

## Chair Report / September 2023 ACM & Election Assembly / Area 08-SDIAA

Dearest San Diego / Imperial Area Assembly Service Peers.

I would like to start by thanking my Higher Power for providing so many opportunities to stay connected to Alcoholics Anonymous, and to remain in Service to others. I have felt a deeper connection with our Great Reality over the past few weeks. You all are the actuator in that experience, and without it, I would not be here. I am a staunch proponent of the idea that one should never be bored in Alcoholics Anonymous. The only requirement being that we remain willing and keep our mind open to all ways of serving the Fellowship.

Hosting our August ACM at the El Centro Alano Club was an inspiring and unifying experience. It most certainly was a hot one though, 113 degrees at the start of the meeting. The turnout was as promising, if not more so, than I expected. Of course, both District 9 and 17 DCMs were there, in addition to a couple of GSRs from each district. One woman walked in with a bewildered face as I was making my way around the room to greet everyone. She appeared new to the Fellowship and thought that she was walking into a normal A.A. Meeting. I offered a brief explanation on what we were gathering for, shared that everyone was welcome, and asked her to stay for a bit. Thankfully, she did. I can only hope that her eyes were opened, and a seed was planted, to the expanse of the Fellowship that lies beyond our individual meeting doors. We never know where our future servants and servant leaders will come from. I am of the opinion that continuing to hold a couple of hybrid ACMs annually in Imperial County is vital to the unity and function of our Area.

Thank you to the members that were able to make it, either in person or virtually, to the Four Area DCM Sharing Session in Costa Mesa on August 26th. This was my first in person attendance of this annual event. As a Tier 1 ADDer, I was able to pay attention for most of the presenters... Discussion ranged from overcoming barriers to receiving the A.A. message throughout the Western Hemisphere, to the role of on-line Groups in the A.A. Service Structure, to the personal General Service experience of one of our regional female Hispanic members. Much like I experience with PRAASA every year, there is something unique and fulfilling by connecting with another member from another Area and relating that they are me and I am them, we just live and serve in a different geographic location.

I had a chance to visit both Labor Day Picnics in North County. The Encinitas picnic was definitely a more intimate gathering. Thank you Ted for the delicious Cheeseburger. It was great to see a few of our Standing Committees occupied tables at the Carlsbad Picnic. The speaker was Dyanne G., is a past Delegate from the early 80's. She described so eloquently how participating in General Service positively impacted her life. From a self described drug addicted street kid, to being voted to connect her Area's Conscience with the General Service Conference. In addressing the picnic crowd, she pleaded more than once for those in attendance to not deny themselves the experience of participating in our Service Structure. I hope that it sunk in with at least some. All in all, I related to her passion and her almost sense of awe while reflecting on her experiences serving the Fellowship.

I would like to take a moment to thank Doris N., Brayana G., and Demessis P. for their service to the Area in providing Spanish Oral Interpretation services. Doris & Brayana have been interpreting for many years, and Demessis stepped up over a year ago to help relieve those two of some of the pressure of interpreting all Area events. I met with all three of them recently and accepted their resignations for personal reasons. I have had an opportunity to get to know all of them a little better during my time serving as Chair, and for that I am grateful. The Area will now need to proceed with contracting outside interpretation ahead of schedule. As Area Committee Members, you should be familiar with the motion drafted on Spanish Oral Interpretation that will be moving to the Assembly this Saturday.

Speaking of Assemblies, we have a big day this Saturday. Members from our neighboring Areas in SoCal will be making the trip to assist with our Area Officer Elections. We have a treat in store with a visit from our Pacific Region Trustee Reilly K.. Together, our guests will be overseeing the voting process. I am honestly a little more excited to see who will be filling the remainder of the officer positions aside from the one that I will be serving in. It will be an honor to assist my successor in the being ready after rotation. It will help breathe new life into my service commitment as I close it out. As we know, our service work is never done and I want to show up to my Responsibility in that respect. There will be something bittersweet about the coming months and closing the door on the current officer core. There will never be a Group like the one we have. Alas, we know that when doors close, new doors open. I hope that you don't deny yourself the experience of serving in the depths of our Service Triangle.

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