

March 2016 Alternate Delegate Report

I have parent conferences this week. This is where we tell parents that their student is not necessarily unredeemable but there is a slight chance they may not make it through high school. Sometimes I think men and women should sit in a parent-teacher conference before they ever have children. Not to discourage them from having children, but to make them aware that there is no such thing as the perfect child. God knows, most of us in this room were not the kind of children who were winning praises and accolades by our mid-teens or perhaps we were being raised by parents who weren't the sort who showed up for parent-teacher conferences. I once had a parent show up drunk. It was a Saturday appointment so it was understandable. Heaven knows, I found it difficult to sober up from Thursday through Monday, so I got it. Even worse was the mom who arrived at the conference grinding her teeth as if she was on day three of a three day of meth run. She alternated between crying and laughing over the 20-minute conference. I never forgot that experience--especially when her son showed up at my home group 6 years later.

Parent-teacher conferences are the PSAs for our schools. It reminds parents and students that the schools are here for a reason. When Alcoholics Anonymous conceives and creates a public service announcement it is for the alcoholic who still suffers--many of whom have been to AA a time or two before. It is a reminder that we are still here and we are here for a reason. Please take the time and visit aa.org to view the PSAs available from GSO. You'll see what I'm talking about.

So, I attended my 8th PRAASA and, as I revealed to my sponsor and service sponsor, it was the best PRAASA I've ever experienced. I am sure it is because I know more now than ever after a grueling week of pre-conference workshops with our Delegate. It made it incredibly easy to be a part of the discussion. I have asked a lot of questions and I am open to learning more. I was the secretary for the Alternate Delegate Round Tables so I typed up the minutes from both days and all 9 pages are available to anyone who wants them. It was fascinating to get a glimpse into how each area handles Conference Agenda Items, pre-conference workshops, GSR orientation, taking care of the Delegate, mileage reimbursements--anything I wanted to know, we shared about all of it. Would it surprise you to know we are the only area in Region 9 that does not have a prudent reserve?

It is an honor to speak anywhere in Alcoholics Anonymous and I was recently asked to speak at the Pala Reservation Monday night meeting on March 28th at the Tribal Administration Building. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm. I am thrilled to be able to carry the message of General Service to the alcoholics attending meetings on reservations. As many of you know, Area 08's heart and mine as well, are with the underserved populations and it is a goal to bring service opportunities to any group who hears the message of hope General Service has brought to thousands.

I am one of the officers who just 2 days ago sent in their 2017 budget request. I apologies to the treasurer and his alternate and I hope to get better at this numbers game. My budget is larger than our last Alternate Delegate and I can only believe it is because I live in a remote area. I am submitting receipts for PRAASA that total \$616. My budget allowance is \$750, which is a savings of \$134. Room-sharing works. About half of the region's Alternate Delegates are funded for Regional Forum but in Area 08 it is only the Delegate who is funded. The GSO is trying to encourage more people to attend the Forums and I will volunteer as tribute. Would the Area Committee consider creating a budgeted line item called, "Send the Alt to Forum?" This is the question I will leave you with.

In humble service to the groups...

Roxane R.

Alt Delegate

Panel 66

roxane.area8aa@gmail.com

760-638-3358