

Area 8 Chair Report
July 2014

This has been an adventurous summer. Having returned recently from a nine day excursion into the Costa Rican jungles, skirting the volcanoes and sampling at coffee plantations, it occurred to me that our adventures don't often include time for reflection. I saw the familiar triangle within a circle in Monte Verde, Costa Rica, and in small letters beneath this it read, "Grupo Mujeres." Hope must live in their cloud forest. This being my sixth tour the anticipation of adventure shows in the faces of my student travelers, their passports blank, awaiting the stamp that will tell them they have been somewhere. It is a marvel that everyone should have--the chance to introduce someone to something so unique and so wonderful. It is like opening up your Big Book with a newcomer. You know the adventures ahead and it is only a matter of time before the suddenly sober guy or girl is drawn into this life we own.

Sharon from Area 09 sent an email reporting that Area 09 is hosting the 4 Area Sharing Session next year. She has already assembled her point persons, one Spanish and one English speaking. She is very excited and would like to know the names of interested DCMs who will be a part of this exciting service opportunity—Outgoing DCMs are encouraged to sign up because it is noted that experienced DCMs have much to share with the new rotations for Panel 65 coming up in January. I will send around a list for your name, phone number and email address and I will forward that to Sharon.

The chair from Area 05, Thomas B, is calling for volunteers from Area 8 to help conduct a special third-legacy election for Registrar to replace a resigned officer at their Area Assembly on Saturday, July 26, for no more than 90 minutes. The volunteer will distribute and count ballots. Mark the date if you would like to participate and send me an email if you want to carpool with me up to this special election conducted in the morning.

July, the 7th month, means we have a look at Concept 7 which is about the Conference Charter. Just as the Conference Charter is not a legal document, it must rely instead on the "force of tradition" and the "power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness," so I ask you as a member of this area: Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse?" The power of the purse is defined as the ability of one group to manipulate and control the actions of another group by withholding funding, or putting stipulations on the use of funds. The power of the purse can be used positively (e.g. awarding extra funding to programs that are in need) or negatively (e.g. removing funding for a committee or program, effectively eliminating it). The power of the purse is most often utilized by forces within a governing body that do not have direct executive power, but have control over budgets. I found this explanation of the power of the purse helpful with my own understanding about how our budgets are formed. It is well advised that we be knowledgeable about our guidelines regarding all things financial.

Other Area Business: The Policy Committee has been working on the "Who is Area 8" Info Pamphlet. It is near completion and I hope we can vote to approve it before the end of the summer. I was notified by Kevin, our CPC Committee Chair that he is moving to Orange County which is our loss, indeed. Area 8 will need a new CPC Chair by August if possible. Please see Kevin if you know of someone who would or could take over this position. The IT Committee is also in need of a new webmaster and our current chair is the interim chair until one can be appointed. There are two people interested in the IT Chair position. The IT Committee meeting will continue to be held at Steve's house for at least one more year.

I hope the adventures are still happening for you in AA. If not, perhaps there is some expedition we can send you on in the near future. Warm regards, Roxane R., Area 8 Chair, Panel 64, 760-638-3358.