

## **5. To hold Spring Assembly with Spring Conference**

### **Motion**

Moved:

1. That the NIA Spring Assembly be held on an annual basis at the NIA Spring Conference with the intent that the transition begin no later than 2014.
2. That the main AA speaker schedule for Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning remain unchanged.
3. That the alcathon remain.
4. That we continue to invite Al Anon and Alateen participation.
5. That opportunities for Service Committee meetings or workshops or panels be made available
6. That the traditional Literature, Archives and Grapevine rooms, etc. remain.
7. That the remaining program focus on our Three Legacies of Unity, Service and Recovery with a focus on service.

### **Background**

At the 2006 General Service Conference the delegate from Delaware reported during his area highlights the GSR participation in assemblies was between 60 and 70 percent. In conversations with other delegates it was revealed that several areas that have weekend assemblies achieve in excess of 60 percent GSR participation regularly.

In October 2006 the Interim Service Structure Report recommended that the Spring Assembly be held at the Spring Conference where the “principal business of the Spring Assembly will be the preparation of the Delegate for the GSC”. The report also suggested that the Fall Assembly be held as a weekend event in conjunction with the Big Book Conference.

At the Fall Assembly in 2009 the Assembly voted to hold the 2010 Spring Assembly at the Spring Conference.

At the Fall Assembly in 2010 the Assembly voted to hold the 2011 Spring Assembly at the Spring Conference..

From the 2011 Area Inventory Final Report:

**Section A – Primary Purpose** (This section, comprised of 8 questions, focused on how well our area fits our primary purpose as stated in our Service Structure Guidelines). 112 responded to the questions in this section of the survey.

...As it relates to NIA conferences, responses include the following: appreciation of the service related aspects of the conferences, satisfaction with the combined Spring Assembly/Conference, and others who felt the NIA conferences do not fit our stated purpose because of money spent for Area service members to attend these events, which may not always focus on service as intended.

**Section B – Trusted Servants** (This section, comprised of 6 questions, focused on improvements to area assemblies, committee meetings, the collection of group conscience and education of trusted servants). 102 responded to the questions in this section of the survey.

...Twice as many members that commented on combining the Spring Conference with the Spring Assembly did not like it.

After searching for the words assembly and conference these are all the comments relating to the assembly at the Spring Conference.

assembly at conference I was opposed but its not so bad  
not beneficial -spring assembly at the conference

I enjoyed being able to get a lot of meetings and assembly done in one weekend

liked the assembly within the conference in the spring with the pre-GSC workshop

Can the Spring Conference attract service committee members to meet and develop recommendations before the Assembly?

Love assembly at Spring Conference!

Continue spring assembly integrated with Spring Conference.

I think the current setup is pretty good. I especially like combining spring assembly with spring conference

I do not like what I perceive as a shorter assembly being folded into the time of the spring conference.

Please have assembly when workshop for conference is not going on

This is great having the assembly at the conference

This is my first area assembly and I believe it is being run well in terms of the length of the meeting and this agenda

Not have an assembly at a conference

This change that brought assembly to conference has worked out okay for me.

They're ok but the scheduling is often conflicting even within the meeting, assembly, conference

At the Fall Assembly in 2011 the Assembly voted to hold the 2012 Spring Assembly at the Spring Conference

## **Rationale**

Over the years we have often discussed how to get more GSR participation at assemblies. In some areas weekend assemblies attract significantly more GSRs than currently regularly attend our assemblies. On an experimental basis we have held two assemblies in conjunction with the Spring Conference and will hold our third next year. These Conference/Assemblies have been planned based on existing Spring Conference Guidelines with the addition of the Assembly business meeting. Spring Conference planning committees have had to wait until late in the planning process to find out if the event would include the assembly. Then program planning has been done with very little guidance about how to wrap the conference around the assembly. As a result program conflicts may have affected assembly attendance. There has been little or no formalized effort to include service committee meetings or “break out sessions” into the program for the weekend.

While it's safe to say the experiment has not been wildly successful, to date we really have not made a real effort to include an entire assembly during the weekend. And concerns have recently been expressed that the Spring Conference does not have enough focus on service. Expanding on recent experience will allow us to build a consistently service oriented event.

It is time to hold an entire assembly at the Spring Conference. Decisions will still need to be made about just how much of the traditional assembly agenda should be included but it seems clear that it should include officers reports, “break out sessions” and the business meeting at a minimum. Conference reports might also be included and committee reports could be included in the minutes.

At the last area committee meeting Brandon L. remarked something to the effect that at this point the assembly at the conference seems normal. One advantage that other areas have with weekend assemblies is that they have always done it that way. And we know how well we handle change. But I would suggest that we are already building a history with some of our members who are relatively new to service where the assembly at the conference is normal. Continuing the experiment and improving experience will serve to continue that trend and hopefully allow us to enjoy increase participation as well.