



# SAN DIEGO – IMPERIAL AREA ASSEMBLY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – AREA 8 NEWSLETTER

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Issue

P.O. Box 3670, San Diego, CA 92163 ([www.area8aa.org](http://www.area8aa.org))  
“Supporting our Future; Growth, Participation, Contributions.”

## *What Service Has Meant To Me*

By Brian M

I was asked to write a few words about Service in Alcoholics Anonymous; the hard part is just that – writing a few words about service. Telling my story in AA without talking about service is like talking about swimming without describing the water. It just doesn't exist. Although service is the lifeblood of this amazing program, it can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people and that doesn't make any one type of service better than another.

Early on in my sobriety I tried to get involved with as many commitments as possible at my regular meetings – I served as greeter, shaking hands and saying hello even when I didn't know names and had a hard time looking people in the eye. I served potato salad at my homegroup's annual picnic, I led and served as secretary at a few different meetings. But the commitment that meant the most to me was making coffee at my weekly 6:45am Friday meeting. I am an early riser, so getting there early, setting things up and serving coffee was a natural fit; it also guaranteed I got to know each and every member at that meeting.

In my second year of sobriety I got more involved at the District and Area levels, hosting a New Year's Eve party, trying to provide an upscale, safe environment that didn't just feel like a party without booze but a party with delicious food, great entertainment and of course dancing.

I also took commitments as General Service Representative and was even elected Treasurer for our District. I have met folks from throughout our area and learned more about the behind the scenes workings of this Program that has done so much for me and my family.

As time went on, my service evolved into sponsorship. Sitting across the table from another man and reading AA's Big Book line by line, taking the time to do what another man did for me, well that is just about the most rewarding way to serve that I have found. There is no right or wrong way to be of service. Sponsoring someone, taking them through the Steps and watching the 'light come on in their eyes' is surely a beautiful gift, but so is taking the shopping cart all the way back to the front of the store. So is speaking a kind word to a loved one – or a stranger. So is asking a person how their day might be going. So is letting someone cut you off in traffic because hey, you don't know what's going on in their day. And maybe if each one of us served each other in some small way, the sum total of all of these acts of service might just change the world.

## *Delegate's Report*

By Roxane Rollins

Panel 68 Delegate, Area 08 [area8delegate68@gmail.com](mailto:area8delegate68@gmail.com)

The Trustees report from Board Weekend is in and I have attached it to this report. I had my conference call with all the other Delegates from our Region this week and I was able to ask her questions I had about GSR Kits and the current status of the Plain Language Big Book. Here are some questions I had about the last board meeting:

1)-- Q: If eight (8) temporary employees were hired by the Finance department to handle the influx of contributions, does this mean our \$8.06 challenge was successful? A: Yes and no. The contributions that come in online are easier and cheaper to post. These were mostly the mail-in contributions.

2)-- Q: How many Agenda Items have come in to GSO as of 11/19? A: 29. These do not automatically make it to the committees.

3)-- Q: People are complaining about there not being any rooms left in Detroit for the International. What is the status? A: There are plenty of rooms left but nothing downtown. People have to search all the areas designated as part of the Convention. If all else fails, they can book by telephone.

4)-- Q: How much is the "survey professional" from Duke costing and what is our end goal? A: The professional from Duke University is not only looking at our current methodology, but some additional ideas as well. There will likely be a report to the PI Conference Committee at the Conference which will include the cost. Our goal is to have a reliable membership survey but there is no timeline at this point.

5)-- Q: Is the new ASL Video Big Book considered a translation? A: Yes, but this translation is already included as one of the 71 languages. This was actually a re-translation.

6)-- Q: How do we get over-spending \$433K over any budgeted amount? (In reference to the current ERP costs.) A: Nothing was taken from the reserves. This money came out of the general fund. Because of current contribution trends and salaries coming in under budget, AAWS projects that there will still be a net profit of \$25K at year-end. It is the legal department which is doing continuous contract reviews for ERP technology that has the costs so high.

7)-- Q: What is the reason LaVina has had a spike in subscriptions? A: The La Vina Anniversary Conference had a

## Delegate's Report (continued)

By Roxane Rollins

Panel 68 Delegate, Area 08 [area8delegate68@gmail.com](mailto:area8delegate68@gmail.com)

registration fee that included a subscription to La Vina. Brilliant.

8)-- Q: What about the renovations being done at GSO to add space? Are they done and how much did it cost? A: The renovations have just started but they should be done by year end. The cost was budgeted for \$1 million but it looks like it will only be \$700K.

9)-- Q: What is going on in Venezuela and how can we help? A: Venezuela is experiencing political upheaval and the economy is in ruins. Many people, including AA members, are fleeing the country, causing AA to be unstable at best. Some South American countries are taking in hundreds of refugees. Our international literature fund is helping to get literature into the hands of the people who need it. Steady contributions ensure this fund can be utilized by any country who needs it.

10)-- Q: What about the Plain Language Big Book? Where is the committee on moving this forward to the Conference? A: I have had email contact with the subcommittee, established this year, for this agenda item. I have also had a teleconference call with one of the trustees on that subcommittee. They are aware that another proposal has been drafted out of our area Accessibilities Committee. It is paramount that we get this proposal sent to GSO by the December 15 deadline so that it can be included in/with our original proposal and forwarded to the Literature Committee. If our Assembly votes to support it in January, coupled with a letter from the new Delegate, then that can be attached prior to the January Board Meeting. The item appears among the 29 agenda Items for the conference.

11)-- Q: Will the new Communications Department cost us more in salaries and will they be a rotating staff desk? A: Currently the staff is being made up of existing staff members being integrated into the new department and this staff will not rotate as all the other desks rotate.

12)-- Q: Why haven't we been receiving the New GSR kits? Have they been discontinued? A: The first response to this question was that there was some delay, but kits are going out now. Later it was explained that the new ERP system was slowing down every area of GSO and the GSR kits were back in line to be distributed after a substantial delay. Please reassure your new GSRs their kits are coming.

As my "delegateship" winds down, please remember that I

continue to be available for districts and workshops, as I am still committed to serving the area. I marvel at your love and support of general service. It has been a journey I could have missed, had I not listened to your own journeys in sobriety. I look forward to next month's rotation dinner at Jerry's and the Annual Potluck at ACM. Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 08.

## Newsletter Submission Guidelines

We need your fresh ideas!

[newsletter@area8aa.org](mailto:newsletter@area8aa.org)

Email an article to the newsletter for consideration to be published. Articles are preferred to be service related but can be anything from your personal experience to individual or group viewpoints on AA related matters. 500 words and under are suggested.

## Technology Tips

By Jerry

During our (GSR school) discussion on technology we talked about setting up anonymous email accounts for your group and coordinating information centers. Additionally, we discussed how to coordinate multiple active accounts by way of x2 browsers on one desktop. See the process below:

1. On your computer, open Chrome.
2. At the top right, click on the **Profile Icon**.
3. Click Manage **people**.
4. Click **Add person**.
5. Choose a name and a photo.
6. Click Save. A new window will open and ask you to turn on sync.
7. (Optional) Turn sync on in Chrome with a **Google Account** for the new **profile**.

Finally, we introduced our Technology in AA Online Community at [www.tiaa-forum.org](http://www.tiaa-forum.org). Check it out!

I look forward to continuing the conversation on innovative ways to implement technology in our service life.