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## **Pre Conference Assembly – April 11, 2015      Encinitas Community Center Encinitas, CA**

1140 Oakcrest Park Dr, Encinitas, CA 92024

**New GSR Orientation 8:00a by Alt. Delegate Jane G.**

Registration 8:30a      Start Assembly 9:00a

**This assembly is vital for all GSRs to attend.** All members in General Service are encouraged to “invite a friend” for this unique time of the year when we are preparing the delegate to participate at the General Service Conference. Such an invitation can help us carry out a suggestion to “stimulate interest in general service”. When we ask another member to attend we are making an opportunity available for them to see the core of general service which is to help the alcoholic who still suffers by considering issues related to A.A. World Service Affairs. Some members may be interested in the specific issues at hand, and are more than welcome to come to the assembly and share their views.\*\* On the other hand they may find their surprisingly interested in the process of forming a group conscience as opposed to “counting votes” to see which side is right. Or...they may leaving finding out it's not for them, right now anyway. In all 3 potential outcomes we have carried out our duty the best we can. We will have carried a message that this Conference Structure thing is important. That it allows us a year in and year out option for the groups to hear where A.A. is going, and to voice their concern about where it's going. Or not. The agenda is set up this year so guests could get a good idea of what goes on by attending either the 1<sup>st</sup> half, the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, or both halves of the assembly. If you're a GSR the delegate wants you to know we need you at both halves! I know what you may be thinking (smile). Please try your best to come or send a substitute so we can hear in person the different viewpoints on a topic, I need everyone's help preparing for this year's conference meeting. It's going to be allot of fun and looking forward to your story of how you invited a friend. Speaking of stories, prior to driving over the assembly you might consider going over your own story of what helped you stay in AA “this time”. Was it a pamphlet? A Grapevine? The Big Book? Was it the good safe feeling you got at one of the early meetings you went to? What impact has the General Service Structure had on each one of these?

### **Pre-Conference Information Sessions Were Held Feb 24 Thru March 2 :**

A big thank you to all the districts that either were primary hosts, or came together to offer people to help, or helped co-fund one of the pre-conference workshops. Jane G (alt- del) and myself had a chance to see some amazing spiritual experiences in progress as the workshops progressed. We purposely scheduled that workshops within a tight timeframe to reduce total hours on the road and this meant hoping that each hall was ready to go when we got there. And they were. Thank you so much to Districts 1-9-11-14-15-18 & 20 for being primary hosts at the events. And thank you to all the others who came along side. Our estimated attendance including volunteers was over 200!

## **Post Conference Assembly Saturday, May 30, 2015:**

This Assembly is vital for all GSRs to attend. It's not too early to consider bringing a friend to this assembly as well. This is the time when the delegate brings back what they “heard, felt, and thought” and the stories that come with that. Also announced are the specific outcomes of the agenda items San Diego reviewed, along with other advisory actions passed. **Please go to [Area8aa.org](http://Area8aa.org) to see details of location and directions.**

## **PRAASA UTAH Was held March 6, 7. & 8:**

The next 2 PRAASAS will be held in Area 92 Washington State East (Spokane) in 2016 and Area 7 California Northern Interior (Sacramento) in 2017. PRAASA is held on the first full weekend in March that includes a Friday.

PRAASA 2015 was held and by all accounts that I “heard, felt, and thought” it was an amazing success. It appeared like over 35 attended from San Diego. Total attendance was over 1250. One of my favorite sites at this years event was seeing so many from Area 08, especially DCMs uniting and growing closer in service, and friendship. Emotions seemed to range from Whoo Hoo, this is such an amazing time to “This is great, but I’m a little overwhelmed. What have I signed up for here?” I was blessed to have chatted one on one with some from each end of the spectrum. Just being able to have those heartfelt conversations with folks that have a heart to preserve and participate in our fellowship was beautiful.

As delegate this was my second and last PRAASA I will attend while serving in this service position. I tried to cherish every minute of it and stay present as much as possible. My schedule was quite full, many times “working” during some panel presentations or the like. No complaints here. 17 yrs ago with bag in hand strolling up to the doors of the treatment center I didn’t have much on my agenda, if you know what I mean? To be participating and able to be with you all at such a wonderful event is something I will take with me always. We got a chance to hear from our new Panel 65 (elected to start serving Jan 1, 20105) delegates and in my view they were amazing. I can already tell we in the pacific region are blessed to have the servants we do from GSRs, to DCMs and yes, we are blessed.

One of my responsibilities was to present a talk on leadership, from my own experience. That report can be found in the March Edition of the Area Newsletter. I can also email a copy to anyone who requests.

## **Urgent Need for Male A.A. Members to Participate in Corrections**

### **Correspondence:**

This program arranges A.A. member on the outside to correspond with inmates to share A.A. experience, strength, and hope. This is not a pen-pal service and Alcoholics Anonymous does not assign sponsors; however, this process can link you to an outside A.A. member with whom you can share your experience, as it relates to your problems with alcohol, through our Corrections Correspondence Service. Once the inmate has made contact, A.A. member may or may not make a decision to sponsor.

**How it works:** Inmates request correspondence by completing the bottom portion of the attached letter and mailing it back to GSO.

AA members who wish to correspond with inmates complete the form (AA Brochure F 26) and mails to GSO. These brochures may be available from Central Office and always GSO. They can also be downloaded from the [aa.org](http://aa.org) website.

**Please let your districts know I am glad to schedule group or District visits either in a group setting or business meeting setting. Just call me and we can work out the time and date.**

Gratefully with Love & Service,

If I can be of help in any way, just call or email. I'm available to visit groups or districts if invited.

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