



SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL AREA
ASSEMBLY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – AREA 8
NEWSLETTER

June 2018
Issue

P.O. Box 3670, San Diego, CA 92163-1670 (www.area8aa.org)
"Supporting our Future; Growth, Participation, Contributions."

Brief Recollections from the 2018 General Service Conference

From Your Panel 68 Delegate Roxane R.

Having recently returned from the 2018 General Service Conference there is much I wish to share with the members of Alcoholics Anonymous living in our Area. The Post-Conference Assembly will be held June 2, 8 am to 4 pm, where, as Delegate, I will regale you with the details of what happened and what can we expect in the coming months. See our website, area8.org, for more information.

A CONFERENCE THEME IS BORN - I was assigned to the Conference Agenda Committee which meets the first two days of the Conference. After convening we were able to report that a theme and topics were selected for the 2019 Conference. Our 69th General Service Conference theme will be "Our Big Book—80 Years, 71 Languages." The topics are: Yesterday's World—Our Legacies Begin, Today's World—Integrity, Anonymity and Service, and Tomorrow's World—Courage to be Vigilant. The Workshop Topic is: Clarity of Purpose—Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings. The theme and topics should engage our members in many ways over the next several months.

DAY TO DAY LIFE AT THE CONFERENCE - The Week-long Conference comes with its own traditions, grueling work schedule and unspoken rules of civility. The camaraderie amongst delegates, staff and board members is evident, particularly with the returning delegates. Our past Delegates left me a wake of instant friendships though I easily fell in among some of the articulate but rebellious types. The Delegate from North Carolina wrote his Area Highlights in a poem. I was immediately enchanted. I wanted to know everything about everyone's area. I asked one thousand questions.

Big Book Changes Discussed, and for Now, Not Adopted - As usual, the Conference Literature Committee was particularly busy this year and much worked was pushed through. Some of our Area will be disappointed that none of the Big Book changes came to fruition. There was healthy and interesting discussion but not enough to change anyone's mind. We earnestly thought the Library of Congress recognition in the appendix would prevail, but this was not the case at the Conference. Much was said regarding humility and our traditions.

The God Word Pamphlet is Recommended by the Conference. - "The God Word" pamphlet was another hot topic in our area and though this agenda item passed, at the Conference it was passed as an adoption, with minor edits, over and adaption, which is what our area was really looking for from the Conference. It was about the pamphlet being so popular over in Great Britain and equally popular here, so why change it?

Other Previously Recommended Pamphlets Are Reviewed and Accepted - On a more positive note—four pamphlets that had been recommended by previous Conferences were finally out in draft form and ready for approval. Each of them were approved by the Conference. If you don't remember, they were, "Experience Strength and Hope: LGBT+ Alcoholics in A.A.", "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and its Services", "Experience, Strength and Hope: A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their Sponsors", and my favorite, "Experience, Strength and Hope: Women in A.A."

There is so much more to share with all, so don't hesitate to call me or email me and I will come visit your district or group and give a personal report back with a question and answer session. I plan to make visits around San Diego County, North San Diego County and Imperial County most of the summer. The Conference is a "Year-Round" event so make a date now and you can be working with me and the other members of the Assembly as we practice our 5th Tradition (Carrying The AA Message/ Primary Purpose) area wide. **Roxane R. 760-638-3358 area8delegate68@gmail.com**

A Young Person Shares Their "Road to Service"

By Riley M.

When I got to AA this time I knew I was done. Relapse is a part of my story, but something was different coming back this time. My thought was **"I could either do AA and give it my all, or I could die an alcoholic death"**, and truly believed it. The first meeting back was a speaker meeting. Still hungover in the evening, I sat in the back and chose not to identify myself as a newcomer. A man that night shared his story, and would become my sponsor. I found hope that night. He gave me much needed instructions on what to do: phone calls, meeting attendance, and get three commitments. I have had at least three commitments ever since. I was told very early on in sobriety that service is fundamental to recovery. After all, how many years did I spend taking from people?

It was time to give back.

At first I was the cake-cutter, or parking lot monitor, or the unofficial ride-giver for guys I knew who needed transportation to and from meetings. Then somewhere around six months sober I joined a young people's service committee. I hadn't heard of YPAA (pronounced WHY-PAW) before, but it was announced at one of my regular meetings, so I went to check it out. The acronym "YPAA" stands for Young People in AA, and it refers specifically to young people's AA conferences or service committees, the purpose of which being to show young alcoholics that they don't need alcohol in order to have a blast! We truly are not a glum lot, and YPAA tries to embody that statement. **And so I began my journey in NSDYPAA** (North San Diego Young People in AA).

I didn't know at the time what I was really getting myself into, but I was excited and willing to be of service in whatever capacity I could. However, when I got to the committee meeting there were only four people there. "Where was the committee," I asked myself. We were planning NSDYPAA's annual dodgeball tournament, and at the same time I made it my mission to try and get more members for the committee.

I made meeting announcements regularly about how we were looking for more members and about the events we were hosting. Then after one of those meetings, someone approached me who happened to be a DCM (District Committee Member) of a local district. He told me briefly about general service, and that every month there's this great meeting in San Diego called the area committee meeting, and that it would be the perfect place to make this announcement. After all, the DCMs of all 23 districts would be there, and my request for more members would trickle down through AA's general service network to all of the groups who had a General Service Representative (GSR).

I was sold. I started going to the area committee once a month, and even though I had no idea what anyone was talking about at first, I stayed and listened. So in a way, I got tricked into general service! Just by being available and willing to help, I inadvertently became the service liaison for young people in North County. Every month I would let the area committee know what NSDYPAA was up to, and I would also let NSDYPAA know what the area was up to.

One day after a NSDYPAA meeting, a fellow member said "Hey Riley, you're in general service. You should let them know the 'Too Young?' pamphlet sucks, and that they should change it." I thought about that for a while, and then spoke with our delegate who asked me to make a report to give to the area assembly. So... I did. I asked a number of young people what they thought of the comic book format, "Too Young?" pamphlet, and got a few quotes. I then reported at the next assembly meeting. Afterwards the delegate polled the assembly for a vote of support to make it a general service conference agenda item. It was supported unanimously! That item was voted on at the general service conference, and now the trustees' literature committee is working on changing the pamphlet.

Service work has changed my life and my sobriety, and all of it was really just a matter of saying "yes." God uses us in mysterious ways, and I'm so grateful to be useful today, as I try to Participate and be available.

One never really can know the impact you can make on someone else's sobriety until we say "yes".

Local Forum Coming to San Diego-Imperial Area August 24 -26, 2018

From Jane G, Past Delegate Panel 66

Please join the San Diego-Imperial Area, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board in a **weekend-long conversation about 12-Step work in our local area**. There will be speaker meetings, marathon meetings, and panel discussions in the midst of great food and fun activities. All AA members are invited to this unique opportunity for sharing our collective AA experiences, ask questions and spark new 12-Step ideas.

A member of the New York General Service Office staff along with our newly-elected Pacific Regional Trustee will attend. **They want to hear from San Diego AA members about the 12-Step needs in our local area**. Serve AA as a whole by sharing your group's 12-Step successes and challenges. The GSO staff member and the regional trustee will inform us about available 12-Step resources, information, and services that will assist in carrying the message.

This Local Forum is focused on serving the 12-Step needs of Native Americans and Young People. We are working to make it an attractive event for the Native American and Young People communities so that they will come and help us understand what we in General Service can do to effectively work together in carrying the message.

The event site is Lake Henshaw and Warner Springs School for the convenience of AA members who live in our outlying geographic locations. The location also allows us to add outdoor recreation and meetings. **We have a full program of meetings, food, and fun**. To get more information on program content, the meeting schedule, the big BBQ and other meals, camping and other accommodations, as well as the fun activities

`contact: altdelegate.area8aa.org , area8contact@gmail.com , or 662-732-0807.

A.A. Resources

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| General Service Office (GSO) NY | www.aa.org |
| AA Grapevine | aa.grapevine.org |
| Central Office (San Diego) | aa.sandiego.org |
| Area 8 San Diego-Imperial (Area General Service) | area8aa.org |
| North County Intergroup | nosdco-aa.org |
| San Diego Central Office - Espanol | 619-280-7224 |
| North Cnty. Central Office - Espanol | 760-758-6905 |
| South Bay / Chula Vista Central Office - Espanol | 619-473-0286 |
| ACYPAA - All California Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous | acypaa.org |
| North San Diego Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous | nsdypaa.org |
| Southern California Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous | SOCALYPAA.ORG |

Volunteer Service Opportunities For all AA Members

Please Pass the Word!! Home Group Members Welcome.

There are many 12 Step service opportunities within The Area General Service Committees.

Anyone can volunteer to serve on a committee without needing special skills, or recurring meeting commitments. Some committees can use help a few times a year, once every few months, etc., without a requirement to attend all committee mtgs. This can be a great way for folks open to serving in limited capacity to "get their feet wet" and see what General Service is all about.

All the Committees of the Area Can be contacted thru the Area Website **AREA8AA.ORG** or thru your local DCM.

**"I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that...
I am responsible."**

Upcoming Area Activities

See Area8aa.org For The Extended Calendar

| EVENT | DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Potluck Picnic in the Park | May 20 | 12:00 – 4:00PM | Live Oak Park 2746 Reche Road Fallbrook 92028 |
| Post Conference Assembly | June 2 | 8:00 – 4:00pm | Pala Tribal Administration Center 12196 Pala Mission Road Pala CA 92059 |
| NSDYPAA Dodgeball Tournament | June 9 th | 11am | Martin Luther King Jr. Park 4300 Mesa Drive, Oceanside CA 92057 |
| 83 rd Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous 34 th Anniversary of Oficina Hispana Central | June 10 th | 12:00 – 8:00pm | 1150 Broadway Ave. El Cajon San Diego 92021 |
| Founder's Day Picnic | June 16 | 9:00 – 3:00pm | Robb Field 2525 Bacon Street San Diego CA 92107 |
| Meeting Fundamentals Workshop | June 30 | 10:00 – 12:00pm | Mira Mesa Alano Club 6727 Flanders Dr., Ste. 106 San Diego CA 92121 |
| Sponsorship Workshop | July 28 | 8:30 – 1:00pm | First United Methodist Church 2111 Camino Del Rio South San Diego CA 92108 |
| Remote Communities Local Forum | Aug 24-26 | 8:00am – 9:00pm | Warner Springs School 30951 California Highway 79 |
| Labor Day Picnic | Sep 3 | 10:00 – 3:00pm | Calavera Hills Community Park 2997 Glasgow Drive Carlsbad CA 92010 |
| Pacific Regional Forum | Sep 7-9 | | Doubletree -Hilton 2050 Gateway Place San Jose CA 95110 |
| Over the Bridge Group Steps & Traditions Workshop | Sep 22 | 8:30 – 11:30am | St. Andrews Church 8350 Lake Murray Blvd San Diego CA 92119 |
| 9 th Local Forum | Oct 7 | | Machinist Hall 5150 Kearny Mesa Rd. San Diego CA 92111 |
| Big Day Assembly | Sept 15 | 8:00 – 4:00pm | |

Area Committee Meeting

The Area Committee meets monthly.

When?

The 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 PM to 10 PM.

Where?

The location is 4545 Viewridge Ave #100, San Diego, CA 92123.

All AA members are welcome to attend. To get an item on the agenda, please contact chair@area8aa.org to begin the process. If required, your specific request or proposal will be directed to the assistance of one of our Area's standing committees. The Area Committee meeting and all other General Service meetings are open to all AA members.

Submit Items or Provide Suggestions Newsletter

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to submit an article to the Newsletter for consideration to be published. Articles are preferred to be service related but can be anything from your personal experience to individual or group viewpoints on AA related matters.

Please contact the Newsletter Chairperson Steve S. (619)203-4172

Or email Newslsletter8@Area8.gmail.com

Area Officer Contacts

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|----------------|-----------|--|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| Area Chair | Monty C. | (619)243-9031 | alt Area Chair | Sutton K | (760)809-1969 |
| Area Delegate | Roxane R. | (760)638-3358 | alt Area Delegate | Jerry S. | (760)330-3506 |
| Area Secretary | Tanya T | (858)336-3795 | alt Area Secretary | Renee R. | (442)226-8927 |
| Area Treasurer | Efrain A. | efrain_agosto@yahoo.com | alt Area Treasurer | Paul K | (760)845-0015 |
| Area Registrar | Julie M. | (858)717-9046 | alt Area Registrar | Linda R. | (760)815-0207 |