

My name is Colin and I am an alcoholic.

Since we held our April Area Committee Meeting, our delegate Jane G. travelled to New York for the Panel 67 General Service Conference. Today, she will share her experiences and many of the results of the conference.

Your Chair and Alternate Chair still expect to travel to Brawley along with representatives of our San Diego Spanish districts later this month to meet with our Imperial Valley friends. One goal is to determine if they are available to host our November Budget Assembly. The other is to discuss our teleconference system and ways to better communicate and involve them in Area activities.

I visited District 16 earlier this month and took time to give them some perspective of Area activities and the role of the Chair and other officers. I want to thank their DCM Dona-Marie S. for inviting me. And I continue to be available to meet with districts and committees to give them the Chair's perspective of what we do.

I have had extended discussions with Jerry M., who has proposed our Area Inventory – tentatively scheduled for August. The response to our earlier request for volunteers for a planning committee was underwhelming, so with my concurrence he has continued to develop the proposal which he will present today. I encourage all of you to share this information with your districts and groups so that we can attract a good cross-section of Area members for both planning and the event itself.

We have developed some new procedures for our website which should shorten the amount of time that it takes submissions to be posted. We also are making changes to the website that will repair some broken links, update some content, and improve the Spanish language version of the website. We will continue to post documents on the English site in Spanish as well until this work is completed.

Just a heads up reminder regarding our Summer events and Fall Assemblies, since we won't meet as a body again until September. Please make certain that your groups have a copy of our Master Calendar and/or information about accessing it on the Area 8 website for dates/times and locations of Founders Day in June, La Vina Workshop in July, and our Unity Day event in August to name a few.

Also, in June I will send out an email to all eligible DCMs, Committee Chairs, and other Area officers inviting them to stand for Panel 68 positions at our election Assembly in September. If you are considering standing for a position, please speak with a former or current officer/delegate for more information about the demands of the position that might affect your availability.

My recovery and sobriety continue to be more meaningful as the tasks and responsibilities of the Area provide important balance to other life issues – some of which need attention, but mostly which need me to develop more detachment, calm, and acceptance.

Thank you all for your support and the opportunity you have provided me for service.

Colin M. - Chair