

Chair's Report to the Area 9 ACM. December 2016

Its December again and like last year, we lost our coffee pots for a while and were reminded that our Area is not a well-oiled machine or even a bunch of squeaky wheels. Instead I'm reminded again that what we have is opportunities for service and a whole bunch of recovery experiences that for me, at least, get woven in and out of my own journey. I put Joe and Charlie into the CD player in my car and was struck by how much life itself has seemingly changed in the nearly 20 years since they recorded their weekend Big Book study. When I compare their commitment to "The Principles" set down in the 3rd edition of the Big Book to my own 2016 experiences with Area 8s diverse groups and meetings I conclude that we may have lost a few things, but also probably have gained some as well.

Our Third and Fifth Traditions certainly have not changed, but our willingness to discuss change and consider issues like diversity, safety, social media, Seniors in Sobriety, YPAAS, to mention a few is a positive comment on our willingness to listen and be open to suggestion.

So as 2016 concludes and Panel 66 concludes the first half of its service I extend to each of you my fondest wishes for the Holiday Season and the New Year. And to those of you who are rotating on, I thank you most sincerely for your unselfish service to Area 8 and hope that you will continue to set the example in your service and sobriety adventures to come.

Thank you all for the opportunity you have given me to serve this year.

Colin M. - Chair