

Area 47 Central New York

Pre-Conference Assemblies Guide

As the format of the assemblies is revised for March and April I have listed some basic information on how they are conducted. I very much appreciate and value your participation in preparing me (and the Alternate Delegate, if need be) for the conference.

The Chairperson will be in charge of the meeting. The meeting format is simple: an item will be presented and then there will be open-mic for comments. Presentations will be between 5-8 minutes. Comments, at the open-mic are limited to 2 minutes. There will be a timekeeper and a warning will indicate that the 2 minutes is about to expire. If your time is up, we ask that you stop speaking, out of respect for your fellow members. At the mic state your name and service position (if any). Any A.A. member can speak at the mic. You can speak more than once but before you do; the assembly will be asked if there is anyone who has not spoken and would like to do so before you do.

Our goal is to keep the agenda on track, however, the Chairperson may adjust the length of a discussion based on arriving at an informed group conscience.

Selection of Agenda Items

In some general-service areas the delegate decides what agenda items are discussed by the assembly. Our format also involved the presenters, (last year it was the DCM's) the Area Chairperson and the Alternate Delegate in the decision-making process. In addition, there was an open invitation made at the last assembly for groups or individuals to express their preferences. Also, our agenda allows time for open-mic where any agenda item can be discussed. Finally, I will be visiting districts and home groups to hear their group conscience. And I invite any member of A.A. to contact me to discuss agenda items.

Presenters Responsibilities

The presenter have read and studied the background material. They are going to present the agenda item in a neutral manner. However, following their presentation, in the spirit of "Concept IV, "Right of Participation," they can make remarks, if they choose to do so, for or against, during the open-mic discussion. Also, they will remain at the podium during the open-mic discussion to answer questions or make clarifications, if need be.

GSR's, DCM's and Other Trusted Servants Suggested Responsibilities

The General Service Conference agenda has been distributed. The list of agenda items that are scheduled for discussion at the March and April assemblies has also been distributed (and is posted on the Area website). You can request, from me, any portion of, or the entire conference agenda background material. Before attending the assembly discuss the agenda items at your home groups or at your district meetings. In this way you carry their perspective to the assembly and are prepared to ask questions/discuss agenda items.

Please note that at the February assembly I *suggested* that all assembly members consider as a personal goal that they share at the mic at least once at either the March or April assembly.

Responsibility of the Delegate and Alternate Delegate

We are here to listen and to understand what the informed group conscience of the area is. Following an agenda item discussion, I will ask, by a simple show of hands, for the sense of the assembly as to whether they are in favor, opposed or have no opinion on an agenda item. Only Area 47 assembly members will be polled.

Thank you for your service!

In service,

Joe S., Delegate, P 67/A47 CNY