

# Chair Report / February 2023 ACM / Area 08

Dear Area 08 Family and Friends,

I returned from my first ACYPAA a couple of days ago and my oh my, what an experience! This Group of young alcoholics showed me an enthusiasm that is unmatched in anything that I have yet to witness in Alcoholics Anonymous. Much of this experience centered around the two big meetings that I attended from 7-9 on Friday and Saturday nights. The Hip Hop music and dancing starts a half hour prior, causing the room temperature to be about 10 to 15 degrees warmer compared to the hallways surrounding it. Dancing on chairs was commonplace with whooping' and hollering' happening more than the quiet did. Some in A.A. would find it annoying at best, disrespectful at worst; I found it refreshing (although it took me a little time to adapt).

There really was only one reason that I was in attendance, if I am to be completely honest. I was there to support NSDYPAA in their bid to bring ACYPAA 51 back to San Diego. The speakers at the Friday night meeting were inspiring, but the sit down with NSDYPAA at Bid Cities afterwards was the highlight. The ACYPAA Advisory Council rotated groups of three members through the Bidding Committee tables to interview them about the specifics of their bids. Though not fully prepared to be involved, Monty and myself fielded some questions from the council members as well. During this time, one of the potential fundraising methods that NSDYPAA presented to the council was breaking eggs over committee members heads for \$5 a smash. It was a grueling hour and a half filled with a little tension, some hope, and a whole lot of anticipation. The overwhelming feeling that I got from the council was that they were impressed, and it kind of seemed like the stars were aligning.

I checked out of my hotel early in the morning on Saturday and had breakfast with our Delegate, Alt-Delegate, and Translation Committee Chair. The first activity of the day was attending the presentation of "Bid Skits" by the YPAAs bidding for next year's ACYPAA. You can watch NSDYPAA's Bid Skit here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aum0674r6XNBzNku9yYKkHxOt94gvemK/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aum0674r6XNBzNku9yYKkHxOt94gvemK/view?usp=share_link) It was a day of attending panels and supporting our local members as they shared their experience, strength, and hope on various topics. Being exhausted from the night before, I tried to nap in my Jeep, but was largely unsuccessful. The buildup to the main meeting, which would culminate in the announcement of the winning bid for the Next ACYPAA, was the undertone for the day. Those who came to the podium during the meeting would randomly question the crowd with, "Where's it goin'?". This would be the time that the YPAAs would stand on their chairs and yell the phonetic of their committee's acronym. All I heard though was "Nasty! Nasty! Nasty!" Or "Daygo! Daygo! Daygo!"

The end of the meeting arrived and the time came for the announcement. The advisory council took pleasure at drawing out the process as long as they could to mess with the YPAAs (because this weekend was ALL about having fun AMD taking friendly shots at one another). The news was broken by one council member breaking an egg over another council members head and the crew ERUPTED! There were cheers and tears by all of us. I am so proud of their commitment to the process and their huge achievement. Now the real work starts. I have no doubt that this Area will hoist these youngsters up and support this endeavor in anyway we can. It means a lot to San Diego and has the potential to introduce a new way of life to countless young alcoholics in our own backyard. This strikes close to home for me because my own child may be one of those that could greatly benefit this Convention coming here. Only time will tell... One thing IS for sure, the feeling of unity in the air is tangible.

Oh yeah, we have a DCM and Committee Chair Training Workshop in two days, and Pre-Conference Workshops in 3 weeks. If our Delegate hasn't already, we will all be receiving access to the background info for the final list of Conference Agenda Items. DCMs, this is the time of year that you will earn your "spiritual money". Your role in the Service structure is never more important than it is now. Timely and frequent communication is key. You will not be alone in this process though. Myself and many others will be right there to support you, because that is what we do for one another. I love Alcoholics Anonymous.

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