



CAWSO

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Dear Delegates and fellow members,

Since we last wrote to you in March the Regional Trustees have reached out to the Area Delegates to poll them on whether if a face-to-face Conference were to be held would they attend. We received an overwhelming positive response and with restrictions lifted in California and other states and provinces across North America it was decided to push ahead with organising this year's Conference. Throughout we kept in close contact with the World Service Office Board (WSOB) and of course the World Service Conference, Conference Committee (WSCCC). We also kept in contact with the Conference hotel team.

Since it was possible that several Areas would not be able to send Delegates, due to ongoing travel restrictions, we asked the WSCCC to prepare for a hybrid Conference with the option for those unable to attend to do so virtually. This we did to ensure that the right of participation would be afforded to all Areas and that our Conference remained democratic. The WSCCC have done an amazing job this past year, investigating options for attendance, obtaining quotes, and affording our Fellowship the flexibility to move forward with this year's Conference, in whatever form it would have to take. Their diligence while having to juggle several options is much appreciated.

As it turns out, the Presidential Proclamation from January, having been reviewed only recently, is still in place and this has restricted travel to the United States for the Delegates from both the European Region and Mainland Europe Region. These two Regions now represent approximately two fifths of our Fellowship. They will be attending virtually, as will other Delegates from around the world who are unable to attend due to local travel restrictions and other reasons such as personal health concerns. The Conference this year may look and feel different, but we are confident that the business of our Fellowship will be carried out and after a long stretch of separation a great unity will be achieved.

Whilst deliberating whether to push ahead with the Conference we considered the health implications to those attending. If the pandemic was still at its height, we would have cancelled the Conference and applied the force majeure (act of God) clause in the hotel contract. The term 'super spreader event' which only those who are fans of the disaster genre would have heard of before 2019, was foremost in our minds and of course how we could avoid the risk of this. The hotel has operated throughout the pandemic, hosting air crews from around the world with testing stations set up. We considered asking for testing to be carried out and possibly the wearing of masks etc. We did not feel it appropriate to insist on any practices over and above those in place through local ordinance and State law. It should be noted that the situation is fluid and legal requirements in Los Angeles may dictate precautions.

We would however ask that those attending the Conference face-to-face please consider your health before attending and endeavour to practice the good precautionary habits we have adopted over the past eighteen months. We would also ask that you please respect the wishes of fellows who may not be comfortable with a return to close contact as of yet. This may also allow for more of our fellows to return to local face-to-face meetings, as they open up.

In the case of those attending Conference, we would ask that if you feel unwell that you please remove yourself from the main debating chamber or breakout spaces and notify the Conference Committee. We would ask that you do the same if falling ill shortly after leaving the Conference. This so as to allow those who have been in close proximity to be notified, so that they can take precautions. We do not expect there to be any such outbreaks however we feel it important to put prudent practices in place.

Our Fellowship is in a good and healthy position to carry our message. We would like to thank all those Areas, Districts, Groups, and individuals who have supported our World Services throughout these arduous times. The various Conference committees have worked diligently throughout the past two years and there is a host of business being brought to the Conference floor. We look forward to a wonderful event, where the conscience of our whole Fellowship comes together.

We wish you all the best of health.

In love and service,

Your World Service Board of Trustees