

Alternate DCM Report

12/07/2017

I attended the East Central Regional Forum from November 17th to 19th in Springfield, IL. This was the first forum I attended and was very grateful for getting to have a new experience participating in this event. During the forum multiple trustees from our General Service Board, along with delegates from other areas, gave presentations and answered questions through sharing sessions. There was a lot of interesting information shared and I enjoyed being able to put faces to some of the individuals serving Alcoholics Anonymous on our General Service Board. It was also interesting to meet some of our class A trustees who are non-alcoholics and are of great service to our fellowship for fun and for free.

One of the presentations I found the most interesting was by the trustee at large for Canada. As a trustee at large, he shared his experience travelling to different countries and witnessing the lengths members of Alcoholics Anonymous go to. Some of these stories included how Uganda has 50 members and a total of 4 meetings within the country, how the Cuban government does not recognize AA and that barriers it creates, how there are general service offices that have a total budget of \$3000, and how members from Nicaragua travelled a total of 4 days on a bus to get to a conference. It reminded me of how easy AA has become for us and how our contributions to the General Service Office has a spiritual connection that reaches alcoholics everywhere.

Throughout the forum there were sharing sessions, where members could make comments or ask questions to the members of the General Service Board about whatever they would like. During these sharing sessions, the manuscript litigation was a common topic. Many questions were asked, and concerns were voiced by members. The general response by the trustees was that the questions could not be answered due to the litigation being ongoing, but the concerns being voiced were heard. Since the time of the forum, AAWS dismissed the litigation as of November 27th as they felt it was no longer in the best interest of AAWS and it had become too much of a distraction from our primary purpose.

During the two breakout sessions that occurred during the forum, I attended the A.A.W.S. workshop and a workshop on workshops. The A.A.W.S. workshop was led by the director of publishing who shared how the literature catalog is being redesigned, how ASL videos of the Big Book and 12&12 will be made available in January of 2018, and that new cover designs were developed for our pamphlets which will be implemented at next printings. He also shared about the process of translating our literature such as how it took three people meeting once per week for six years for the retranslation of the Big Book in Russian, and how a group of women in Ghana hand-crafted 1200 copies of the Big Book which had been translated in Twi. During the workshop on workshops, I got a great deal of ideas from other members about different workshops that were put on within their areas and districts. I look forward to passing this information on to our incoming District 11 workshop chair.

The next East Central Regional Forum will be held in July of 2019 in Detroit, MI. I hope that around that time, there will be others who are interested in having their own experience with attending a forum and growing in experience.

Yours in service,

Kelly B.

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