

Delegate Report - Pacific Northwest Conference
June 24 - 26, 2011 Bend, OR

Once again, a PNC host committee has gone to great lengths to make the event a success. A special thank you to this year's host, District 5 for an awesome conference in Bend in June.

As in past years, this year's PNC consisted of a weekend filled with panel discussions, speakers, a business meeting, and an Ask-it-Basket. Thrown into the mix between those activities were morning A.A. meetings, an Archives display, and time to fellowship with AAs from all over Oregon and Washington.

The panel discussions started on Friday just after 5 pm and went through Saturday afternoon. The topics were sometimes serious, sometimes fun. The first 4 panels consisted of 3 topics each, and the topics coincided with presentations from this year's Conference. Topics for the last panel involved meeting conduct. I don't know how, but Mitch from District 16 ended up with this one: Coins, Cakes, Clapping / Can the Good be the Enemy of the Best? Ask him for a copy of his presentation if you are at all curious about these practices that seem to have crept into our meetings. I don't mean to single out Mitch ... all the panelists did a great job of research and preparation, and offered a fresh look at topics that are important to us all. A shout out to all the Oregon Area presenters, readers, and panel facilitators.

This year's PNC was attended by our new Pacific Regional Trustee, Rod B. I don't think Rod had attended a PNC before, so it was probably enlightening for him, and I know it was a treat for the rest of us. Rod was the Saturday evening speaker, as he will be at our election Assembly. I hope each of you will take the time to seek him out, shake his hand and ask him a question or two.

Next year's PNC will be hosted by Area 92 and will take place June 22nd - 24th in Walla Walla, WA. Since this will be close for many of us -- particularly those in the Portland metro area, central and eastern Oregon -- I hope I will see many of you there. You may or may not be able to convince your group or District to fund you, but it still is a relatively inexpensive Conference to attend if you ride and room share. You will NOT be disappointed. These small regional events add so much to our understanding of A.A. as a whole, and we get to meet and network with members from other Areas who are also participating in general service. It's all about reaching the still suffering alcoholic and it's serious business -- in fact it's life or death stuff. There isn't a reason we can't have fun while we're learning how to better carry the message, however, and that is what happens during these service conference weekends. The drive to and from the conference is sometimes the best AA meeting we've had in ages. Add to that ice cream socials, coffee breaks, lunch and dinner gatherings of old and new friends sounds just like a District event in conjunction with a potluck! I hope each of you will seriously consider setting aside 'PNC Weekend' next year and be ready to have fun in service.

I'll close with a few statements I heard during the panels and sharing sessions. "Sometimes we have to move off the path to figure out where the path is." "Members of A.A. cannot be governed, but we can be led." "You can't think your way into a new way of living; you need to live your way into a new way of thinking." "Service rendered with ego is politics; service rendered with love is spiritual." "Do we look at being a trusted servant as a chore to be unloaded on some unsuspecting newcomer?" "The sponsor reaches out, not down." "What lies before us and what lies behind us are small matters compared to what lies within us." (Ralph Waldo Emerson) "There are two ways to live: one is to live as if nothing is a miracle, and the other is to live as if everything is a miracle." (Albert Einstein)

Yours in loving A.A. service,

Anne M., Delegate
Panel 60 Oregon Area 58

