

Chair Report / August 2022 ACM / Area 08

Dear Family that I chose,

It is my hope that all of you and your have been doing well this summer. We are embarking on another busy time in our Area Service activities. The Big Day Assembly and Budget Assembly are just a little over a month and under 3 months respectively. Attendance and participation is key for our GSRs, something I will touch on in the following paragraphs. It is important to acknowledge that responsibilities of Service can be overwhelming at times. The good news is that showing up is half the battle. If we can do that, most of the time, the rest will take care of itself.

Some of our DCMs may have questions on what to cover with their GSRs at their District meetings. As always, encourage them to have an open line of communication with their Groups on where the Area can support Twelfth Step work. It is also important to introduce (in small chunks) how the Area carries out this work. Suggest mentioning the existence of our Standing Committees and what they do. These Committees also need participation. It is important to note that anyone in the Fellowship can participate. Perhaps they can print out copies of the Area 8 pamphlet "How We Serve Our Fellowship". You can utilize this link here (in addition to the Area Roster) to get in touch with Committee chairs about participating: <https://www.area8aa.org/sdiaa/committees/>. I will be emailing out the PDF file of the Area pamphlet for printing. There was also an email sent out with the current active Area Motions. The "Lack of Quorum" and "Spanish Oral Interpretation Pay Rate Increase" should be being discussed with the Groups. The GSRs should be informed on the "Increasing the Check Writing Limit" to be clarified and voted on at the Big Day Assembly to bring to the Groups.

On a related note, I received a communication recently from one of our Committee Chairs requesting that I distribute a survey that centers around trying to determine if there is a desire or need to continue the committee's activities. I find this interesting and actually applicable, in a sense, to some of our other Area Committees. Some still only have Chairs, plus one or two others. My limited experience with participating in Standing Committees is that 6-8 members/volunteers is ideal. Twelfth Step Service needs change over time, this is inevitable, but are we at that point to consider abolishing Committees because of lack of participation? If we were to do away with this Committee, would it be the result of the evolving needs of the Alcoholic membership in the Area, or of apathy in Area 08 General Service?

Enthusiasm is a great quality to have when serving. If expressed at the Group level, it helps inform those who are not familiar with General Service to understand the need for trusted servants at the Area level. The Service landscape that I see right now reminds me of an unrelated situation, but one that I can draw a parallel. Right now our water resources are drying up in the Southwestern US. Lake Mead and Lake Powell [Area Committee] water levels are at unprecedented lows. These resources are fed by the Colorado River [GSRs], that is in turn fed by the snow pack in the Rocky Mountains (AA, Membership available for General Service). I can't help but wonder sometimes if it is actually possible that someday the snow will stop falling, leaving the Colorado River without water to fill the lakes. Potentially rendering them useless to future generations. This of course is a doomsday scenario and may or may not come to pass. What can we do to ensure that the snow keeps falling? Check the Area Calendar here: <https://www.area8aa.org/sdiaa/calendars/> for upcoming events to announce at your District meetings. Encourage your GSRs to attend and invite members from their Group. Try and share frequently with others on what Service has meant to you. General Service will not be everyone's cup of tea, but much like carrying the A.A. Message of Recovery, you never know who is watching, listening, and being inspired.

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