

First of all I'd like to thank the Southern Minnesota Area Assembly for allowing me the privilege and honor to serve as your Delegate to the General Service Conference. I am very excited about the next two years. I've already started receiving information from the General Service Office, which included a list of materials to read in preparation for the Conference. I am rereading the past couple Conference Reports that are being helpful in preparing me in what to expect at the Conference. Next on my list is reviewing the Service Manual, especially with a focus on the Conference Charter. I know I have a big responsibility ahead of me and I do not take it lightly. With the help of my Higher Power, my sponsor and all of you I feel that I'll be able to continue the fine job and example set by the past delegates from our area.

The upcoming West Central Regional Service Conference will be held in Rapid City, SD on March 4-6, 2005. Flyers will be available at the January Service Conference in Rochester on January 8 & 9. Our area has been asked to chair the general session on Sunday morning. We will also be chairing one of the breakout sessions. I hope you will all consider a road trip to Rapid City; it's a great weekend! Our area will be hosting the West Central Regional Service Conference in 2006. Our past delegate, Brenda, will be assisting me in heading up the efforts of putting on this conference.

The upcoming Service Conference in Rochester will also be a great weekend! The theme for this weekend is also the theme for the upcoming 55<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference to be held the week of April 17-23, 2003 in New York. The theme, "Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service. We also use many of the same presentation / discussion and workshop topics from the conference. Some of those topics we will be discussing in January, as well as in April, will be: "Recovery – 'How it Works' in Our Home Group", "Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code" and "Do I Carry the A.A. Message Or My Own?". I look forward to seeing you in Rochester for an interesting, insightful and fun weekend.

In Love and Service,

Mark