Area 8 Chair Report- March 2014

I purposely waited to write the chair report after the close of PRAASA so that I could regale you with PRAASA highlights, never realizing the impact the last day’s panel would have on my overall weekend. The Past Trustees’ Panel offered such insight into what we do here and perhaps serves to fortify personal beliefs about General Service and the future of AA. I have to share this quote from *AA Comes of Age*, actually from the appendix, but I did not find it there. “Gradually we saw the unity, the effectiveness and even the survival of AA always would depend upon our continued willingness to give up our personal ambitions and desires for the common safety and welfare. Just as sacrifice meant survival for the individual so did sacrifice mean unity and survival for the group and for AA’s entire fellowship.” (pp. 287-288.) I found this quote in a 1976 issue of the Grapevine once owned by my grandfather, who was sober when he died in 1988, 5 years after I sobered up. It was part of an article written by an A.A. member in Australia who feared for the future solvency and continuity of AA.

My home group is experiencing a gradual but continual decline in attendance. There has been much discussion on this matter but the situation is not changing. When did I begin worrying about the future of AA? Could it be that as more meetings get started attendance at other meetings wanes? Or are the alcoholics in our area finding other ways to get and stay sober? During the Trustees’ Panel I heard things like “spiritual pride,” and “a fellowship of deeds, not creeds.” I heard many things that made this alcoholic pause.

The next two assemblies will be presented by our Delegate, Dean, who will prepare the agendas that will help us navigate through the various conference agenda items. There is little other business. I am already working on a proposed Area Inventory for our September Assembly. I was careful to find out as much as possible from the Panel 63 chairs at PRAASA.

The committee meetings that I have joined are well attended and actively at work on Area business. The I.T. Committee anxiously waits for the launch of our new website. I.T. meetings are a mix of in-house and teleconferencing participation. I love this 21st Century approach.

An objective I am moving forward with for the Area is to get mileage reimbursements increased to a more 2014 amount. An informal survey at PRAASA during the Chairperson Round Tables resulted in confirming that Area 8 receives the lowest mileage rate of all the areas in the Pacific Region. Fluctuating gas prices are making our travels burdensome and if we want to continue to practice our 3rd Tradition we must allow our trusted servants to carry the message without having to go out of pocket. Did you know that our area reimburses at the rate of .29 a mile? Some of our districts reimburse DCMs at a higher rate. Area 6 reimburses .42 a mile and Area 5, .40 a mile. At some point during this panel I hope to open up a discussion about mileage.

I am humbled to be among so many people who make it their business to carry out the business of A.A. Thank you for allowing me this privilege.

Roxane R.

Area 8 Chair