

GO IN PEACE; GO IN LOVE; JUST GO! by Joyce Hardy

“Sure, we’ll work on getting the NAAD booth ready for General Convention!” I’m not sure what Cindy Fribourgh and I were thinking when this came out of our mouths at a NAAD Board meeting. We had made an obligation, but as the time for General Convention neared, we had lots of ideas, but we weren’t entirely sure what we had taken on.

Several participants at the Directors and Archdeacons Conference in March offered suggestions. We left with a few ideas: a Deacon Quiz Game, a basket of toiletries of things left



Dn. Joyce Hardy with “flat Ormonde” at the NAAD booth at General Convention

at home (so that we would be responding to the “needs, concerns and hopes” of the deputies and visitors to General Convention,” and a place where people could bring their extra hotel-provided toiletries, which the California participants felt sure they could get to local shelters.

Then we heard that the second edition of Ormonde Plater's *Deacons in the Liturgy* would be released in June. After getting Ormonde's consent, Cindy and I made plans to take a box of books to New Orleans for him to sign. We met him at Community Coffee and visited and drank coffee while he signed his books. It was a great chance to visit with Ormonde and to scope out the site of our next Directors and Archdeacons Conference in New Orleans! Before saying good-bye, we got a great picture of Ormonde signing a book.

On the trip back to Little Rock, we got the idea of enlarging the picture and mounting it for a display in our GC booth. Ormonde agreed, and "Flat Ormonde" became a fun part of our exhibit.

We got so much valuable information from Ted Hallenback and Dutton Morehouse (long time NAAD exhibitors). I'm sure we couldn't have pulled it off without their help.

We got to Anaheim on Sunday so that we could get the exhibit ready on Monday (it opened on Tuesday afternoon). Some of our boxes were there on Monday and we waited for all of them to arrive. We had help from several deacon volunteers to get everything ready for our big opening!

So our exhibit was complete. We had items from the bookstore, copies of the latest *Diakoneo*, our basket of Deacon Quiz Game questions, our basket of toiletries (we nixed collecting toiletries on advice of the General Convention office), yarn for our NAAD Scarf project (we provided yarn, needles, and instructions for scarves which could be distributed to the homeless), and, of course, "Flat Ormonde" and the autographed books.

The exhibit was such fun. We asked people as they approached our exhibit, "Whadda ya know about Deacons?" Then we invited them to play our game. The rules were simple: Pick a question and keep picking a question until you get one that you like (there were about 30 different questions). We didn't ask if the question was too hard or too easy; we just asked them to find one they liked. When they answered correctly – often with coaching- they received a button with the NAAD symbol on it, so we had lots of people at the convention wearing NAAD buttons.

The only way they could lose was if they didn't try playing. Then they put their name, diocese and contact information into the basket for the daily drawing for an autographed copy of *Deacons in the*

Liturgy. Several of the winners and other visitors to the booth had their pictures taken with “Flat Ormond!”

It was so rewarding to have people tell us “deacon stories” and to come find out more about deacons. I think we had visitors from at least five continents. We had deacons, parishioners with deacons in their congregations, priests, bishops, young adults—it was such a great group. We got several new members signing up at the booth. And it was so good to visit with those who volunteered with Cindy and me: Maureen Hagen, John Cunningham, Susanne Watson Epting, Aileen Aidnik, Dave Longwood, Jim Visger, Rod Dugliss, Kate Salinaro, Lou Thibodaux, and Pam Nesbit. There is no way that we could have kept the booth open, much less having so much fun without them. Bryan England, NAAD’s webmaster and bookstore manager sent us some wonderful items and helped us so much getting the exhibit put together.

Of course, General Convention is much more than the exhibits. I can assure you that deacons made a huge impact on the activities and decisions at General Convention. We had deacons as deputies on the floor: participating in the liturgies both on the platform and at the communion tables; in many of the exhibits; as volunteers in exhibits, in the registration area, as legislative aides, and at many of the special events at General Convention (there were several deacons at the Episcopal Peace Fellowship Reception honoring Patty and Edmund Browning and at the Integrity Eucharist). We even got another deacon, Terry Starr from North Dakota, elected to Executive Council.

We want to get even more involved in the General Convention in 2012 in Indianapolis. We are trying to get more deacons on Standing Commissions and Committees and we would love to have a gathering of deacons and friends one night of the convention. If you have other ideas, please let me know. Deacons will definitely be present at General Convention 2012!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyle Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President

