

**Area 8 San Diego-Imperial**  
**Area Chair Report**  
January 5, 2013

**Acronyms:**

**ACM** = Area Committee Meeting

**CEC** = Cooperation with the Elderly Community

**CPC** = Cooperation with the Professional Community

**DCM** = District Committee Member

**Area 08 DCM/Committee Chair Workshop**

This annual workshop will be held from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM Saturday, January 26, 2013 at First United Methodist Church, San Diego. We look forward to meeting and sharing time with our Area's new DCMs and Committee Chairs.

The information shared at this workshop will be helpful to our Area's experienced and inexperienced trusted servants. The information on the topics of Area Leadership and Standing Committees will be reviewed at this workshop. I will look to the participants to identify work that can be developed from the information.

**Area Inventory Report**

A detailed as well as a summary report on the September 22, 2012 Area Inventory are now on Area 08's website in English and Spanish. The detailed information on Standing Committee will be used at the January 2013 Area Committee Meeting (ACM) for the discussion on how to assign standing committee voting members.

The Area Inventory holds many suggestions for workshops that will help all A.A. members build an understanding of general service and keeping AA available now and in the future. Our first workshop was December 8, 2012. The Delegate and Alternate Delegate gave a review of their service experience. Our Alternate Chair kicked off a great discussion on Leadership with Concept IX. A PowerPoint presentation holding a highly-detailed GSR School presentation was previewed and made available on CD to all present. It was presented as a continuous work in progress. Several people from meetings in District 8 and 22 who have no general service experience attended. One of them volunteered to become a District liaison to call on unrepresented meetings; another volunteered to become the GSR of his unrepresented group.

I urge each District to consider meetings of this type to which they can invite AA members at large. These informal meetings offer them an opportunity outside of a business meeting to learn about the wide variety of service work available in general service. There are unlimited possibilities for workshop content and the means by which we make service work available to all AA members. I want all Districts to know I am available to assist in planning and putting on these meetings.

The sense of the detailed data on Area Finances presents the opportunity to help GSRs understand how the Area Finances work. In all honesty, we cannot claim we are serving our groups and including them in decisions on our Area's 12-Step work if GSRs cannot explain how their group's contributions have been used or are planned to be used. DCMs must understand Area finances in order to support GSRs who will work with their groups to develop an informed group conscience on the Area's 12-Step work. By design, Area finances are insecure; we can reduce our fear of this insecurity through building trust that develops as promised in practicing the spiritual principles outlined in our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

Let us remember Area contributions are only used in 12-Step work. As a start to the work required to build a solid understanding of how finances are used in carrying the message, I have created two ad hoc committees.

### **1. Ad hoc Committee to Create a “How It Works” Tutorial on Area Finances.**

- This tutorial will begin with the role of the group’s 7th Tradition as support of our 9th Tradition. It will cover the budget cycle of asking our Area’s trusted servants (Area Officers and Standing Committee Chairs) to identify the associated costs for the 12-Step work they foresee the need to perform in the upcoming year.
- We will also need to understand how and when requests for unbudgeted expenses are processed as ever-changing conditions modify plan for carrying the message and keeping the hand of AA available to anyone anywhere.
- It will answer the question on whether or not our Area has a financial reserve. If there is a reserve, the tutorial detail how it works.

### **2. Ad hoc Committee to Define our Financial Ideal**

Once the financial ideal has been articulated, the committee will start exploring if and how we are spiritually falling short of it. I have outlined the following objectives:

- A. Report to us why the wording of Area 08's Operating Principles reflect Concept XII with the exception of the phrase, "ample prudent reserve."
- B. List the spiritual principles on which Area 08's Finance Guidelines are based.

The ad hoc committee’s answers to the two above-listed items will be turned over to the Finance Committee to review the Area 08's Finance Guidelines according to their committee’s scope identified in VIII, 5. B. of Area 08’s Structure & Guidelines (Makes recommendations on Area financial guidelines). The Finance Committee will be asked to help in building an understanding of how and if, as written and practiced, the guidelines fulfill or fall short of our principles and ideal.

Plans for working on the Area Inventory information collected on the topics of Area Leadership and Standing Committees will be developed at the above-mentioned Saturday, January 26, 2013 DCM/Committee Chair Workshop.

### **Cooperation with the Elderly Community (CEC)**

This ad hoc committee is scheduled to deliver its final report at the January ACM. The committee’s final report has been delayed due to no fault of its own. The ACM agenda has been full.

### **Ad hoc Committee to Review Section XI of Area 08’s Structure & Guidelines**

Wes B., Alternate Chair of the Archives Committee is the chair of this ad hoc committee. He has informed me that he has engaged a few members for the committee and they have held a couple meetings. A report is expected very soon.

One of our DCMs presented information at the December Area Committee Meeting that the Area’s Structure & Guidelines are, in fact, viewed by government agencies as corporate bylaws. This item has been added to the work of this ad hoc committee because one of its objectives is to collect and develop a set of questions to be answered by professional advisors.

### **Policy Committee’s Review of Recommendations by Ad hoc on Guidelines Review**

The motions to change the guidelines that have evolved from the Policy Committee’s work on the suggestions developed by the Ad hoc Guidelines Review Committee were presented for their first assembly vote in

November 2012. Both motions were approved to be sent to the groups and the second vote on each of the two motions is on the January 2013 Area Assembly agenda.

I ask all of you to join me in recognizing and thanking the Policy Committee for their valuable service in finishing the work delivered to them by the Ad hoc Guidelines Review Committee. The Policy Committee members worked for 11 months on the greater than 60 points that were detailed for their review.

The Policy Committee has now begun a review and revision of Area 08's DCM Manual.

## **Newsletter Committee Chair**

Our Area is in need of a Newsletter Committee Chair. This is a two-year commitment and the responsibility of the committee is to publish a newsletter just prior to each of our five annual assemblies. If interested, please contact me at [chair@area8.org](mailto:chair@area8.org) or 858-212-8568.

## **Remote Nations Liaison**

We have an opening for Remote Nations Liaison. This service position is a privileged opportunity for our Area to carry the message.

If we look at the Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey, we can see this is just one of the ways for our fellowship to extend the hand of AA in order to attract and include more diversity within our fellowship. Please use this link to view the membership survey: <http://www.aa.org/catalog.cfm?category=4&product=65>  
The more diverse our fellowship, the more possibilities we have to hear a variety of experiences in spirituality.

If you are interested in getting more information on the work of the Remote Nations Liaison, please contact me at [chair@area8aa.org](mailto:chair@area8aa.org) or 858-212-8568.

**Four-Area DCM Sharing Session** - Area 08 is hosting the 2013 Four Area DCM Sharing Session. Vince V., is chairing the planning committee. He has successfully engaged the newly-elected trusted servants from Areas 5, 9, and 93 who are responsible to help plan the event.

**Proposal to Bid for 2025 International Convention** - Bobbie C., Past Delegate, presented the plan for the proposal to the November 2012 Area Assembly. She asked for a sense of the meeting to understand if Area 08's trusted servants are in support of the bid. Based on the sense of the meeting as being unanimous, I delivered Area 08's letter of support for inclusion in the proposal.

**Finance Discussions** - Two motions to amend section VI. FINANCIAL GUIDELINES OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY of Area 08's S&Gs [have been submitted by an Area 08 district](#). The motion to change the frequency of the GSO send-off calculation was withdrawn at the December Area Committee Meeting. The motion to establish a \$2500.00 prudent reserve for the Area will be on the agenda for the January 2013 Area Committee Meeting.

**Class B Trustee at Large Nominations** - Two individuals stood for this nomination at the November 2012 Area Assembly. Paul C., Past Delegate facilitated the election process. Please congratulate Jerry C. who is elected as Area 08's Class B Trustee at Large Nominee.

## **Chair Visits/Discussions**

In addition to my regular attendance to Policy and Agenda Committee meetings, I attended:

**Elections** - I acted as the Area Officer for elections in Districts 13 and 21.

**Finance Committee Meeting** - I have attended the November and December Finance Committee Meetings. The committee held elections that were directed by our Alternate Treasurer. The committee has attracted a good number of members. I hope more of our Area's AA members will consider being of service to this committee in order to develop ways for all of us to better understand our Area finances support our 12-Step work.

It is important for each DCM, as Area leadership, to develop a good understanding of how the Area finances are used to carry the message. The DCM can then pass on the understanding to the GSRs. The GSRs are our group's only hope in understanding how group contributions support the Area and AA as a whole. True unity in participation is not possible unless a working understanding is achieved.

**District 18's Sponsorship Workshop** - I was one of several Area officers who spoke at this well attended workshop. There were many speakers who discussed a wide variety of sponsorship topics. I am not well educated in Spanish; however, I learn more of it every time I attend a Spanish-speaking event. The message of the desire for recover is the same in any language.

**District 9 and 17** - I made contact with the DCMs of each of these Districts and offered to come to their December meetings. I spoke in real time to one of them on the phone. I did not receive a reply. I will ask my fellow Area officers to also offer to attend the meetings of these Districts in an effort toward unity.

### **Translation Committee**

Alicia H. has recently accepted the responsibility of Translation Committee Chair. Unfortunately, the committee has been experiencing computer problems preventing it from achieving full activity. Those who have produced documents have individually secured translators or have made use of Google Translate. Of course, the best resource will be the work performed by members of this committee. The concern is that Google is not the best authority on the wording commonly used within the Spanish-speaking fellowship to convey highly significant emotional and spiritual messages.

### **TRANSLATORS NEEDED!**

**We hope you will help us by making the following announcement at the meetings you attend:**

Our Area has continues to seek American Sign Language and Spanish Interpreters to add to our availability list. There is also a continuing need for volunteers to participate in translating written documents from English to Spanish.

Please announce the continuing need for

- ASL Interpreters - Jane G. 858-212-8568 - [chair@area8aa.org](mailto:chair@area8aa.org)
- Spanish Interpreters - Jane G. 858-212-8568 - [chair@area8aa.org](mailto:chair@area8aa.org)
- Volunteers to the Translation Committee - Providing written translation of documents from English to Spanish and Spanish to English. Please contact the Translation Committee Chair, Alicia H. at 619-921-0344 - [aliciadletjacm@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciadletjacm@yahoo.com).

### **Area Committee Meeting**

The Area Committee meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 PM to 10 PM. The location is 2650 Melbourne, San Diego, CA. All AA members are welcome to attend. To get an item on the agenda, please

contact [chair@area8aa.org](mailto:chair@area8aa.org) to begin the process. If required, your specific request or proposal will be directed to the assistance of one or more of our Area's standing committees.

The Area Committee meeting and all other General Service meetings are open to all AA members.