

Chair Report / December 2022 ACM / Area 08

Dear Area Committee Members,

I feel that I have much to report this month. It has been a very active November and December for our Area and myself. As we turn the page on 2022 and welcome 2023, it is my hope that we carry the momentum that we have been building into the New Year. We have much to look forward to in the coming months. Our Orientation Assembly, Pre-Conference activities, and PRAASA headline the outlook. It is the time of the year for coming together with family and friends, and my sincere hope that we are all able to step back and bask in our ability to now be present for those in our lives. I have also found the challenge of striving for balance throughout all areas of my own life to be more important as my journey continues.

The Taller de Mujeres Hispanas took place on December 3rd. I was available to be of service to these women at the event and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity. Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend the 19th Annual Beginner's Workshop in Encinitas on Saturday 12/10 . It is my understanding that it went well and I know that Monty was there and could (or already has) reported on that. I do believe it to be my Responsibility to show up to all areas of our Fellowship activities when given the chance. My Service position has increased my awareness and willingness to this point. It has also been availed to me that I should communicate more moving forward about the spiritual growth opportunities my commitment affords me.

I would like to thank the Districts that have invited me to meet with them over the last couple of months. I have gained valuable insight into what makes our GSRs tick; where they feel they are succeeding and where they feel that they are lost. The officers and I have worked together to come up with what I believe to be a comprehensive agenda for our Orientation Assembly. The goal is to start 2023 off on the right foot and assist GSRs in gaining as much insight as possible on their role in the Upside Down Triangle. We will cover contributions, registration, Area Committee work, and the relationship between our local General Service Structure and Inter groups. Unity and Effectiveness will be the words of the day.

The Mock General Service Conference Ad Hoc Committee will meet for the third time before the end of the year. The plan is coming together and we should expect a new experience at our Pre-Conference Workshops and Assembly than we are traditionally used to. Some of us agree that education and exposure is one of the biggest barriers to those being willing to serve in the General Service Structure. Becoming familiar with how the Conference operates should help remove some of the mystery and hopefully bring this process full circle for our local Servants. In the end, we all want to feel like we belong. It is difficult to do that when we are serving in an entity that we don't have a fundamental understanding of.

PRAASA... words can't adequately describe the excitement I feel to meet in person again for this annual event. Areas 93 and 58 did an outstanding job with what they had at their disposal the last two years. The show did go on, but Tuscon seems so long ago now. Everybody present today should find their way there on March 3rd. Our Area Assembly passed the Budget Reallocation Motion to partially fund all officers and Committee Chairs. DCMs, most of your Districts have plenty of money to fully fund your trip. This is also a perfect opportunity for Districts and Groups that have excess 7th Tradition contributions to help fund the way for members other than GSRs to attend this year. My Home Group has agreed to fund one more member aside from our GSR to go. PRAASA in Los Angeles may just be the gift from our collective Higher Powers to jump start increased interest and participation in General Service again. Those of us who have participated in PRAASA know it is a game changer.

Chair Report / December 2022 ACM / Area 08

I have had an opportunity to sit in on some District and Committee Elections and am inspired by those who stepped up and heeded the call to Service. There can be a certain amount of fear and uncertainty about committing yourself down the General Service Triangle, and it takes courage to do so. It is important for those of us who have been around a while to offer encouragement and support to our Servant Leader Elects. It is also important for those of us rotating out to take the time to show the incoming Servant the ropes of the position, and perhaps remain accessible to answer questions even after the start of the New Year.

Speaking of the New Year, something near and dear to my heart is taking place on New Year's Eve; the Alkathon at 625 Pennsylvania Avenue in Hillcrest. I have been attending this event annually since I moved to San Diego in 2013. For the last 4 years, I have had the opportunity to help plan and volunteer either as a GSR or DCM. In 2021, we put on the first ever Hybrid Alkathon at this location. The same is being done for this year's edition, with hopefully a slight improvement in both the Zoom and Live experience. If you find yourself available on December 31st, please join us. I hear that Blaine is bringing four hams this year...

We are kicking off a new ACM schedule that will bring us back to meeting in person again every three months. There has been some hesitancy to return to meeting in person in General Service; most likely because the ease and convenience of meeting on-line. Zoom and other on-line forums have served their purpose, and will continue to do so; increasing access to all corners of our Program of Recovery, Unity, and Service. The way we gather will never be the same. I am personally overjoyed though, to get to experience how my Service position was carried out in the "Olden Days" (3 years ago...). By interacting with all of you in person, my accountability to you becomes all the more real. Good, bad, or indifferent, showing up and being present in my reality these days is the gift that I never wanted or expected, and most certainly would never give up.

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