

## July 2016 Alternate Delegate Report

Willingness. On page 184 of the 12 and 12, the first paragraph of Tradition Twelve, I quote, “The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.’s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.’s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.” ***Do we still have confidence in our future?*** Am I willing to make sacrifices for the common good? Well, if you look at the 2017 General Service Conference theme and supporting topics, it is really all about sacrifice. Most of us participate with that “sacrificial spirit” towards our primary purpose but what about our future? What is blocking A.A.’s growth? Why are we failing to attract the newcomer? Are we protecting our members? Are we really responsible when anyone, anywhere, reaches out? Are we fully self-supporting our obligations? These are questions that can be discussed at this year’s Unity Day Workshop Celebration. I have invited all of you to participate in this rewarding event, sure to stimulate new members to service and beyond. I have 300 double-sided flyers available tonight to really push the word out and get participation from all areas of A.A. Please take your digital copy and have more flyers printed to encourage participation. Together, if you’re willing, we can start the conversations that will fully inform our groups well before the first Pre-Conference Workshop next winter.

You may have heard of PRAASA. You might even have heard of the Regional Forum. But who has heard of a Local Forum? I remember only one Local Forum, held at the War Memorial Building a few years ago and it was sponsored by the linguistic communities around San Diego. I attended and participated but I had no idea what it was. Recently I was asked by our delegate, Jane, to put together a committee that would host a Local Forum in the summer of 2018. A Local Forum is a one-and-a-half or two-day event with a format similar to a Regional Forum but there is usually no travel involved, and the topics presented would be endemic to our Area. I think a Local Forum that centers around specific problems with reaching the still suffering alcoholic on reservations and how to share your experience with isolated reservations or even the challenges of reaching Native Americans who are not associated with a reservation would be a great way to begin including Native Americans and other underrepresented people in our service structure. In a recent issue of “Markings” published by GSO, there was another mention of Native People that caught my eye. These interesting facts about AA, sobriety, and the Native American plight throughout history is something we want to remember and share with others. Markings is only sent to people who are connected to the service structure. It’s possible we could combine our ideas about diversity and inclusion with the recent growth of Hispanic women groups in AA, another underrepresented group in Area 8. But we start with a committee and work from there. If you are interested in possibly serving on a committee to put on a Local Forum in San Diego, please let me know. If you want to participate but are not necessarily interested in chairing a committee, let me know. I do not want to dictate nor will GSO dictate what a forum would include so it is very “grassroots” and I think our members would like it that way. We can create a program that serves the specific needs of the Native population in (and out of) AA. It will do wonders to improve participation and communication among the members and the GSO staff. We will even get speakers (trustees) from the Conference who would be valuable in a number of capacities. I am excited just telling you about it.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve Area 8. I hope to hear from you soon.

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