Area 8 ACM Chair Report – June 2017

Since our last ACM we held our Post-conference Assembly which most of you probably attended. The important information to share with your Districts and Committees has been posted on the Area 8 website. Additional information mentioned at the Assembly or which is requested by your groups or members is available by contacting Jane directly. And we were told that more General Service Conference material will be available soon in both hard and soft copies, and in the form of presentations that you will hear more about tonight..

Roxane, Richard O from District 15, Ever from District 18, and our former delegate Marco and I travelled to Calexico and met with members of District 17 on Sunday June 4th. The room was filled with interested District members. And I must say that the afternoon was eye opening, extremely worthwhile, but sobering for me. As an English speaker member of AA with a limited grasp of Spanish, the experience had to have been much like what English only meetings are for Spanish only speakers, and also what our interpreted meetings are like for them. Only brief parts of the afternoon were translated. Roxane's Spanish is far superior to mine and she was able to provide some of her information in Spanish.

We invited them to work with District 6 to host our November Budget Assembly at a location in Imperial County. We also asked that they help us to invite District 9 from Brawley to host as well, but discovered that cooperation between them or re-connecting District 9 to the Area might be challenging. We'll work on that.

Tonight we will hear more about our Area 8 Inventory Workshop planning and the Unity Day event which is now scheduled for August 19th. So please update your Calendars. Those on the website were updated last week. There is also a newly added section on the right side of the website called "Updated Calendars" which should always have the most recently published Calendar. We did this to facilitate quicker, easier updates. More changes like this will happen throughout the summer as the IT committee and webmaster continue to improve the functionality of the website.

I'm continuing to encourage all of you, GSRs and members to submit agenda items to the Agenda Committee. But please cc other officers as you see fit so we know what's new in advance of the monthly Agenda meetings. Don't forget, though, that any actual motions that affect our Structure and Guidelines need to come to me first prior to a monthly ACM meeting so that we can discuss them here and then vote whether to move them forward to the Assembly or to Committee for review, discussion, and possible consideration.

The eligibility letters for our election assembly in September will go out over this coming weekend. Our guidelines state that all current ACM members, alternates, and those who have served in the past 12 months from September 2016 are eligible to stand for election. Please encourage those eligible to read the materials we're sending out, speak with their families and significant others, and understand both the technical requirements of the offices as well as the time requirements involved. If possible, we want to avoid the results that we eventually faced last year. And please direct any questions about eligibility to me for clarification.

My recovery and service continue to be a blessing as I work to integrate life, retirement, work, and family into something resembling balance. The idea that "this too shall pass" has been working for me lately. I sometimes hate to admit that external events affect on my mood and attitude as they still do.
That's my challenge as I pray for relief from my bondage of self and the willingness and courage to change. In spite of my disease I'm still reminded every day that sobriety is still a blessing, that service is a privilege and that I am worth it.

And I continue to be thankful for the opportunity you all have given me for service and the cooperation, encouragement, and support that you provide. I am so grateful.

Colin M. - Chair