

Chair Report / April 2023 ACM / Area 08

Dearest Area Committee,

I feel that I have had a moment to breathe since the culmination of the whirlwind which is the Pre-Conference process. For all intents and purposes, our recent Area Assembly was a success. While we wait for our Delegate to return from New York to report on the conference, we have an opportunity to focus on our local Twelfth Step work. Our Area Budget process has begun and the Officers and Standing Committee Chairs should have what they need to accurately produce their 2024 finances.

This report is never about me, but since I am your leader, I have to acknowledge my recent struggles. I once heard that all service problems are recovery problems. I would have to say that my experience in Service (life) has always proven that true. I still struggle sometimes with anti-social tendencies. In the hopes of being as transparent as possible, I have nurtured this disconnect for the past couple of weeks. On the bright side, it has been reinforced within me that my commitments always bring me back into the fold, begrudgingly or not. So, here I am.

All of the feedback that I have received on the Pre-Conference Assembly has been positive. I will be soliciting feedback from you all at tonight's meeting. I had planned on creating a short survey to forward to the GSRs in our Area to collect wider ranging input. Because of the personal matters mentioned in the previous paragraph, I have yet to do that. Maybe, just maybe, I will have a survey put together by the time that we meet. Regardless, I think that we created a foundation to build upon moving forward for future General Service Conferences.

Turning the spotlight to local Twelfth Step work, there is one local event on the calendar through June 3rd, a Grapevine "Writers Workshop" – https://www.area8aa.org/event/grapevine-committee-writers-workshop/?instance_id=18622. There is also a YPAACC sponsored event, "Service Palooza", on Saturday June 24th at the First United Methodist Church in La Mesa. This event should have Area Standing Committee and Intergroup participation. There is no better time than now for GSRs to connect with their Group members to gather ideas on how the Districts can serve their needs. I have said it before and I will say it again; collaborate, collaborate, collaborate. Perhaps a meeting in your District that is regularly attended by professionals or students could benefit from a workshop involving the C.P.C. Committee. Maybe there are a couple of brand new meetings that want to offer a literature table, but are not quite sure about how to go about it and what to offer. Maybe a couple of Literature Committee members could visit the business meeting and discuss this with the Home Group Members. The same for a meeting that is entertaining having a Grapevine/La Vina Rep, but is not sure what that entails. All this and more can be possible if the lines of communication are open up and down the Service Triangle.

The Finance Committee will be hosting a "Put a Bow on That Budget" question and answer session on Zoom two days after the ACM - https://www.area8aa.org/event/put-a-bow-on-that-budget/?instance_id=18748. Attendance is STRONGLY recommended if you are unfamiliar with the process, a chronic procrastinator, or just plain uncomfortable with this task. Proposed budgets are due in the Treasurer and Finance Chair's inboxes no later than Monday, May 1st. If I were to offer any suggestions to first time chairs, get something down on paper, even if you feel it isn't perfect. The proposed 2024 Area Budget will not be presented to the Area Committee for review until the July 20th ACM. There will be time to fine tune with help. After much consternation and procrastination, I put a bow on this report....

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