

Chair's Report to the Assembly – September 23, 2017

One of my duties as Chair is to provide you a report of Area Activity each time we hold an Assembly. The one exception to that expectation is our Election Assembly, when – if the Chair is standing – my presentation from the podium is not provided. So here is my written report, for the record.

Today we embark on a procedures change that we formally approved at our Assembly in January. We have suspended our Guideline to elect our Panel 68 officers in November by changing the order of our last two Panel 66 assemblies – our November Election Assembly and our usual September Budget Assembly. We want to give our new officers time to shadow their Primary counterparts and also to have input into the Budget (which they normally would not be able to do if the Budget is approved in September). They also will benefit from a transition process that usually is expected to occur after start of the new Panel in January but which has not always occurred smoothly.

Since we last met in May we have worked on the planning for the election Assembly today. Emails and letters were sent to those of you who have qualified according to the guidelines. Our delegate, Jane G. has coordinated our election volunteers from nearby Areas, our Regional Trustee Joel C. has been involved in the planning, and the election documents and guide have been completed.

We have held a number of successful workshops and gatherings during the Summer including the Intergroup Founder's Day Picnic in June, GrapeVine/LaVina Workshop, the Annual LaVina conference in Oxnard, California, The Over the Bridge Traditions Workshop in La Mesa, and District 15 La Vina Workshops in July, The Area 8 Inventory, Improving our Relationships, Unity Day, and Sponsorship Workshops in August, and we had a number of attendees to the National AA Technology Workshop in Sacramento a couple of weeks ago.

Your Area Committee voted to establish the Structure and Guidelines Ad-hoc committee to review and provide us recommendations regarding our Structure and Guidelines and we also voted to establish a YPAA ad-hoc committee to better integrate and involve our YPAAs and the voice of our younger members in Area Service.

At the suggestion of my fellow officers, I initiated a Monthly Update email that I sent out at the beginning of September and will continue to send at the beginning of each month for the remainder of Panel 66. My experience continues to teach me that the amount of important information that needs to be communicated ACM members and also our larger fellowship in San Diego Imperial continues to exceed our current expected timetables. This report, for instance, normally contains information that would have been valuable for presentation and discussion at your district and committee meetings held since our last ACM.

As I indicated in the Monthly update email, today our Assembly will need to elect its Panel 68 Officers, hear reports from a number of standing and ad-hoc committees, discuss and vote on a number of motions that require immediate attention, and nominate our candidate for the upcoming Regional Trustee election.

Your officers have discussed the agenda of our Election Assembly, including a number of ways to make it more efficient, and to provide timely, relevant information to the fellowship during the time while votes are being counted. We believe that our time to conduct Assembly discussion and decisions is limited and that participation at our Assemblies usually decreases after our lunch break.

I want to remind everyone that theme of the 2018 GSO Conference is AA Solutions for All Generations. In that spirit I have continued to be involved in Seniors in Sobriety and Cooperation with Elder Committees and was honored to present the Banquet Speech at the 11th Annual International Seniors in Sobriety Conference last weekend in Van Nuys California.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve are Area.

In Love and Service,
Colin M. - Chair