

# Chair Report / October 2022 ACM / Area 08

To My Committed Area 08 Service Peers,

We are about to come full circle on our Annual Area “business cycle”. It is my hope that the Groups have been informed and that at least some have taken a vested interest in one of the Area’s most spiritual of tools, money. As Servants, we are entrusted with developing the most comprehensive and effective spending plan possible as it pertains to our Twelfth Step work. With that trust comes a Responsibility to put that spending plan to work. A well thought out and defined plan of action goes a long way on carrying this out.

Not to beat a dead horse, but as a reminder, we are approaching a rotation period for half of our Area Committee Service Positions, namely Committee Chairs and DCMs. If you have not done so already, please have the conversation (dare I say, election?) within your Committees and Districts. I ask that all of our Committees be ready to accept new volunteers and members over the next few months. It would be difficult to increase and retain Committee participation if there is no leadership or agenda when they get there. That being said, I am pleased with how full our calendar on the Area website is. Let’s keep it up!

I would like to give a shout out to District 19 for putting together a successful Comedy night. I am certain that the event exceeded their expectations. The event was a slight departure from the typical District or Committee sponsored event. It was an opportunity for members of our Fellowship to gather in a relaxed atmosphere and show Newcomers that we can indeed have fun in sobriety.

I had an opportunity to attend the Area 05 Elections and was inspired by the amount of members making themselves available for Service. Perhaps we are waking from our slumber and are ready to jump back in feet first. I remember the excitement AND anxiety that I felt when being elected to my current position. Feeling uncomfortable as it relates to my General Service experience has been a good gauge of how much I am putting myself out there for the benefit of others.

There will be an item on this ACM’s Agenda proposing the creation of another Ad Hoc Committee to explore an addition to the Structure & Guidelines as it pertains to “End of the Year Funds”. Yes, it has to do with reallocation. This may be something that becomes less relevant as we move further away from the pandemic. While one of the goals of our Area Budget is to accurately project the allocation of funds throughout the Area Committee versus the contributions received, it is worth exploring this in the event that some other “unexpected” circumstance impacts our Area activities and finances. We will definitely want to have a healthy discussion on this subject prior to any proposal that goes before the body.

On the topic of Ad Hoc Committees, a few of us met for the first time on the “Planning of a Mock General Service Conference. There were some interesting ideas brought up, most notably, incorporating this into our own Pre-Conference activities in the Area. This period at the beginning of our 2023 calendar year may look different than what we are accustomed to. Nonetheless, I am confident that whatever we come up with will be impactful and positive. The infusion of new ideas and experiences is at the core of the future (and present) of Alcoholics Anonymous; no matter how much resistance it may meet. This is all done of course in the interest of increasing access to the A.A. Message. The beautiful thing about all of the things we do within the General Service Structure is that it is divinely designed with checks and balances to ensure that nothing changes without majority approval. We must never be afraid to ask the question though, even if we suspect the answer will be no...

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