 and 3. We have no involvement from the other districts whatsoever, so we have moved forward without their input. This means that we are missing the voices from many members and as a result an Ad Hoc committee was formed to make a concerted effort to try and communicate with them and to seek their input on important matters affecting AA as a whole.

District One hosted the Fall Assembly again in September 2023 and the Spring Assemble was hosted in Kenora in April 2024. For the past couple of years our Assemblies have been hybrid thanks to Bill C our Area Website Coordinator. Our positions are filled except for the Area Registrar, whose job is to keep meetings, times, places, positions, etc. up to date on the database. Think of this when we have AA members traveling and rely on the AA website for meeting information in our area. Please consider putting your name forward if you are interested in this important work.

At the Spring Assembly we voted in a new Alternate Delegate from Sioux Lookout, Joel C. He has much to catch up on but I am more than willing to mentor him as he learns the ropes of the position of Delegate. We were saddened to accept Todd T's resignation from the position earlier this year.

Now for the conference. It began on Sunday, April 15 and ended on Saturday, April 20. To say it was a long tiring process is an understatement and I couldn't possibly tell you all that went on. I will do my best to give you highlights.

Some weeks before the conference a letter came out requesting the fellowship's feedback with respect to the Founders' Writings. There was a list of questions for groups and members to answer giving their opinion about any potential changes that may be made to the Big Book, 12 and 12, etc. I sent out the letter and questions to as many groups as I could and got back about 11 responses. As you can imagine this topic caused a great deal of discussion and, may I say, arguments but overall, our area agreed that no changes be made to the Big Book's first 164 pages.

Although many groups acknowledged the old-fashioned use of some words, it was felt that with proper sponsorship and group involvement, we could get past it. As this topic was a big one, the conference hosted a pre-conference event via Zoom, for many Delegates to report on their area's opinions. At the conference itself, I was able to give a brief report on your behalf expressing your opinion.

Along with this topic was the issue of the publication of a Plain Language text of the Big Book. I was able to present a video from GSO on the reasons for doing this at the Spring Assembly. In last year's report I told you about my experience at last year's conference reading the draft of the first 5 chapters. We were given just one hour to read the draft and I saw several things that I did not feel translated well. Many of us delegates expressed our concerns that we were only allowed one hour and requested an increase in time to read the finished product this year. As a result, my time was slotted for 6:30 -8:30 am on Tuesday. I must say I was better prepared this year and found the things I didn't like last year had been re-worked and it flowed better as a result. When I was able to go to the mic with my feedback it was as follows:

- I started with A Vision for You and found it very well done and easy to understand without changing the meaning.
- The Doctor's Opinion in its original form was placed alongside of the translated one so it was easy to go back and forth – the phrase “phenomenon of craving” was replaced with “craving all the time”.
- The issue I had in Bill's Story regarding the DTs was amended to include a footnote describing the symptoms. They missed hallucinations and put shaking in brackets beside it. My feedback included getting rid of the bracket and just putting an Asterix beside it.
- In How it Works the steps were left in their original form and explanations were in the back of the book along with the traditions and the concepts. The wording of the steps from last year were changed and were better. I liked the

fact that they were now in the back of the book. They left the 3rd Step prayer but also provided a less religious version. The 4th step chart was left untouched.

- In the chapter Into Action step 5 was explained well and step 6 was pretty much the same. Step 7 prayer was untouched, and the promises didn't read as poetic as the original in my opinion.
- Working with Others used gender neutral language making the alcoholic either.
- The chapter to wives was changed to "To Partners".
- The Family Afterward also used some gender-neutral language but reverted to Dad scenarios – I couldn't understand why.
- To Employers used male/female pronouns again. I thought they should stay consistent.
- In terms of the title "Plain Language Big Book – A tool for reading Alcoholics Anonymous" – I suggested they leave "Big Book" out of the title and instead use something like Plain Language tool for reading Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Literature Committee recommended to the Conference that the draft be forwarded for publication with a few minor edits. The conference approved. I will keep you posted as to when it will be available for purchase.

We heard presentations on the current financial situation. The letter that went out to groups mid-year really generated increased contributions, but we still haven't replaced our reserve fund following the pandemic.

The Grapevine/LaVina presentation was excellent, and they challenged the fellowship to consider several ways to increase subscriptions. They reported that if only 10% of the 69,000 groups and one member of each group subscribe, it would restore the reserve fund! Lots of other ideas that I will take to our grapevine chair as well.

As we worked through the agenda several matters were presented to be considered as floor actions (15 in all). On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday we worked from 9 am to 9:30 pm but were slowly getting behind on our agenda due to several long discussions as a result of leftover negativity from last year that caused controversy

at times. My patience wore thin at times, and I got to the mic whenever I felt it was necessary to refocus and move on. I'm not sure it helped but nevertheless I expressed myself.

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday we began at 8:30 or 9 in the morning and ended around midnight. I will not bore you with all the recommendations that were voted on, but I will give you a list of things the conference managed to approve. They are as follows:

1. Pamphlets approved either new or revised.
 - a. Black in AA: Experience, Strength, and Hope
 - b. A Message to Correctional Professionals
 - c. Bridging the Gap: becoming a Temporary Contact
 - d. Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix
 - e. AA for Asian Alcoholics
 - f. Speaking at Meetings Outside of AA
 - g. To consider the production of an outside facing pamphlet for Mental Health Professionals and one for transgender alcoholics
 - h. I am currently serving on a committee reviewing and updating a pamphlet for Indigenous people. I am very honored to serve on this committee with Indigenous alcoholics from across Canada and the US. We are currently reading the new stories that were submitted and are hopeful that the pamphlet will be approved at next year's conference.

2. Other projects to carry on with reports to be ready for next year's conference.
 - a. Young People's Video Project – we heard two of the 18 interviews that have been recorded to date. They were excellent and the conference carried the motion.

- b. The Military Outreach Project – is to continue and to include a francophone speaker as well as veterans. There are some interviews already available on the website.
- c. The Committee on Conventions and Regional Forums made several recommendations regarding anonymity protected photos be taken at the 2025 World Conference in Vancouver. They also made recommendations for five ways to close the big meetings at the conference to include The Serenity Prayer, the Responsibility Statement, the Declaration of Unity, the Third Step Prayer, or the Seventh Step Prayer. Much discussion about the Lord's Prayer not listed but the motion to accept the Committee's recommendation was passed by the conference.

The conference ended around noon on Saturday and several of us were able to travel to Steppingstones where Bill and Lois lived and where Bill did his writing. It was a beautiful day and I felt very honoured to visit this special place. I got to see the very first printing of our precious Big Book that Bill gifted to Lois. I was able to sit at the very table where Bill and Ebby had their first talk and read a note that Bill left on the table telling Lois he was checking into the hospital. He never drank again. I sat at his desk and looked around at the many artifacts on display. It was a wonderful place to visit and recommend any member see it.

Finally, I have placed several things on a table at the back of the room that you are more than welcome to review. Of note is the Remote Communities Communicator, information on the 2025 International Conference in Vancouver, the 2022 Membership Survey results, my Table of answers provided to me from the groups regarding the Founders' Writings, and lots of information on the Grapevine. I have also left the Conference Binder that holds all the presentations and agenda for you to look through. If you have any questions or wish me to come to your group, simply ask and I will make an attempt to accommodate your requests.

Once again thank you for allowing me to be your Delegate and I now invite you to ask any questions you may have.

