

**San Diego-Imperial Area 08**  
**Delegate's Report**  
**August 18, 2016**

**We Grow as We Grow Service - Unity Day is August 27, 2016**

Please be sure to invite all A.A. members to the San Diego-Imperial Area's Unity Day. Our Alternate Delegate, Roxane, has set up a great program around the theme of the 2017 General Service Conference. As we grow in participation in the year-round Conference, our service committee makes 12-Step work possible for all members of the San Diego-Imperial Area. We must always be conscious of our ability to extend the hand of A.A. Are we really doing all we can to make A.A. available in our local area by informing all A.A. members in our area of all the possible ways they can participate in service?

As we work to expand the services we offer to our groups, please think about the words of Jack Norris, Class A Trustee:

Privately within A.A., there has been growing dissatisfaction with headquarters. Some members say staff members are becoming frozen in bureaucracy and are overly sensitive to pressure from the most rigid and narrow-minded members, particularly old-timers, who regard the Big Book and other authorized A.A. literature almost as Holy Writ.

"If anything is going to destroy A.A.," says Dr. John Norris, a nonalcoholic physician, friend of Bill Wilson's and for many years chairman of A.A.'s board of trustees, "it will be what I call the 'tradition lawyers.' They find it easier to live with black and white than they do with gray. These 'bleeding deacons' -these fundamentalists - are afraid of and fight any change." (From: 1988 N.Y. Times Feb. 21 "The Changing World of Alcoholics Anonymous" p. 6-40)

**Use Your Alternate**

If you don't have an alternate, get one. If you have one, use him/her. There is no faster way to learn something than to just do it. We have a lot of information to get to our membership. If we successfully form good lines of communication between our committees and our membership, there will only be more. All of us need help and sharing this work is really what service is all about.

**Help GSRs to Make Group Reports**

I have learned that quality is better than quantity when it comes to giving a report to a group. Remind GSRs they usually have 4 weeks to deliver all the information collected at the district meeting. All the information doesn't have to be delivered at once and group members know little to nothing about the information being shared with them. Delivering it in four, one to one and a half minute announcements gives quality rather than quantity to the information.

Also, encourage a GSR to consult with one or two group members. The GSR can ask other group members to look over all the info and provide suggestions on what they see as the most important to their group.

**3rd Annual A.A. Technology Workshop**

Please spread the word about the 3rd Annual A.A. Technology Workshop. The flyer is posted on [www.area8aa.org](http://www.area8aa.org). Many of our members will have interest in offering their ideas and

services to expand the communication capacity of our service structure. Our area has truly come to rely on it and our NY services have been slow to make full use of all technology has to offer. The next two paragraphs offer a glimpse of the wide range to which we can apply technology in our Fellowship.

**Service:** Examples of 2016 GSC Additional Considerations pertaining to technology are assigned to the Public Information Committee. Both considerations are to develop implementation plans: one for a Google-for-Nonprofits account and the other for Twitter. Members who can be of help to educating our Fellowship in preparation for considering 2017 agenda items are those experienced in social media as well as those who are knowledgeable of the application of Tradition Eleven.

**Recovery:** Technology is providing an international reach to our A.A. speaker meetings. I heard one of our San Diego members with 59 years of sobriety was the main speaker via Skype at a meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. The member said it was quite an adventure for her because this was her first time to use Skype ever and she felt strange telling her story to a computer screen. The members of the meeting were able to approach the screen and speak directly to her one-on-one to thank her for sharing.

### **San Diego-Imperial Area's IT Committee**

I asked our area's IT Committee to put an item on their agenda to answer a question raised by the delegate from BC Yukon. The question was whether or not our area's website has password protection on the entire website. I have asked if the San Diego-Imperial Area could add a page of the site devoted to the Conference background material that is only accessible with a password.

### **Update of Legal Actions**

The Santa Clarita Valley Central Office and SC AA are in the process of raising legal arguments similar to those that successfully released GSO and AAWS from the suit.

The Ontario's Human Rights Tribunal decided that AAWS and GSO are proper parties to the action filed against the Toronto Intergroup. The is moving toward a summary hearing on the legal issue of "whether the Code requires a religion based charitable organization to accommodate other beliefs by altering the services they provide on the basis of a differing creed by an applicant seeking to use those services." This is following the assumption that AA is a "religion based charitable organization." Of particular note is the Intergroup's position that a group must practice the 12 Steps and must believe in God. The Intergroup contends its actions are protected by a Section of the Code, which allows "religious, philanthropic, educational, fraternal or social institution[s] or organization[s]" to discriminate as long as that discrimination is restricted to its voluntary membership. The Intergroup has separate counsel from AAWS and GSO. The Third Tradition and excerpts from AA's most recent pamphlet on the many paths to spirituality are being used to show AAWS and GSO have an inclusive view.

### **Many Paths to Spirituality (P-84)**

A delegate in another area initiated a request for our membership to review this pamphlet that was approved at the 2015 GSC and became available in March 2016. The delegate has received complaints from individual A.A. members about the contents of the pamphlet.

Here's the link: [http://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-84\\_manypathstospirituality.pdf](http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-84_manypathstospirituality.pdf)

I have contacted our area's Literature Committee requesting they create a subcommittee to review the pamphlet and provide feedback to the ACM. Creating a subcommittee that accepts this specific assignment is a great way to generate interest in general service. Participation on the committee provides the A.A. member at large with a specific task that has a definite beginning, purpose, and end date. It is highly important participants walk away feeling they have accomplished something.

The feedback will be provided to all delegates who would like to see it. The purpose of the feedback is to raise awareness the pamphlet is now available and to understand if its contents meet the expectations of the Fellowship.

### **Safety**

On August 1, 2016, I sent to all on our Area Roster a copy of the 2017 GSC agenda item on that was submitted by Area 5.

Please review it and ask your GSRs to ask their group members if any members have had a experiences that have caused them to think there is a need to raise awareness of safety. A few people have brought a few suggestions to me. In November, I will be speaking on a panel devoted to this topic and I will appreciate ideas and considerations.

### **Corrections Correspondence**

The GSO Corrections Desk sends a thank you to the Fellowship for the amazing communication and response of our Fellowship. They said **ALL Spanish-speaking Corrections Correspondence needs have been filled!!**

Now, however, there are over 100 **male ENGLISH-speaking inmates** waiting for correspondents. There is no "regional issue" with English-speaking correspondents – so men would get matched right away.

The call remains open for more **FEMALE correspondents**. The hope is to gather a list of volunteer correspondents so there is no wait for a female inmate who requests a correspondent.

For more information, please contact: Jeff, Corrections Coordinator at: (212) 870-3085 or [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org).