

Chair Report / Post Conference Assembly / Area 08

Saturday, June 4th 2022

Dear Area 08 Family,

To begin, I don't think that I have ever written and re-written a document as many times as I have this one. It has been an emotional week for my family and I, which has led to me being all over the place at times with my thoughts and expressions.

I am happy to be gathering with all of you again. Today we will be handling a little business filling vacant servant positions, discussing and voting on a rate increase for Spanish Interpretation in the Area, and offering our experience and recommendation on a piece of literature that could tremendously impact an under served demographic of Alcoholics. Monty will be relaying his experience and the results of the 72nd General Service Conference. We will also look forward to what the next few months may hold until we meet again in September.

As I mentioned in my May ACM report, General Service participation in Area 08 is bouncing back. We do have a couple of very important positions to fill with our Area Archivist and Alternate Secretary. While we are on this topic, I want to stress the importance of being and having an Alternate for our Servant positions. We handle our Service workloads with a sense of purpose and responsibility, but life happens to all of us. We learned early in our Recoveries that we couldn't do this alone, this holds true through all Three Legacies, Service is no exception. I understand the fear, anxiety, and insecurities that can sometimes accompany the commitment in leadership roles. It is worth noting that we do not hold professional positions, though some may take that perspective. We serve with spirit and unity and are not in it alone. It is my duty to support my fellow Servants from a position of Love.

As it is related to matters of policy, finance, literature, etc, in A.A., there is one driving force for every stance and action that I take throughout A.A.; will this increase access to the message of Recovery found in the Program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We would be hard pressed to find someone that approaches Service with such child-like joy, passion, and selfless commitment as our Delegate Monty. We are a blessed bunch to have him and I look forward to the emotion that he will undoubtedly relay from his experience at the Conference.

I would like to touch on something that should be of importance to all of us. Our literature states that "When the spiritually malady is overcome, we straighten out mentally and physically". While this may be true for most of us, it is not true for all of us. Mental health issues are more prevalent within our Fellowship than we may realize, much like it is in society as a whole. How much do I know about the mental well-being of the person sitting next to me? Asking this question of myself does not make me responsible for fixing the person next me, but perhaps I can help foster a more supportive environment. I never know who I may help by doing this. Increasing awareness of and helping to destigmatize mental health issues is and will be a Group effort. This is not an issue relegated to the newcomer, it affects all of us at any length of sobriety, at any level of activity in Alcoholics Anonymous. Much like Alcoholism, it does not discriminate. Extreme examples of this in those who suffer extend as far as suicide being the only option. If we stick around the rooms long enough, the chances of us knowing or being someone affected by this is greater than we think.

If you are sitting in this room right now or joining us on Zoom, and are struggling with your mental health, know that your are needed, wanted, and Loved. You have our support. We may not have the answer, but we are here to help you find it. Restoration of hope and mental well being is possible.

Adrian O. - Chair of Area 08/SDIAA - Panel 72