

Chair Report / 2022 Budget Assembly / Area 08

Dear SDIAA Loved Ones,

It seems like we just did this in Brawley... Nonetheless, I am happy to be convening with you all once again. This is our final gathering of the Area Assembly in 2022. There are still many goings on to look forward to before the calendar turns to 2023. There are 4 more events posted to the Area Calendar; a 4th Step Workshop hosted by District 3, a Zoom Best Practices Workshop hosted by District 7, and the Annual Roots Event put on by the Area Archives Committee up in Carlsbad. The 7th Annual Taller de Mujeres Hispanas is taking place on the 3rd of December. Please find time to support these events if your schedule permits and perhaps be inspired. We have several Holiday Alc(k)athons taking place on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. These events provide great support for Alcoholics who may struggle this time of year. For many of us, planning and participating in these functions have been vital to our Sobriety.

We have hopefully come prepared today to provide the conscience of our Groups on how Area contributions will be put to work in 2023. There is immense Spiritual significance to this process. Self support through voluntary contributions is one way that we express our Responsibility. This Responsibility does not stop with just giving to this piece of the pie, we see it through with our voices expressed through our Home Groups, Districts, and at the Area level.

Our Orientation Assembly is locked and loaded for January 14th in Poway. Fliers have been emailed and there are printed copies by the registration table at the entrance. Please take a few fliers on your way out and drop couple of these in the meetings that you attend. I also recommend that you take the printed documents with you at the end of the day and place them at the literature table in your Home Groups. You never know who may take notice and have their interest peaked. Exposure is a necessary tool to ensure our future Servants find their seat at the table with us.

Now for the meat and potatoes of my report... I am sure that many of us enjoy the convenience of meeting in a Hybrid capacity. It has increased access for many who otherwise would have difficulty meeting the obligations of their Service commitments. I must be frank and tell you that none of what we do here just materializes out of thin air. It takes personal sacrifice by those who plan and carry out these duties. We all have varying degrees of availability to make these sacrifices. Service requires us to ask ourselves HONESTLY, am I willing to set aside my own wants in order to help keep this train in motion. I am just going to come out and say it... We need a few people to step up and help with the IT and AV setup for our assemblies, area committee meetings, and related events. Standing Committees need active members, not only so that they can be most effective in their 12th Step related work, but so that someday Committee Chairs can be replaced and not have to serve in excess of their terms. DCMs need GSRs to heed the call and serve as Alternate DCMs and District Officers. We ought to take ownership of the Service Structure in our Area.

My first year as Chair has really been smooth sailing if I must say so. I am never at a loss for something to do, that is for sure. I have had some fellow servants jokingly call me a future Delegate. My response has largely been to brush it off and say that I am only focused on where my Service journey is at this moment. I would be lying though if I told you that I haven't pondered that statement once or twice in my own head. I shall tell you a little story related to this subject.

When my wife, sister-in-law, and I vacationed in New York early this summer, we weren't able to visit the General Service Office because they were still in COVID protocol. I was disappointed and thought to myself that I may never go back to New York. It had been 35 years between trips there for me. Fast forward to the Pacific Regional Forum in Salt Lake City in September. On the last day during open mic, I went up to introduce myself and declare that I was attending my first Regional Forum. Being inspired by talk of Responsibility during the weekend, I mention it's impact on me during my time in Service. I also addressed the panelists from GSO with mention of being snubbed on my visit during the summer. Something struck me at that moment. I became aware of a bigger picture. I jokingly stated that "My fate was now sealed as a future Delegate" because that is the one surefire way to get back to New York.

Will I be a Delegate? I don't know. I'm not in the future-telling business anymore. Things change in life and I may not be afforded the opportunity to be available when the time comes. Then again, maybe I will. Notice I used the word opportunity... that's my perspective of what I am presented with when being called to serve nowadays. No one ever asked me to stand in front of a room full of people and be a leader prior to getting sober. Even if they did, the prospect was too scary. Having that much responsibility, no way. These days, even if I get a little scared or nervous by the obligations of my position, it's okay, I have been placed in a position of neutrality, safe and protected. Besides, if I don't stand up here, who will?

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