

Chair's Report – December 2017

Well, friends, here we are – at our annual holiday pot luck – again – and at the final Panel 66 Area Committee Meeting. Since we last met, your officers have continued to work with their Panel 68 counterparts to complete the knowledge transfer and practical details of the transition to our new panel in January including a meeting which some of the transition officers attended after the November Budget Assembly. We also have held a meeting of the new Website sub-committee, whose new members are in attendance tonight and will be introduced to you in a few minutes.

I have had an opportunity to reflect on the last 24 months of my service to our Area as first, your alternate chair, and later as your Chair. We have solved some problems, begun the process of looking at some others, and – in my humble opinion continued our rich tradition of serving our area sometimes efficiently, but mostly inefficiently, which seems –at least to me – is both a blessing and a curse at times. My experience has been that we trudge not plod and that change – when it's part of God's plan – happens gradually, and certainly not at the pace I might have wanted when I stood for election in the Fall of 2015. But I've found that now, in hindsight, my own path has provided some unpredictable distractions and our Area's path has also had some twists and turns that we may not have expected or wanted. So our sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly Big Book reminder has prevailed.

I mentioned last time that we met that recent events and decisions have brought a lot of life change to my family and our ability to remain in San Diego. Well, those events have come to pass and after January, we will no longer remain in San Diego. Obviously that timeline affects my ability to continue as your alternate Chair for Panel 68. So after much soul searching, meetings with my service sponsor, discussions with my wife and conversations with both Monty and Roxane, I have decided to step down – effective December 31st. It has been my strong desire to complete my service to Panel 66 and I will continue to serve as your Chair until the last day of my term on December 31st. Another important reality is that I turn 76 in January and my memory no longer serves me as it once did and that now makes many day-to-day tasks more difficult than they once were. It happens, I guess, to most of us as we age and I have accepted this condition as part of the new chapter of my life.

After the New Year, I have told Monty and Roxane that I will continue to be available by phone and email to answer questions, support any Panel 66 initiatives that continue, and to be a resource to the new Panel. My wife hope to be in Sparks Nevada in early March to attend Prassa. At least that's the current plan. So I look forward to seeing many of you there.

It has been a great honor to have served as your Chair these past two years. My own recovery and sobriety have benefitted greatly from the opportunity that Area 8 has afforded me. I don't know what might replace General Service in my life in the near future but I do have great faith that more will be revealed as we head out to explore new communities and Areas. And I do look forward to attending meetings in the mobile home parks and locations that we will visit. I also am continuing to serve Seniors in Sobriety as their webmaster – which fortunately is more of a virtual responsibility and I will work to help CEC and SIS grow as I visit new places and meet more recovering seniors.

Thank you all again for friendship, the challenges you have brought me, and for the spirit of discussion, the lessons in listening, and, of course, all your personalities. And fortunately our AA principles remain to guide us and shape what we do, in spite of what we may think or how we might behave at times. So - Thank you, thank you, thank you! For everything.

Colin M. – Panel 66 Chair