

Welcome to Panel 66 Area Officers – And those who offered to serve

Thank you to all those who stood as available and ready to serve at the recent November 2015 Area Elections! In my perspective the most important occurrence at the assembly was the many who looked at their schedules closely, searched their heart, and possibly checked with family and work in order to confirm “I am available”, but were not eventually the one elected to serve. Sometimes we forget about those who weren’t elected, when in reality they helped to give the assembly a wider choice on election day, which leads to the best result according to our 3rd Legacy Process described in the service manual. There were no winners, just servants elected. Please know, if you offered to serve and were not elected it doesn’t mean you have less to offer than those elected, it just means it wasn’t your time that day. I encourage you to find other service in the mean time as all of AAs service committees, including intergroup and H&I need help.

I also want to welcome those who were elected to serve. You’re in for the potential ride of your life, hang on, keep your personal program at the forefront, stay in sponsorship, and be prepared to ask for help. My heart was warmed to see the diverse range of servants that will now be our “Panel 66” officers, starting January 1.

As far as the type of leaders we have elected, and how good they will do, I want you to keep in mind that you can take the most professionally skilled person serving, and the least professionally skilled person servant, and both will succeed the most if those who didn’t vote to elect them give them an encouraging phone call or outreach of the hand and say “how can I help”.

The new Panel 66 Officers are as follows:

Delegate	Jane G.
Delegate-Alt	Roxane R.
Chairperson	Emily D.
Chairperson-Alt	Colin C.
Treasurer	Hugo L.
Treasurer-Alt	Efrain A.
Secretary	Heather S.
Secretary-Alt	Linda R.
Registrar	Alicia H.
Registrar-Alt	Renae S.

If you wish to contact any of these servants please contact our current Area Registrar for their contact information.

GSO and Conference Updates

Please see the Delegates Assembly Report for recent GSO and Conference Updates. I will include more detail about both in the December Delegate Report, after our Trustee Joel C. holds the quarterly conference call with Regional Delegates and specific items are discussed.

Continued Reminders:

Box 459/News and Notes from the General Service Office – The winter issue 2015 is out! Some articles contained in this issue are:

GRAPEVINE – Forming True Partnerships, A collection of Grapevine stories showing the many ways members use the Twelve Steps, sponsorship, and the tools of the A.A. program to improve and repair relationships, old and new (GV34), \$10.99; five or more copies, \$10.50. To order this book or any other go to AAGrapevine.org.

In early October 2015, Greg T., of South Orange, N.J., became G.S.O.'s newest general manager, following Phyllis H., who served in the position from 2008 to the fall of 2015. Of his new job, Greg says he hopes to be able to provide “clear and consistent leadership” across all G.S.O. functions as the office continues to evolve in service to the Fellowship.

Article - Reaching the Older Alcoholics the ‘Invisible Epidemic – “Alcoholism in older adults has been called the “invisible epidemic.” It has been estimated that up to 10 percent of the elderly adult population meet the criteria for alcohol abuse or dependence, but health care providers often mistake symptoms of alcoholism for dementia, depression or other problems” Also, elderly alcoholics are more likely to hide their alcoholism, and less likely to seek help, and their alcohol use is often made more dangerous by the cocktail of prescription drugs many seniors take daily. The problem will only get worse as the baby boomer population ages—by 2030, 21 percent of the U.S. population will be over 65.

Delegate Travels

I haven't done any District visits since last ACM. I do want to emphasize though what a joy it's been to visit a groups as well. In recent months I have had the opportunity to share briefly at several different types of AA group business meetings and regular meetings. Please don't discount how a visit from Area Officers at the group level in the right setting (when invited) can stimulate interest in what we do.

As reported at the Assembly, a historical first happened in regard to Delegate visits. The **Sky High Woman's group** invited me to their closed meeting to share during the regular meeting! It was an amazing wonderful experience.

Now, recently the **“ta de Mujeres” Spanish speaking closed woman's meeting** has invited me to share Monday November 30. I'm looking forward to this opportunity and to continue to get to know “my groups” as a representative of the Area. I have no doubt I will leave with more than I bring to them.

My planned group visits continue thru December 30 with the Fourth Dimension Group in San Diego. More is being revealed.

CLOSING THOUGHT – It becomes more and more apparent as I complete my second year of service as your delegate that it is impossible for me to pay back all I have received from Alcoholics Anonymous. At one point I thought service could pay that debt. Then I received more from A.A. thru service. So, the debt continues.

Gratefully,

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