Post conference

So first this happened. I was just getting back from lunch when I got a call from the hotel. “You’re checking out today, but there’s still stuff in your room.” But no, I said, I’m not leaving until tomorrow. But apparently, I only booked through Saturday, I guess, my second mondo snafu of this trip. Could they accommodate, I asked. “No, we’re full.”

Even though I’d returned to the hotel specifically so I could attend the Board of Trustees meeting, I of course headed upstairs to clear my stuff out. It only took 5 minutes or so, but during that time, I heard a knock on the door. Come in, I said, expecting it was the hotel, further dunning me for still being in the room. But no. It was a fellow delegate, asking, “Are you Mike Prager?” Yes. “Are you from the East Coast?” Yes. “OhmyGod, we were in treatment together 32 years ago!” Incredibly, she’d been standing at the front desk when the clerk was looking for me, and apparently, he’d even asked her — I assume because we were part of the same group — if she knew Michael Prager. She asked if he would give her my room number and he declined, but then he spoke loosely to his partner, and she came right up.

I was rushing, both to vacate the room and to get to the board meeting, so I said we’d catch up later. She offered to let me sleep on the couch in her room, if her roommate said it was OK, but I declined, pretty sure that I’d find an actual bed among all my friends here who booked their rooms correctly. (And Chuck F. an R6 pal, agreed to let me sleep in his other bed.) Her name didn’t flash on me right away, but I was pretty sure it was Jessica, which was confirmed when I shared the story with a friend who’s worked with her this week. I’m looking forward to catching up with her later today.x

Also this afternoon, I was expected to be at a meeting of trustees and delegate cochairs and didn’t realize it. Luckily, I was at the board meeting, so my interest in that protected me from yet a third snafu. Lee R. was renamed trustee cochair of Twelve Step Within, and we caucused for 45 minutes about how to approach the work of our committee today.

The conference is over, and the work begins.