



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

September
2018
Issue

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

Budget, Finance, & Personal Recovery

By Anne H. - Interview with Josh H./Finance Committee Chairperson

All concerns can be discussed during business at the Budget Assembly Saturday, November 3.

When does the budget process start each year? The process starts in February when the Finance Committee sends out Budget Request Forms for the next year to the Area Officers and the Standing Committees. Those forms are due back by April.

What are your first steps in putting the budget together? Once completed forms are received, the Committee puts together a proposed budget that is presented at the May Area Committee Meeting (ACM). The proposed budget is revised or approved by the ACM. At the July Finance committee meeting, members are assigned to present the proposed budget to each of the 23 districts in Area 8 to field questions. The General Service Representatives (GSRs), who attend their district's meeting then take the budget back to their groups for discussion.

How soon can Groups see the proposed Budget once its drafted? After ACM approves the proposed budget, it is available online at aaarea8.org. AA Groups can expect to see the proposed budget in late September via their GSR. It is the Finance Committees responsibility to get the budget to a group represented by a GSR at least 30 days before the Budget Assembly. The Budget Assembly for 2018 is Saturday, November 3 in Brawley.

Can the proposed budgeted be changed? Yes. (Amendments can be proposed when the Budget motion is offered at the assembly.)

How are changes made to the proposed budget? Every AA group represented by a GSR can give input on the budget. The GSR takes all questions, comments, concerns and suggestions to the Budget Assembly where every GSR, Standing Committees and Area Officers have an opportunity to speak. **For example**, if the Newsletter Chair makes a pitch to the assembly do 3 workshops, it will be subject to vote at the Budget Assembly by all voting members.

How do we change the budget after final approval? The budget gets passed at the Budget Assembly and then doesn't change. There is such a thing as an unbudgeted expense.

For example, one year, Area 8's AV system went down. Items like this can be approved up to \$450 at the ACM. For items over \$450, the assembly must vote. Bids for a request like this must be presented to the assembly. If the request is approved, there may be additional requirements asked of members (Example: Can each person contribute additional funds, etc.).

Is there a line item in the budget for unbudgeted expenses? It is added/itemized on the monthly finance report.

How has your service in this process helped your personal recovery, and how? I've realized during various discussions and debates that the members of AA are passionate and care intensely about the organization and recovery. Although we don't always agree, I've learned to trust God and smile with the understanding that we are all on the same Ark looking for the same land. This has improved my relationships, both professionally and personally by allowing me to understand that EVERYONE deserves the right to their own thoughts and opinions without judgement, and with acceptance.

The Finance Committee:

- Advises the Treasurer in preparing a budget not exceed the anticipated income for that year, based on trends and current expectations.
- Evaluates where cuts can be made if necessary, considering past spending.
- Visits districts in months leading up to the Budget Assembly to present the proposed budget. Proposed changes however are not considered until the Budget Assembly during business.
- Consider requests for funds from Standing Committees. Sometimes the Standing Committees don't have the time or manpower to conduct events for which they are requesting budget. The Finance committee tries to help committees

The 9th Annual Local Forum Hosted By Spanish Districts Coming October 7th

By Doris N.

The 9th Local Forum will be on October 7th at Machinists Hall, 5150 Kearny Mesa Rd, San Diego, CA 92111. It is hosted by Districts 15, 17 and 18, our three Area 08 Linguistic Districts. Although this event is in Spanish, **simultaneous interpretation in English will be available**. The committee encourages all members, including English speaking members, to participate in this event. "Come and see how the Hispanic community is working and be part of its rewarding results. We could eventually plan an Area 08 Local Forum." **The committee has been working hard since the beginning of this year** with the planning of this Local Forum by visiting all Spanish speaking groups in the districts as well as other Areas to motivate participation and contributions to cover the expenses needed for a successful event.

I spoke to Marina V, current Chair and Carlos B, past Chair, about the **purpose of the Forums and their experiences in General Service**. As stated in aa.org, "Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. They carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship." **The first Spanish Forum in San Diego was in 2010** and it was developed from the need to inform the Fellowship about General Service structure. Members who attended returned to their groups more open-minded, sharing their newly found spark of enthusiasm. This motivated the newcomers and a new generation of A.A. servants were born.

Carlos B. remembers he attended the 1st Local Forum in 2010. He had seen how the committee was composed of Districts 15 and 18 and was impressed with how well they worked with districts and other Areas. He was amazed at how the Fellowship gathered together from different places, heard the **valuable experiences that was shared at the event, the love for service, and the importance of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic**. Eventually, he was elected Chair for the 8th Local Forum and was able to be part of this experience. Many young members have found a great interest in General Service by attending these Forums. Not only are young people increasing in number in our meetings, but they are also serving in committees. Our current DCM's in District 15, Richard O, and District 18, Abraham T, are the youngest elected up to now. The Hispanic community is benefiting from these Forums, enabling us to continue our primary purpose.

Please come and join us. All are welcome.

Five Beliefs I Hold about General Service

By Tom M./ Past Delegate Panel 62

Belief-General Service gave more to me than I gave to it. During some periods of service sent a ridiculous amount of time traveling, talking, and writing yet I always had time for what I needed to do in my personal life. When I needed personal time, it seemed to appear or may be my attitude how much personal time I really need change.

Belief-Developing the group conscience is one of two vitally important actions I learned in general service. All our collective decisions, large or small, should be based on group conscience that I am obligated to all to happen even if I disagree with the outcome. None of us individually is as smart as all of us together.

Belief-Fostering unity in general service is equally important as developing a group conscience. I've forgotten virtually all the details of work I did in general service but the bonds I made with the people I served remain. I do not have to agree with you, but I do have to love you and I need to resist making power driven arguments turn people away from service.

Belief-The basis for today's Alcoholic Anonymous are the 36 principals found in the 12 steps, 12 traditions, and 12 concepts. I don't compromise on those 36 principles, but I may need to compromise through use of group conscience on policy and practices of those principles. I need to allow you to practice those 36 principles in your way, not my way.

Belief-Many Traditions problems are really recovery problem in disguise. Sometimes my desire to tell you how important I am is stronger than my desire to practice principles before personality.

Learning About Our Third Legacy through a Service Manual Meeting

(Part 1) Look in the Fall Issue of the newsletter for Part 2!

By Anne H. - interview with Jane g. (past delegate)

When did you start the meeting and why?

The meeting began May 15, 2018. We started the meeting because we don't see the knowledge and experience of the Traditions and Concepts being made available to those in service. If it's not available to those in service, then it's not available to those in our groups. Without knowledge of our Traditions, it's hard for those who are serving to understand what it is we are actually doing and respecting their full Right of Participation (Concept IV).

Do you have a favorite, or most often referred to section in *The Service Manual*?

One of my favorites is the front section on page S1 - "AA's Legacy of Service by Bill W." Those three paragraphs provide a great summary of general service as our Twelfth-Step— carrying the message.

Do you have a work or personal experience you can share where your understanding of the Concepts helped you? Please share the what it was and how they helped.

The Concepts help me in group discussions all the time. For example, I noticed I tend to not fully listen to the newcomer with the same respect I give to someone with more time in service. That is not respect for each member's Right of Participation. Also, I noticed I don't always give my full attention to someone when I think they may be disagreeing with me. That's a character flaw. The Right of Participation means that all members are equal regardless of length of sobriety. Warranty Four in Concept XII outlines that we engage in discussion and arrive at decisions with substantial unanimity. The Concepts, in their full combination, offer us forgiveness as well as a corrective pathway if and when a decision made in substantial unanimity proves to have been in error. All these things are applicable to my personal practice of the Steps. I ask my Higher Power for guidance in my thoughts and actions in all my relationships and especially with other trusted servants. I am always asked to examine my personal prejudices, my own character defects that block guidance in my decisions. I am asked to actively practice an open mind and an open heart. That means I give others and their contributions (thoughts, ideas) equal respect. When I can achieve an opened mind, I am often presented with the realization of "Oh, I didn't think (or know) of that."

What types of subject are you covering in legacies meeting?

We are moving through the Steps, Traditions and Concepts in numerical order. At our first meeting, we reviewed the three parts of Step 12. We did this to identify the specific principles we are practicing in all our affairs in order to search for them in the Traditions and Concepts. Then, we compared and contrasted Step 1 with Tradition One; which was followed by comparing and contrasting Tradition One and Concept I. The meeting participants sign up for a topic of their choice. The individual who volunteers to lead prepares a 15-minute talk on what he or she found (or did not find) in that comparison. Then, the most important part is our group discussion. We encourage participants to discuss current issues or questions they see in their groups and in AA as a whole. When presenting an issue, we ask that anonymity of the group and any individuals be respected. We just want to the example of what's happening or not happening. Then we discuss how and if the principles to that situation. This allows each of us to have a personal experience of applying the principles.

Myths about General Service by Suzanne R. & Dean B.

Myth. General Service is political. One may think this because of seeming conflicts on assembly floor discussing business. The reality is that in AA we reason and talk items thru and trust or higher powers in the process. Soon, we can see it as caring discussion, not conflict. In the end, the group will decide.

Myth. General Service is overwhelming. Why someone may think that may be due to of all the info that is distributed ... The large amounts of "stuff" you receive when all you did was say "yes I will represent my group". Many believe they have to do it themselves. We get a sponsor to help with the steps, then get into General Service and many times go without asking for help. What really happens is that we all can ask for help from others and our Higher Power. When that's done we can the beauty of growth and group conscience because we found we are part of a larger cause. With help, and doing it together, our experience can go from overwhelming to enjoyable.

Myth. General Service is too indirect to be called real 12th Step work. One may believe that because often the actions within General service don't net immediate results. The average member may not see results from a district who forms a committee to help the elderly community. The average member may not know we were given general service by our founders to preserve World Services, and AA as a whole. Maybe we need to a better job involving group member in these General Service Efforts to shed light and offer them the same spiritual experience we have found. All it takes is saying, "would you like to help?".

The Gifts of AA and Paying it Forward

By Nancy S. / Saturday Morning La Mesa Women's Closed Meeting

Grateful I am so grateful for my home group. The ladies are awesome. They make you feel right at home and there's lots of love. I remember when I first walked into that room for the first time. I was scared but everyone made me feel welcomed and I've made quite a few friends. I'm so grateful for [A.A.s](#) a whole. If it wasn't A.A. I'd don't know where I'd be. I may not even be here. A.A. saved my life and my marriage.

Giving Back I'm giving back to A.A. which has given me so much. I love being of service because this organization has helped me quite a bit and this is the least I can do. I started out as being greeter, then set-up coordinator, sponsorship coordinator, babysitting coordinator, and now Co-General Service Representative. I really enjoyed doing the above service commitments but I'm right a home with my new commitment.

Growth Working in General Service gives me a sense of pride and knowing I'm helping my General Service Representative for my home group. It has really help me grow in my sobriety and discovering new depths in Recovery (Steps), Unity (Traditions), and (Service) conceptions. I always enjoy learning new things. Our General Service Representative for my home group has included me in a lot. In April, thanks to her I was able to participate in Area pre-conference assembly. I also go to the monthly General Service Representative District meeting held monthly here in La Mesa. I get the "big picture" of what goes on behind the scenes. Planning workshops, activities, and other items. I get a lot out of it and I can participate in a personal and meaningful way.

Thankful I'm so glad to be of service no matter what the commitment is. If I am available and my homegroup needs a fill in for anything, I try to say yet. I remember where I came from. But most of all, I'm thankful to be the new Co-General Service Representative. It gives me a chance to start something new and find out about service outside the walls of my meeting.

Volunteer! You'll be glad you did. Even just being a greeter is a good start to serving and committing. Next time your meeting needs someone new to fulfill the position, you might think about how much AA has done for you and say "I'm Available!".

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 Newsletter8@Area8.gmail.com

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.

Area Officer Contacts

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