

February 2026 – Delegate’s Corner

“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

—Isaac Newton

As we wrapped up the East Central Regional Conference of Delegates Past and Present (CDPP) and I stepped up to give my closing remarks, that quote hit me with full force. I truly had been given the chance to stand on the shoulders of giants. Looking out over the Benton Harbor Hilton Garden conference room, I saw about 115 people gathered for one purpose: to prepare the delegates for the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Prepare us they did.

We worked from 8:30 in the morning until 9:00 at night. We heard panel discussions and presentations from past delegates and trustees. We walked through a mock agenda item and practiced the full conference process. By the time I left, I felt more grounded, more informed, and more ready for the Mini-Conference season in Ohio—and ultimately for the 76th General Service Conference.

Many topics were discussed, but the Finance and Budget of the General Service Office rose quickly to the top. There was real concern about budget shortfalls and the drawdown of the prudent reserve. Cost-cutting measures are being addressed by the trustees, but one message was clear: this is not “us versus them.” It is “us and us.” The Groups fund Alcoholics Anonymous. Literature sales help, but with the rise of online resources, that revenue is decreasing. It is up to us—every group, every member—to support our Fellowship and ensure we can continue reaching the still-suffering alcoholic. We need to give more than a dollar in the basket, and we need all our groups participating in the Seventh Tradition.

I cannot fully express my gratitude to everyone at the CDPP. Many past delegates, and trustees attended on their own dime. Many alternate delegates attended as observers. Everyone's dedication, their experience, and their willingness to serve were inspiring. Being there, I felt the enormity of what GENERAL SERVICE really means. The people in that room—and the many who came before them—are indeed the giants. I will do my best to show myself worthy of the trust placed in me as a delegate, carrying our informed group conscience to the Conference.