

Chair Report / Area 08 – January 2022

The year most certainly started off with a bang. I had the pleasure, with Districts 19 & 6, to plan and host the first EVER Hybrid New Year's Eve Alkathon at 6th & Penn. The event was moderately attended, but a rousing success none the less. We rang in the New Year with a talk from our outgoing Panel 70 Delegate Jerry S. Don't tell him this ;) but my eyes watered at times from hearing how the power of Alcoholics Anonymous has worked in his life. Most notably, reminding me of the shared plight, recovery, and subsequent infusion of purpose with which most of us live our lives these days. There were also great shares by our other speakers; Leroy Not Afraid (on Zoom), Monique, and Gilbert (cannot for the life of me remember their last initials). Personally, the most rewarding part of this event, was the behind the scenes planning committee meetings, shopping, setup, etc. An experience that will undoubtedly continue for me with our shared Area work.

Our first Area Assembly of the year when off, mostly, without a hitch. I know that many of us were looking forward to our second hybrid Assembly in a row, but in the end, it was not to be. There had been isolated rumblings from some about possibly making this event a virtual only event. I must admit that I never pushed the idea because I was of the opinion that our members had a choice; attend in person or on-line, thus we were not endangering anyone during the COVID surge. Enter my omniscient and omnipresent higher power. A COVID infection close to home forced me to have the conversation with our Area officers in support of transparency. Through an emergency meeting, a day and a half prior to the assembly, we discussed and made our first tough & joint decision as a Panel, to cancel the in person portion of the Assembly. As we most always do, we carried on. MY LESSON: Left to my own devices I often fall short of an ideal; reliant on that which yields greater power than myself, a more stable, sound, and selfless outcome is achieved.

As I said at the assembly, I was "tickled pink" to see a respectable number of members in attendance for a good portion of the event. We had a healthy discussion about Area finances which resulted in a large send off to GSO; that of which we should be proud as an Area. Our new Treasurer & her Alternate put together a very helpful and easy to understand presentation/document on Group Contributions. The member response to the proposed pamphlet for the Asian-American/Pacific Islander Alcoholic seemed to garner widespread support; enough so to create a seconded and tabled motion for a future date. I am looking forward to a new experience in facilitating future discussions about this inside and outside Area 08. Esther E gave a gut level and heart-warming Report on the Spanish Women's Workshop, the role it has played in her recovery and others, and looking forward to the yet unrealized possibilities of the Workshop. The Committee breakout rooms did not initially go as planned, but with the help of some members (future servant leaders??) we were able to salvage the experience. All in all, I think that our more seasoned members in General Service set a great example for our new DCMs & GSRs on what patience, tolerance, & mutual respect can accomplish.

There is so much more that I wish I could squeeze into this ONE page Chair report, but alas it is time to move on with our meeting. For those who are wondering, the Motion to Address a Lack of Quorum has not been forgotten. Through great spiritual advice provided to me, it was tabled at the Orientation Assembly. It will find it's way to the February ACM Agenda for further discussion on when to reintroduce it for discussion, debate, and vote. It is important that we all were able to exhale on this hotly contested topic. Please don't forget that PRAASA registration is open: <https://praasa.org/registration> I will see you there, and who knows, maybe some Districts will plan something special locally for members who desire an in person PRAASA experience of some sort. WINK, WINK.