

MARKINGS

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Norm A., Former delegate GV director, shares

“Even before we new delegates in April 1973 arrived, the areas received a questionnaire. ‘How should G.S.O. spend the \$40,000 Bill W. Memorial Fund? A library? A film? A special book?’

“Many opinions were shared by the 90 delegates - long lines at the mikes. Finally on Thursday morning a lady delegate stood and said: ‘We discussed this at the Delegates Only meeting, and I’ve got a bad feeling in my stomach that this isn’t right. Both Bill and Bob said they didn’t want any memorials, just ‘to be buried like folks.’ ‘We shouldn’t have a memorial fund to

begin with. This money should go to the General Fund’. Although criticized for discussing a Conference item in the Delegates Only meeting, the Conference then voted to transfer the money to the General Fund.

“I have a vague memory of the long argument about creating the 91st delegate area to encompass French-speaking Quebec.

“The most memorable item was the request to list Gay and Lesbian groups in the World Directory. Discussion raged through the night and days. We lost our Wednesday night off. A substantial anonymity vote could not be obtained. Emotions were high. There were long lines at the mikes. No compromise could be reached. I remember going to our room during a lunch

break. I realized we had no World Directory in the Conference meeting room. My wife Frances (later a Panel 25 delegate), who could hold a convention from her purse with many A.A. materials, produced a directory.

“I went to the mike and said: ‘We’ve had everybody’s opinion on this issue but one. At noon in our room I got on my knees and asked God what to do. He said ‘Look in the World Directory.’ Opening the directory to the inside cover I read a portion of the 3rd Tradition long form: ‘Any two or more alcoholics may call themselves an A.A. group provided they have no other affiliation.’ When we vote on listing Gay and Lesbian A.A. meetings we need not to vote our emotions or opinions but rather that we do not wish to deny any alcoholic his or her chance to recover?’

“The vote was called and 87% voted to list the groups. Another delegate rose and asked to broaden the motion to include other minority groups 100% affirmative.

“Several delegates came to me and said, ‘I haven’t changed my opinion but because of what you said I changed my vote.’”

Lois’s Engagement Ring

We received the following letter from Charles C.:

“In 1917, when Bill was courting Lois, he and his class at Norwich Academy were suspended for a term. They had refused to give school authorities names of those who participated in a hazing incident. To fill his time and make some needed money, Bill worked a whole year cutting wood until he accumulated enough to buy an engagement ring for Lois and wedding clothes for himself.

“Bill and Lois went to New York to get the ring, Bill declaring that Tiffany’s was the only place to buy it.



38th Florida State Convention — Registry Resort.

Information Exchange

FLORIDA: “I’m the Archives Chairperson for Area 15, District 7#. My name is Sarah G. I never thought I would write an article for *Markings* but I wanted to share my experience of hosting our 1994 38th Florida State Convention that was held July

6th-10th, at the Registry Resort in Naples, FL. We had over 2,400 people attend and many of those came to visit our Archives display, especially the long-time members who would come to reminisce about what it was like 20, 30, 40, even 50 years ago. Oh, the memories that they share are truly treasures.”

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