

At this time the earliest written reference to the Guest Observer is found in the minutes from the quarterly meeting of the “State Committee” held December 12th 1976 at Chit Chat Farms. At that meeting the Convention Chair – Joe de B. “Joe said he'd like to see the number of guest observers reduced in the future” and goes on to explain why.

In 1981, the last year before the “areas” were renumbered and became districts, there were 8 nominees. The 4 candidates who received votes were sent a letter to select an observer.

Since that time the number of candidates per panel has varied – as have their occupations. In 1987 there were 4 candidates – a Detox Doctor was selected. In 1996 there were 9 nominees – a judge was selected. In 1997 the selection came from the hat.

Our nominees have come from all professions ; Parole Agents, Ministers and other clergy, Police Officers, Doctors and Nurses, High School Teachers, Magistrates and Judges, Family Service Directors, Detox Managers, Penitentiary Management, Human Resource Managers. In 1998 the Guest Observer was a radio talk show host!

The reactions of the Guest Observer deserve mention. At times they have been asked to say a few words at the Sat. night meeting. One law enforcement officer broke down when speaking at the podium. Another year a woman stood at the mike and said “When I arrived on Friday I was confident I knew all about AA. Ten minutes later my jaw was on the floor and I had realized I knew next to nothing about AA.” The Guest Observer in 1986 wrote a short article for a newsletter in which he stated “They didn't look like alcoholics”.

Over the years the majority of our Districts have put forward nominees and have played the host for guiding them through the weekend with many positive results.

Provided by Donald H. Area 59 Archivist, March 7, 2017