The Delegates Sharing Session is a time and place for delegates to build unity at the World Service Conference, to get to know more about each other and our service bodies, and to exchange experiences and ideas. This session was established by a 2014 WSC proposal, developed for WSC 2016 by a workgroup of Conference participants, and is being planned by a similar workgroup for the 2018 WSC.

The Delegates Sharing Workgroup invited you to complete an online survey. Along with your input for the session itself, you offered tips and experiences that will help fellow delegates before the WSC. Some of those experiences were distributed in a mailing accompanying the Conference Agenda Report, and more are collected here to be sent with the Conference Approval Track mailing. In the weeks leading up to the WSC, a third newsletter will be sent to you along with the Conference Report.

This is also a time when we experience some of our toughest challenges and greatest successes in service. After being elected, some delegates experience “local blowback in which members in our home areas are suddenly negative toward us in service and/or recovery.” One delegate acknowledged, “Although my experience can get the job done, if those I serve do not trust me, my service can create controversy or deter others from wanting to serve.”

And like all undertakings in NA, we encounter personal growth and change as well, fostered by spiritual principles from belonging to humility:

- “I’ve experienced a sense of belonging and that my region believes I’m capable of representing them.”
- “Representing my region…was a great honor, and an amazing learning experience for me on every level.”
- “Is it necessary that I share my experiences? I would like to learn from others.”

This is a time of our Conference cycle when we are called to spend time on the road, away from family, friends, jobs, and hobbies. Our families and those who support us are grateful to have us back in their lives; out of their gratitude, they generously lend us to NA service. And it is gratitude that makes us want to serve together for NA. We are inspired by our primary purpose, guided by a Higher Power and spiritual principles. It is on this common ground that we stand committed.
Some information about our regions is in our regional reports, but it can be helpful to arrive at the WSC ready to share highlights of how we carry the message and provide service in our NA communities.

- What are some ways groups and service bodies encourage and maintain a recovery atmosphere?
- What new ground is being broken—beginning or expanding programs, trying new methods?
- How are struggling or geographically isolated groups supported?

The official WSC language is English, so if you do not speak English or if English is not your first language, remember to take some time to be sure you understand the materials.

Now...

Guiding Principles:
The Spirit of Our Traditions, Tradition One

I wish I had known . . .

Q What do you wish you had known about the WSC before you went to your first, and what are your suggestions to those attending their first WSC?

A What might be relevant/important in one or even several regions does not necessarily equate to being relevant/important from a global perspective. Greater unity can be achieved when we are able to respect this reality as we approach communicating with each other.

Some people will argue with anything you say for the sake of arguing…some people will quietly go out of their way to help move a solution along.

Always remember the importance of the Traditions at the WSC.

The Conference is not a pleasure trip. It requires a lot of sacrifice, clear thinking, and—of course—a lot of humor.