

Hello Area 5! I hope everyone is safe and healthy.

I'm excited and honored to serve as your Delegate for Panel 73. I'm writing this the day before the 73rd General Service Conference starts, which is on April 23, 2023.

I arrived late Wednesday following an uneventful flight with a short layover in Chicago. Arriving early has helped acclimate to the local time zone. It's also given my wife (Sue S.) and I opportunity to visit GSO for an open A.A. meeting, sightsee around town, and meet many of my peers from across the U.S. and Canada.

The hotel conference center is abuzz with Delegates, Trustees, GSO Staff and numerous guests of the delegates traveling along as +1's.

I have been reading the background for every agenda item while focusing on my Treatment and Accessibilities Committee assignment.

The Area's participation in the 73rd GSC online survey and the attention given to our two-day Pre-Conference was incredible. It was a treat that our Area was afforded the opportunity to meet Misha Q., the Staff member for Treatment, Accessibilities and Remote Communities. She added a lot of value to our pre-conference, and she shared her experience with other GSO staff upon her return. There were 198 responses to the survey and the feedback I received at the Pre-Conference was outstanding. Great job Area 05!

I had the opportunity to review the feedback from our online surveys before, during and after my arrival. I especially appreciate the kind words of encouragement from those that wished me well and gave advice. It was also a source of laughter during the long flight. Thank you!

I have been able to connect with conference members, committee members, GSO staff, and trustees via Zoom this year. I hear from our Past Delegates this is an amazing way to prepare and one that they were not able to experience themselves. Thank goodness for our adoption of virtual platforms to help conduct business, as well as meet our peers across North America and around the world!

We have a full agenda beginning with today's Meet & Greet, the 1728 open A.A. meeting, our Remote Communities meeting, and this evening's Delegates Only meeting. The Conference officially begins tomorrow. We're amped up and ready to tackle the business at-hand.

I look forward to being with you on Sunday, May 21st, to share my experience at the conference, all the pertinent information I receive and all the actions of the 73rd General Service Conference. Lastly, I'd like to thank our Alternate Delegate, Nikki U., for her support preparing me for the Conference, and her prayers that I'd stay healthy (LOL)!

Feel free to contact me at any time via my email address: delegate@area05aa.org or my mobile number listed in the SCAAN.

I look forward to representing the Area!

Respectfully,

Doug S.

Delegate Area 05 Panel 73