Report to ACM – September 21, 2017

Since our last Area Committee Meeting in August we held another successful Annual Sponsorship Workshop – this year on a Saturday for the first time at a familiar venue, First United Methodist Church in Mission Valley. Area Districts also hosted a number of Labor Day Picnics and events over the long Labor Day weekend.

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, in two days 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. Not that we don’t welcome Paul C’s joke book. We just believe that our time left this year to present and discuss current Assembly issues and make decisions is limited, and that participation at our Election Assemblies usually decreases after our lunch break. Later tonight we will ask for your support with altering the order of the election of the officers to speed up the election process as well as a means to be more efficient on Saturday.

Tonight we also will hear progress reports from our ad-hoc Structure and Guidelines Committee and also from the Inventory Group who are moving that process forward. Both of these activities will be reported on Saturday as well – to include any suggestions or actions that might be introduced tonight. We will take up the motion to suspend the GSO sendoff for September and two other important motions, one of which has been held-off too long already- the motion brought by our Literature committee.

I am also asking Committee Chairs and District Chairs to consider reporting their activities to the Assembly on Saturday, not as a means to fill time during ballot counting, by as a way for some of our committees to let the Assembly know more about their current activities. We seek reported information from our Chairs or representatives that addresses our stated purpose – to align our committees with their counterparts at GSO and report those efforts. In that spirit, all committees and Districts are not expected to present. Please remember that anyone who is standing for Office on Saturday will need to designate a non-standing representative to present a report. And please prepare any PowerPoint visuals that can be projected that will enhance your message. Email them to Bill or hand him a thumb drive early on Saturday so he will have them on his laptop.

I was honored to be the Banquet Speaker at last week’s Seniors in Sobriety International Conference in Van Nuys. I will have more to report on current SIS activity at a later date. But I do want to remind everyone that the theme of the 2018 AA Conference in New York is A Solution for All Generations. I firmly believe that the efforts begun this year in Area 8 that support Seniors – through our CEC committee and young people through our recently formed YPAA ad-hoc committee – can help us to focus our efforts of carrying the message to alcoholics of all ages.

One anecdote from last weekend in Van Nuys. We were introduced to a new App that coordinates bringing meeting information to your smartphone from anywhere in the country. The good news is that it works great in LA. The bad news is that none of our Intergroups in San Diego are participating in the effort. So I recommend that we reach out to them to encourage integration with this technology.

My life continue to be full with the challenges and opportunities that my higher power lays in front of me daily. The principles of our program continue to serve me well through thick and thin and service continues to be the secret sauce that enriches my life in so many ways.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to our Area.

Colin M - Chair