

Delegate's Report
Budget Area Assembly
November 3, 2018

Traveling up to Santa Monica to help facilitate Area 05's 3rd Legacy Elections with Julie, our registrar, was another example of our traditions and concepts at work. It was great to experience another area's assembly and to reunite with friends. We travel to Area 93 this month I just finished filling out my mail-in ballot for the upcoming elections. It took me a couple of hours. Having taught 8th graders the important elements of a democracy, I know the value of voting in local and state elections. With a government elected by its citizens, affecting every aspect of our lives from schools to health care to homeland security, voting is an important right in our society. By voting, you are making your voice heard and registering your opinion on how you think the government should operate. Because I have been around General Service for a few panels, I know that an area's health is measured by the number of members who show up to vote in all matters. Voting your group's conscience during an assembly has many unseen benefits.

Did you know that voters are more likely to volunteer in their communities and be active and engaged citizens. Voters tend to have strong social connections with their neighbors and family members. These stronger social connections can lead to a greater quality of life and longevity. Voting is a form of personal empowerment, giving individuals a chance to voice their opinions. Your vote is a representation of your voice and opens the door for other ways for you to be engaged and create relationships. I know that I help make a difference every time I vote, whether it is in an AA Assembly or a local election.

to do the same.

I recently visited District 11 and will be visiting a variety of districts in the coming weeks. I look forward to meeting the GSRs personally. I am so glad to have so many of you attending the Assembly and the GSR School. You are on a path you will not regret.

The 2018 General Service Conference Report has been distributed to most of the DCMs and there are a few left if you did not get one. Remember, the Anonymity Protected version of this report can be found in English and Spanish on the Area 08 website. If you have your conference report with you, open it to page 6 where you will find an excellent keynote address by Richard B., the Eastern Canadian Regional Trustee. He writes, "If we remain focused on our primary purpose, if we remain humble and aware of our beginnings, if in everything we do, we work for the preservation of Alcoholics Anonymous, and if we extend to one another mutual respect and practice tolerance," then we can ensure that AA remains a solution for the alcoholic who still suffers. His address is concise and easy to read and I trust you will experience just a bit of what I heard at the Conference.

Another excellent presentation is on page 13. Keith D from Northeast Texas writes about technology and AA in his piece titled, "Where Innovation Meets the Traditions." As an active member of AA and one of the primary bloggers in TIAA (Technology in AA) he reminds us that "we must be known by our communities to be effective." We are not a secret society and there are many who have a difficult time matching their virtual lives to their real lives, but we can't be stymied by those who think we should stay out of innovative social platforms because we can't control what companies DO with our information. After all, we can't control what our landlords

do with our information either but no one is suggesting we still meet only in homes. Keith tells us that we must join the ever evolving technical world now, not later. Later will be too late. [We received correspondence from the GSO on Friday announcing the licensure of the Meeting Guide technology. Collated meeting information will be available in the future through GSO's website at aa.org and will be a component of the proposed AAWS App. This is fantastic news.]

Note that the 2018 GS Conference presented us with 88 Agenda Items as well as 56 Advisory Actions. Much work was accomplished during the week of the Conference and all of this is outlined in the Conference Report. On page 62 (Rule 62) you will see the Panel 68 Area Highlights for San Diego/Imperial Areas. The committee reports and staff reports follow this but then the data begins to show up. Because we are an anonymous group we do not capture data the way other groups can. From pages 102-105 we see how much literature was distributed in what languages and how many Grapevine subscriptions were sold and in what states or countries they were subscribed. This is fascinating to any A.A. nerd and really helps tell the story of our 7th Tradition contributions. This is how each of us participates in global AA.

Finally, on pages 116-117 (the foldout) you will find the section of the Report that shows us "the money" we've been given by each area. I read every line, even the numbers for the online groups and loners! What smacks me in the face every time is the "per capita" column. Now even though many of us contribute to A.A. via our 7th Tradition, we all give varying amounts but if we add up all that is given and divide it by the number of people who gave, no matter if it's 10 cents or \$10, the per capita is *that* number PER YEAR. So, in San Diego/Imperial Area 08 our per capita is \$3.47. No matter how much money YOU give at every meeting you attend, the average is still only \$3.47 per person, PER YEAR. This is why the Conference will share each year what it would take for A.A. to be self supporting or rather, the cost of services for 2017. That cost was \$7.40. We are \$3.93 off. The 740 challenge this year is for every member you know to send \$7.40 to GSO in an effort to bridge the gap between what we contribute and what it takes to make A.A. self-supporting. If you want more clarification on this, come to the panels this afternoon.

The General Service Conference is YOUR Conference. It was given to us by Bill and Bob. At the close of the 1952 Conference, Bernard Smith, Non-Alcoholic Chair of the Board of Trustees said, "What we do here and what we have done here, great as it has been, is not nearly or remotely important, in my judgement, as the fact we are here. For it is the existence and the preservation of this General Service Conference that is vital. The decisions we make here, important as they are, must, in the last analysis, be subordinated to the greater significance of the existence of this Conference, for as long in the future as we can see, as a preserving arm of this great society of ours."

Thank you for the honor of sharing my experience with you today.

Roxane R.

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