

Area 08 Delegate's Report February 2018

When I have a lot of grading to do it seems I would rather wash dishes than grade papers and washing dishes is my least favorite chore. For the last four days I have sat at my computer to draft a report and instead found a myriad of other “chores” I would rather complete. So bad was this feeling I prepared a check request for reimbursement and my 2019 budgets. The treasurer and finance committee chair both know how detestable I find those “chores.” I blame this difficulty in focusing on the fact that I must have my 2-minute Area 08 Highlights ready by the 21st. One of the suggestions for these highlights is to share about our challenges. I think I could fill the whole 2 minutes with our challenges. We should also include our accomplishments and our uniqueness as an area. I am pleased to have much to celebrate in those areas.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to participate in our Summer Local Forum. Local Forums are weekend-long sharing sessions where we exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. With approximately 18 American Indian reservations, the County of San Diego has more Indian reservations than any other county in the United States. Two of the largest tribes are in North San Diego County, Pala and Rincon, both within 15 miles of my home. There are limited AA meetings on these reservations each week, yet the U.S. Indian Health Services has cited substance abuse as one of the most urgent health problems facing Native Americans. Native Americans have the highest rates of alcohol, cannabis and stimulant use disorders of all ethnic groups. The young people on the reservations are sorely unrepresented at reservation AA meetings. If Tradition 5 states, “Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers” then we should be carrying AA’s message of love and service to all our Fellowship. If you are interested in joining this vital host committee, please see me at the break or send me a message via text or email. We do not want to exclude anyone from participating.

Most of you have a copy of the Conference Agenda Items sent by GSO. Originally, we were told there were 42 Agenda items. These came as Roman Numerals for each committee with bullet points indicating each item. To be able to cite each item in discussions it was decided we would use letters to distinguish each item under the committees. It turns out there are actually 80 items and an additional 18 can be counted as sub-categories. I want you each to have a hard copy of this document so that we can take notes and dissect what we want to look at as an Area. Ultimately you will help me decide and then I will put together the agenda for our Pre-Conference Workshops based on the committee decisions. I appreciate the quick response to the requests to discuss agenda items relating to your committee at your next meetings. Some of the discussions you have will carry over to PRAASA when new information may alter or cement your ideas. I love the process we walk through when we are learning about what our members think is important.

I am excited to be able to review some of the new pamphlets that were designed after the 2016 Conference voted for revisions: AA for the Woman, AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic and AA for Alcoholics with Mental Issues. When there was a call for stories for these pamphlets I encouraged many women to write and submit to these. I wrote a story for the *AA for the Woman* pamphlet because I was so excited to see the old one retired. I asked a woman that I sponsor who has battled mental illness for a decade to write her story because her return to sanity through thoughtful step work, therapy, and precise medication has been nothing short of miraculous. This is a woman who would show up at meetings barefoot and babbling then panhandle during the meeting, and now she is working, living on her own, and rebuilding her relationship with her children. She truly has a story to tell. I told her about the pamphlet and said she ought to give it a shot. She cocked her head to the side and said, “I’m not mentally ill.” I am so grateful to this

program for keeping my ego intact just enough to let me know I have one, and by allowing my work with other alcoholics to be honest and true.

Since the last ACM I have visited North County H & I, the Imperial Valley Roundup, and District 2's meeting. I will be attending Saturday's DCM/Committee Chair Workshop. I hope to see many of you in Reno at PRAASA. I am available to visit groups or districts in our area and I appreciate the support I am getting from our Area.

This week I have learned of two women who died alone in their homes of the same disease we have. I have a daily reprieve and so do you. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Roxane R.

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