

Chair Report / July 2023 ACM Area 08

Dear Area Committee,

“Being still inexperienced and having just made conscious contact with God, it is not probable that we are going to be inspired at all times.” - BB, Pg. 87. Even for those who have gained a little experience, inspiration can still be a struggle at times. My experience has shown me though, that if we continue to show up to the commitments in our lives, God will disclose to you and me. I was recently afforded the opportunity to assist some members of our local Service Structure in drafting a motion to aid in carrying the message. This opportunity came time where I felt that I was just going through motions (no pun intended). The process has helped me to again lay aside what or how I think something should be (for the most part...), and listen to the needs of others. We will hopefully see this motion come before the Area Committee in August.

I would like to again thank Lynn for her Service to the Area over the last year and a half, and wish her the best moving forward. Who knows, maybe we will have the opportunity to serve together again if life circumstances permit. Thank you Rob, for seamlessly stepping in and becoming the Area's Acting Treasurer through the end of the Panel. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Our Structure & Guidelines revision motions and Proposed 2024 Budget are starting to settle into place. I ask that those who will still be coming forth with motions to respect the July 26th deadline put out by the Policy Committee. The hope is that we won't have to cram in last minute motions and not have sufficient time to give them the attention and discussion that they deserve. The Finance Committee will be meeting on Saturday the 29th to review the proposed budgets and suggest line items to be trimmed. This will affect most Standing Committees and Officers. I suggest we all come to the conversation with a mindset of willingness and compromise. All of this being said, we certainly won't be bored between now and our November Budget Assembly.

I had a chance to spend a little time at the ACYPAA business meeting this past weekend; thank you to the Committee for the invite. I was asked to share a little but about “General Service” and get some answers on barriers to participation. A couple barriers mentioned were the location/travel to Assemblies and the age old “too bureaucratic” statement. I always cringe a little bit when I hear that, but instead of lashing out in response, I decided to look up bureaucracy just to be sure. The definition offered by Merriam-Webster is as follows: a: a body of non-elected government officials, b: an administrative policy making group. In the latter definition, I can see a loose fit, the former, not so much.

Queue op-ed now... why is it that this important job of insuring that the voice of the Groups is heard and the future of A.A. is safeguarded, get such a bad rap. From where I sit, the Groups are free to elect the GSR of their choosing, if they choose to have one at all. These servants are then entrusted to participate and become informed. Once every two years, these trusted servants represent the Groups with their vote to elect the Area Officer positions. These officers then commit TWO years of their lives in Service to something bigger themselves. What I see in General Service is a group of individuals from different backgrounds, bound by the Traditions & Concepts, and doing the best that they can as volunteers. Are there personalities in General Service? Hell yes. Are there personalities in our meetings and Groups? Hell yes. Do we stop attending our meetings and Groups because there are personalities? Sometimes yes, most of the time not. I quote the Big Book again, page 50, “We missed the reality and the beauty of the forest because we were diverted by the ugliness of some of it's trees”.

When I got sober, it required a dramatic shift in perspective for me to maintain my sobriety. This shift came in spite of me and by simply following suggestions of those that came before me, and of which I had little to no faith in. Where is this shift in perspective for many as it pertains to General Service? It is not my intent to take a stance of holier than though. We all fit somewhere in the equation of A.A. Some sponsor more than others, some make coffee more than others, and some GSR more than others. If you are reading this right now, odds are that you are the peg that fits in the Third Legacy hole. Please consider this when you bring your voice and actions to your Groups. Let them see the positive impacts that this aspect of your program bestows upon you. Please match attitudes of indifference with tolerance and love. Please consider that the Service Structure needs your continued participation in the weeks and days leading up to our September Election Assembly. Rant complete. Good, bad or indifferent, I am entrenched in this with you, until the voice of the Groups say otherwise.

To close, we will be hosting an impromptu, hybrid ACM from the Alano club in El Centro in August. I realize that It is a long drive and would make for a late night, but I would like to extend the invitation to attend to anyone that is able to make the trip. It would be a great gesture of unity, a chance to meet new people and to see what Service looks like in Imperial County. Attempting to strengthen the bond throughout the entirety of our Area has been one of the highlights of my Service Commitment.

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