

March ACM Area 08 Chair Report

I would like to start by saying thank you to all of the districts and individuals who have put in the work to plan and carry out the Pre-Conference Workshops on 3/12 & 3/13. I have heard nothing but positive feedback for the experience on Zoom and in person. It is also important to acknowledge the time that our Delegate and Alternate Delegate have devoted in making sure that our Area's GSRs are fully informed when consulting with their Groups on the Group's Conscience. Much to my chagrin, I was not able to be physically present at either workshop, but I was able to listen in on Zoom for portions of the weekend. Something to be grateful for moving forward, that our collective experience and purpose over the past 2 years has expanded access to Fellowship activities through technology. Over time we are refining that experience for those on-line and in the rooms.

Since my beginnings in General Service (not that long ago,) PRAASA has been one off the top 3 annual highlights of my commitment, this year was no different. Taking place virtually from a Portland, OR, a city where I called home for almost 20 years (and did most of my drinking), the event was as unifying as I had hope it to be. My heart and soul were warmed by a host committee that heeded the call of previous PRAASA participants to put forth a more diverse group of panelists. Of course, a huge shout out to our Delegate and Alternate Delegate for their presentations on Purpose & Participation respectively. AREA 08 REPRESENT!

I sat with the Area Chairs of the Pacific Region (and scribed, much to my initial dismay) on Saturday evening. We shared our experiences surrounding how we have convened on the (hopefully) tail end of the pandemic, hybrid meetings, where participation is now and how we can attract more of it in our current environment. Sunday was spent with a small group at the YPAA table. I was able to gain some insight and suggestions on Young People and Service that I hope to implement in our own Area.

I was personally appealed to by our Saturday Night Speaker Vera F. I felt "not alone" when she talked about her experiences serving and rotating on. The fear and uncertainty that come with being responsible to more and more people, the further we progress in our journey through General Service. I was reminded of what I was told, and I now tell others; it is okay, we will help show you the ropes, acknowledge your sacrifice, pick you up when you fall... Our Past Pacific Regional Trustee, Joel C. spoke about his time as an Area Chair. The trial and error of approaching the business of A.A. with a business mind versus an open heart... Love is Service is Love...

Alas, our Area related Conference activities are building toward the Area Pre-Conference Assembly on April 9th. On this date, our GSRs will participate in sending our Delegate off to New York with the Informed Conscience of the Groups in San Diego Imperial Alcoholics Anonymous as related to this years Conference Agenda Items. While this is a large part of our Responsibility as an Area Assembly, it is not the only one. The Conference is a year long process (so I hear). We have a potential proposed agenda item that has come out of a Group in Oceanside that we will pick up the discussion on not long from now. Our Districts should have their eyes ahead to supporting the Twelfth Step work within their geographic Service boundaries (and sometimes beyond). Our Standing Committees, hopefully with the aid of more GSRs taking on Committee assignments, will explore and implement new (and existing) ways of performing their specialized A.A. work in the Area. Trudging forward with the question in mind of "What yet reached sick and suffering Alcoholic is not receiving the Message of A.A.?", can assuredly never fail us in carrying out our Primary Purpose.

Adrian O. – Chair / Area 08 / SDIAA

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