

January 26, 20132

REPORT OF THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Greetings and salutations to everyone!

Here we are now entering our 2nd year of rotation. (At least many of us are.) By now our feet are starting to get an idea about what direction we should be heading. We are starting to gain an understanding about the role we play in the Area and in General Service. We should also be thinking about passing on this information. If you are an Alternate like I am, hopefully you are starting to talk to the chairperson or DCM about the work they do. Things run so much more smoothly when we learn a bit about our next adventure before we jump in to it. And, as we know with sobriety, we get so much back in return when we share our experience, strength and hope with those on the path with us. This is just as true in service.

Looking back on the time since our last Assembly I have to admit I haven't been too active. I did however take time to enjoy the holidays and work with some people new to the program. Like most places, there are always people trying to appreciate their first sober holidays. Since I got sober at Thanksgiving I know how this can be a challenging time when you don't have much time. Sometimes it's a hard time when you do have time.

I had the pleasure of speaking at one of the Spanish meetings this month in McHenry. If you've never had this experience, you need to try it! I have to admit, I was getting kind of nervous since I was the only woman there. Fortunately some women were looking to find the McHenry Alano and found this meeting instead. I don't think it was by chance that they came there. Hearing one of the speakers tell their story through an interpreter is both a blessing and a challenge. It gives me a chance to experience for myself how our Spanish brothers and sisters might feel about sitting in our Assemblies. And of course, I get to talk about service, one of my favorite topics. My challenge here is to talk slow enough for the interpreter. I did however find out that there are a few words that do not need to be translated, they seem to be universal =D

Looking forward in the year, I am already starting preparations for distribution of the General Service Conference Agenda and background material. We've supplied copies of the preliminary agenda today and you should have already received an e-mail of those from Rich early. We will once more be mailing 2 printed copies of the full agenda, along with a cd of the background material. If you are a new DCM please make sure Marilyn has your information and address. I have already purchased the envelopes and am starting to write out the labels.

For you that are DCMs, it will be up to you on how you distribute the information to your Groups. Printing several hundred pages for each person isn't exactly eco-friendly, or even financially friendly. You may however want to print one full copy for your District. Most Kinkos, Staples, Office Max, etc. can print from a file for you. So you could take your disc to one of these places near you to get a copy. I will also be breaking down the agenda by committee, and you may contact me if you wish to have me send you a version in an e-mail. Although we did find last year that the background for PI was too large to send in one e-mail. So we may

have to break that one down to two files. So if you have a person who is interested in a specific committee portion, feel free to contact me and request I send that one in particular along to you.

I am still trying to find a venue for a quarterly service school type meeting. As we discussed at the break-out meeting in December, the idea would be that we could create small sessions where you could provide information at your Districts in short meetings, perhaps before or after your various District meetings. I continue to work on ideas for these sessions and content and handouts. If you have any topics that you think your GSRs would like to have sessions on, please let me know. This will allow me to start coming up with the material. Think of it as a "train the trainer" event for service. Someone from your District attends the meeting, then goes back to your District and talks to your local GSRs and members about the topic. DCMs could be the main conduit, or they could suggest their Alternate attend, or LCMs, or any other GSR. Breaking down service into bite size pieces seems to be something that most people would not only tolerate better than an all-day event, but perhaps even retain some of the information. I know that I cannot retain more than my tushy can handle ;-)

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday!

Service? WooHoo!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl V.
NIA Alternate Delegate
Panel 62 / Area 20