

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT to the AKRON CONFERENCE 25 April 2009

Being Chairman of this wonderful group over the last year has been a great honor for me but more of a challenge than I thought it would be. I set a bunch of objectives for my year as Chairman that I enumerated at last year's conference, and then spelled out again in last September's **Seven Minutes**. Here's my take on the results –

Fulfill the objective of Tradition Five – Carrying the message to the still suffering nicotine addict.

- I've done my best at the local level – informing people in my area to the program, but I'm disappointed that I didn't do more at the World Services level.

Engage World Service delegates throughout the year – not just at the Conference – informing them of major Board discussions and eliciting feedback.

- I think we've begun on this; partly it's a matter of mechanics – getting the list of email addresses and passing on minutes of meetings once they're proofed by the Board.

Redo the Nicotine Anonymous Home Page

- Thanks to Dan P and his cohorts, this has been very nicely done.

Increase Outreach to treatment facilities. This objective alone, state by state is HUGE – New York State as of July 24th 2008 has cracked down Big Time on smoking by counselors.

- Like a lot of Outreach, this is a HUGE area of endeavor. I don't have any details on how we've done here – maybe we need a separate Outreach post to cover this.

Create a new Pamphlet to nicotine addicts in other 12-step programs. (A GREAT DEAL of work has been done on this already.)

- Traditions issues both with our fellowship and target 12-step programs has stymied
- much progress.

Set up NicA meetings at AA conferences. But there are some REAL BIG tradition issues with this objective.

- Notwithstanding tradition issues, some of our members have succeeded in getting
- at some conferences.

Publicizing Nicotine Anonymous a la the way AA was publicized in the classic 1941 **Saturday Evening Post** article.

- Jan S, our incoming Chair, has been working hard on this.

In all, I've had a great time working with the warm, wonderful, welcoming folks on the Board, and I look forward to continuing working for the fellowship. Writing that reminds me of a line from a wonderful spiritual – “working fer de kingdom.” As it says in AA's 12 and 12, “to be one in a family, a friend among friends, a worker among workers.”

- Ladd J from Long Island