

Region 5 2019 Convention Report

The A Train (Awareness, Acceptance, Action) traveled from September 27-September 29 at the Regency Hyatt, Downtown Milwaukee. One hundred ninety-three persons registered by the end of pre-registration. Twenty-six persons joined the journey Saturday. Another 20 persons joined the journey on Sunday. Some participants traveled from Michigan on the train to Milwaukee to make the journey real. All participants were from Region 5 except two who came from Minnesota.

The Keynote speakers on Acceptance (Steps 1-3) and Awareness (Steps 4-9) were inspirational. All seemed to appreciate the variety of panels, workshops and speakers. A workshop for Newcomers was held on Friday night. It was helpful for the newcomers and persons contemplating a newcomer workshop as is held in the Milwaukee Area Intergroup. The Vision panel on the promises and the Fourth Step Workshop were found to be powerful by several participants. When the Region Board shared on Saturday morning, they ignited the room with a call to Service.

After the dinner speaker, the Cleveland Convention Committee presented an insightful, humorous skit. They hope to see us all in Cleveland October 9-11 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio.

Mediation was available Saturday and Sunday morning. There were OA meetings on Friday afternoon, Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning. The convention theme of Awareness, Acceptance and Action was followed for the themes.

The Venue allowed all the sessions to be on one floor. The Marketplace and Clothing exchange were located very close to the session rooms. This accessibility was much appreciated. Having the raffles, marketplace and clothing exchange made the area crowded at times. The sessions with the most attendees were also challenged space wise. The clothing exchange was visited by over half the attendees and raised \$341.46. The 50/50 raffle raised \$524.25 for the Region. We did lose money on the CD raffle.

The Hospitality Suite was much appreciated. In addition to water, there were two Keurig machines for coffee and tea. Two microwaves were also available.

Meals were well-prepared and allowed most attendees to follow their food plan. The buffet mode allowed for more tables. The dining room did become noisy and somewhat crunched. The view from the Vue was awesome.

Overall, the journey was a wonder-ful, delight-ful ride.