

NERAASA February 20 – 22, 2015

North East Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly gathered for the 24th annual event at Somerset, New Jersey, hosted by Area 44 Northern New Jersey. It was a wonderful experience to meet members from 11 different states. There are 18 Delegate Areas that make up our North East Region. There are eight Panel 65 Delegates from the North East region. Areas: 11 CT, 13 DC, 30 EMA, 44 NNJ, 47 CNY, 49 SENY, 59 EPA, & 60 WPA. There were two Delegate Round Tables and I got to meet the North East Regional Trustee, J Gary L. and 17 other Area Delegates and several Alternate Delegates. J Gary L. chaired the Delegates meeting in the late evenings and had the Panel 64 Delegates share pointers on what to expect, what to wear, importance of getting informed by your Area GSR's and how to report back to the Area after conference. I was able to share my modified Area highlights again. I also was on the panel for Ask It Basket Questions and Answers. I was personally asked to register for our Young People Convention in Rochester. There was an "Ask It basket" question: "Can older people attend a young people's event?" The answer is, YES, the young and young at heart are all welcome!

J Gary L. will be rotating out and a new North East Regional Trustee will be voted in this April at the General Service Conference. Our Area 47 Past Delegate Bob W was nominated by our Area 47 Assembly and he is willing to serve A.A. in a 4 year term if elected.

There were many presentations on various items asking panelist Questions about various topics such as:

- Panel 1 PUBLIC INFORMATION
 1. Transitioning the membership Survey to Digital Format
 2. Improving Membership Awareness of Anonymity Concerns
 3. How Our Lack of Diversity Affects Our Membership
- Panel 2 LITERATURE
 1. A Book on the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts
 2. Literature for Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Alcoholics
 3. The Need for Literature on Individual Safety in the Rooms
- Panel 3 OUR TRADITIONS
 1. Is Our Singleness of Purpose Still Relevant Today?
 2. Social Media – Is Our Anonymity Helping or Hindering?
 3. Should We Continue to Avoid Public Controversy?
- Panel 4 A.A. AND SOCIAL MEDIA
 1. Defining an Anonymity Break on Social Media
 2. A Service Structure for Non-Geographical Districts (Online Meetings)
 3. Anonymity Concerns of Online Meetings
- Panel 5 FINANCE
 1. Literature Price Increases and Group / Individual Contributions
 2. Restructuring Our Business Model and Corporate Structures
 3. Should La Vina be Reported Financially as a "Service"?
- Panel 6 A.A. AS A WHOLE
 1. A Book of general Service Conference Presentations

2. Should general Service Conference Presentations Recordings be made Available?
3. A Separate Pamphlet for “Bridging the Gap” in Corrections

We heard a report from the North East Regional Trustee J Gary L. That report can be located for your viewing on the www.neraasa.org site tab from N.E. TRUSTEE. This helps you understand why our Literature prices increased and lots more.

I heard a variety of perspectives on various ways to carry the message, to fulfill our primary purpose as well as many topics on issues we are faced with today. Most importantly I learned that information through social media or anything that is put out on the World Wide Web is not confidential, even if it is secret or private. It is really important to talk about our Traditions in your home groups to keep, protect, and inform new members of the Spiritual Principles of this wonderful program.

I attended a Delegates Luncheon with your Alternate Delegate Anita L. and Area 47 Past Delegates – Patty S, Jack H. and Bob W. There were two Past Delegates that also served as Trustee of Southern California in attendance. I personally had a conversation with the first Native American Delegate and Trustee from Southern California Region. He is a very Spiritual man who is well grounded and has a certain kind of peace about him. I shared carrying the New York State Flag with the Panel 65 Area 49 SENY Delegate Jim W. during the Saturday night flag ceremony. I am so blessed to have the privilege of serving my God and this Area to experience these moments that are so awesome and indescribable by words. There is truly something so special and spiritual about gatherings with other members in this program that leave you a changed person by just being a part of... Come join us on this road to happy destiny and your life will never be the same. 😊