

**Area 08 San Diego-Imperial Area
Alternate Delegate's Report
February 19, 2015**

The next time the Area Committee (ACM) meets, many of us will have attended PRAASA. Some of us will have experienced PRAASA for the first time. I look forward to hearing the spiritual awakening that this general service meeting gives to each of us. Please listen to each other for the energy delivered in articulating PRAASA experiences. To me, PRAASA is being in the mainstream of our Service Structure and evidences the bond of Unity in Tradition One.

Being available in the stream of the service structure communication has allowed me to practice the application of the principles of all three of our legacies. Our fellowship is strengthened as each of us takes responsibility to develop in understanding and the ability to apply all our principles in group life. The expanding spiritual experience of service is available and open to each and every A.A. member.

As DCMs and Standing Committee Chairs, you play a vital role in keeping our fellowship available for now and in the future. DCMs, your work, along with that of your GSRs, is to continuously extend the hand of A.A. to request the participation of each of our groups in contributing their voice in the communication that develops an informed group conscience. By continuing to invite all groups to participate in our communication, we fulfill our responsibility as custodians of A.A. Tradition in working to keep our fellowship united.

Standing committee chairs, please contact the DCMs with the list of 12-Step work your committee is doing and request they ask each GSR to inform their group members of the service work available for their participation. The work of our standing committees is vital to making service work available to participation by all members of our fellowship. Please remember, funding for all service committees comes to us through the 7th Tradition. It is important we continue to remind our groups of our work and serve them by informing them the participation of all members is vital to staying sober and helping others achieve sobriety. The spirituality of our 7th Tradition is created when we use money collected from all in service to all.

2016 Budget Submission

I recently received the request from our Treasurer to submit a 2016 budget. The 2016 budget I submit will be to fund the 12-Step work assigned to our Area's next Alternate Delegate to be used during the first year of his/her two-year service commitment. In fact, each of our Area officers is doing this same task. Each of us is budgeting for the first year of the next person who will hold the office from which we will rotate in December. The budget is our key communication tool to inform our groups on the details of the collective 12-Step work the Area, as a service committee formed under Tradition Nine, intends to perform in the year 2016.

In 2014, I presented information to the Area Committee that my first year experience as Alternate Delegate made me realize that in continuing with the budgeting method we appear to have developed outside our written guidelines, we are not reviewing the details of the 12-Step work assigned to each and every officer. I see this as important as we may be preventing the development of an informed group conscious. Whenever I think of our budget process, I think of this question on page 140 in "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age":

Regarding any particular service, we need to ask only one question: "Is this or that service *really needed*?" If it is not, then let it be eliminated. But if it is needed, then maintain it we must of fail in our mission to those who want and seek A.A.

I want to share my experience in performing the 12-Step work assigned to the Alternate Delegate. The budget I will submit is based on the assigned job duties. I find there is need for an informed group conscience to consider reviewing Area 08's Alternate Delegate assignment as Southern California Convention Liaison. Please note the current process we are observing does not provide for the detailed review by the assembly that is necessary in order to inform our groups and allow them to make decisions on what 12-Step work to start, stop, or continue. Most important, in thinking about the H&I technology work I describe later in this report, It doesn't allow them to submit and consider new 12-Step work ideas. This same condition applies to the detail of the work of our other Area service positions. I will not make a unilateral decision to omit funding on the budget I submit. It will calculate expenses for all duties currently assigned to our Alternate Delegate. I simply ask you to consider if, unintentionally, our budget process is actually blocking the full Right of Participation in the way in which we spend the money that belongs to all members.

Here's a description of the work I ask you to consider: Area 08's Alternate Delegate in his/her first year of service acts as Southern California Convention Liaison. The work is to create an agenda or program for the convention's General Service meeting. Of course the idea is to attract participation in general service. The problem is the meeting is scheduled during the lunch hour when there are other competing and "more attractive" events. The cost of the commitment was over \$400 in mileage. The meeting is held in the Long Beach area, requires between 3-4 hours of driving time to and from the 1.5 hour meeting that occurs on the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a nine-month commitment. Additionally, each and every person invited to share at the meeting, must pay the convention's \$25.00 registration fee and the facility's parking fee. The Area does not reimburse for registration as it was not budgeted; but I guess an unbudgeted expense could be submitted. Also to consider, Area 08's guidelines explicitly state it does not accept convention funds; so, no reimbursement or contribution of even just an amount to offset the expense is possible.

The questions I have are: Does the fellowship think the expense versus the attraction to general service merits continuing the Area's participation in this event? Are there other

12-Step activities such as an Area-sponsored workshop, or sponsoring another Area officer to PRAASA , that are of better use of the funds supplied by our groups? Does our current process actually allow our groups to know this specific work is being performed and that they have a say in whether or not this or other tasks continue to be performed by the next Alternate Delegate?

H&I Intergroup Liaison

At the January H&I Intergroup, I learned about three things about which I want to inform you.

Technology and Public Information

The following information reminded me of an Area Committee discussion from last year when we decided to decline the opportunity to participate in A.A.'s first Technology Conference. I hope you will consider the powerful 12-Step work that is being formed with the use of technology.

One of the Public Service Announcements (PSA) created with 7th Tradition contributions to GSO is "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell." This video is played to literally a captive audience in the LA drunk tank. In addition to this not-so-subtle presentation, 1:1 video conferencing with A.A. members is made available if and when an audience member becomes inspired to request it. You can get more information in English and Spanish at: <http://area5corrections.org/>

The PSA, created through the work of Public Information, one of our conference committees, is an example of how GSO contributions get used by projects approved on at the GSC. Here, Area 05 has taken further action in making more service work available for participation by its members in extending the hand of A.A. to the alcoholic who still suffers. They are putting to its best and highest use the money requested and supplied by their groups to both their Area as well as GSO.

A Thought About Structure vs. Guidelines

It was reported the IRS revoked the non-profit status of one of the H&I entities because they had not filed taxes for two years in a row. Regaining the non-profit status will be expensive in terms of lost 12-Step work as well as the time of trusted servants in addition to possible fines and penalties.

Such a lapse is possible for any of our service committees as regulatory reporting financial responsibilities are not always provided in defining the structure of responsibility in a service committee's Structure & Guidelines (S&Gs). For one thing, a

service committee's S&Gs do not always clearly delineate structure from guidelines, when indicating the position responsible for specific tasks. Trusted servants do not always read and follow structure and guidelines which makes it easy for duties to easily be overlooked or misinterpreted during hand-off of our rotational responsibilities. Also, we strive to avoid requiring specified knowledge, skills, and abilities in our positions because we prefer to keep them open to all.

We need to ask ourselves if we are conscious that our compliance affects A.A. as a whole and we have responsibility to monitor our actions in regards to ever-changing requirements. I am reporting on this condition as it is a responsibility for all of us who currently hold a service position to insure the Area's remains a viable non-profit entity after we rotate out.

An Invitation to A Spiritual Experience in Finances

The last item I want to point out is that H&I does not put any limits on what a Higher Power will deliver to them in funding. I learned that in just one committee of the H&I intergroup, the pink cans collected more than \$500k. This is an impressive amount of money and shows that apparently a Higher Power can be allowed to determine the amount of money they receive. To my knowledge, they have no guideline restricting either the amount they will take in or use.

I offer you an invitation to attend the H&I Intergroup **when it is held in North County - San Diego on April 26, 2015**). There is a lot to be learned from A.A.'s oldest 12-Step outreach. They do not in any way limit what they will get from the fellowship and they share their abundance with each other. H&I buys A.A. big books and 12&12s in cases and delivers them on their panels and meetings. Their purchases are made with 7th Tradition contributions in purchasing what A.A. published with GSO contributions. Often, extra literature is brought to the Intergroup meeting and offered for the taking by those who want to deliver it to their panels and meetings. If there is a particular intergroup participant in need of funds for a stated purpose – all they have to do is ask and some other intergroup entity delivers it without deliberation. Their sharing is impressive and no one's work goes without funding.

The Southern California H&I Intergroup also purchased over 200 Grapevine and LaVina subscriptions for the institutions. This is a huge contribution to Grapevine/LaVina.

2015 Unity Day Planning Meetings

In order to avoid conflicting events, I spoke last month about working with SD Intergroup to ask if their Founders' Day event has been scheduled. They will hold their event on June 13, 2015. I was given a suggestion by one of our ACM members to ask if they had interest in duplicating an event that was held years ago when the Area held its Unity Day program in the morning and SD Intergroup held the Founders' Day event in the

afternoon. I made the offer and it was declined; however, they will participate in funding in the same manner as the other participating intergroups, central offices, and service committees. This means, at this time, there is no funding for a picnic.

So, now I will move forward with inviting the representatives and all members who wants to participate in the planning meetings. I will work during this meeting to learn the most convenient meeting time for the representatives and then set up the meetings. I will send emails on these meetings to all listed on the ACM Roster.

Unity Day Planning Meeting Location:

San Diego Central Office
7075 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA

Available days and times:

Saturdays – 1st and 2nd Saturday of each month after 1 PM

Sundays – 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month any hours

References – Please know you are more than welcome to read what I write, review the material from which I developed it, and discuss it with me.

“Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age,” pages 139-142.

Concept IV –The Right of Participation “The Twelve Concepts of World Service,” pages 15-19.

Introduction to Concepts in “The Twelve Concepts of World Service,” pages 1-3.

P-44, “AA’s Legacy of Service,” pages 3-6 Link to PDF:

http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-44_AAWSlegacy.pdf