

Area 93 News

Area 93, Panel 67 Delegate's Message

Greetings Area 93's Trusted Servants,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for all the support that all of you have given me as your Panel 67 Delegate and to our Area 93. Support that we have received from the Home Group Members, GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs, District Committee Chairs, our Area 93's Committees and Sub-Committee Chairs, our Officers, our Lovely Past Delegates, and of course, all the volunteers that have helped hosting our Area Assemblies, ACMs, and the many area events, I Thank You!

After the 2018 GSC, I have produced a few documents to inform all Area 93 members, Groups and Districts of the results of the Agenda Items that were discussed at the 68th GSC. For seven days, the Conference worked on items that were affecting the access to our Program of Recovery, and because of that hard work, 58 of those items resulted in Advisory Actions and a similar number resulted in Committee Considerations that were sent to the Trustees Committees to produce and to find possible solutions.

Here is some of the work that is being done as reported by our newly elected Pacific Regional Trustee Kathi F.

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AAWS report highlights

YouTube Subscriptions up to over 1300, with more everyday

New website design continues along with an App

200 pre-registered in first week of opening registration for the Pacific Regional Forum

New dates for 2019 Conference are May 19-25, done through polling with 100% participation

Staff rotation will be completed the day after Labor Day

Several translations are underway

Barcodes are being added to all AAWS literature

Sales for the first six months are down, with contributions being up and expenses are up/ \$141,000 short fall for first six months

AA Grapevine report highlights

GV net income is \$45,118

LV service is at a shortfall of \$68,230, which is ahead of projection of \$72,904

Atheist and Agnostic Book set to release in September

Traditions Checklist has been updated

Trustees' committees

The main focus of the trustee's committees at this board weekend was to review and follow-up on Conference advisory actions and additional committee considerations, as we carried out our role in the yearlong Conference process. Here are selected highlights from some of the committee reports. I'm not touching on every single committee, but you'll be able to see full reports when the final board minutes are distributed:

Delegate's Message Cont.

Archives

Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970 will be completed early in 2019 in three languages

The video that you saw at the Conference of Bill, Lois, Anne and Bob is being discussed on ways to share this with the fellowship

Conference

The staff secretary will be communicating with the Trustee Committee Chairs to make sure they have a conference call with the corresponding Conference Committee prior to January Board Meetings

A subcommittee was formed to look into equitable distribution of the Conference workload and items from conference with simple majority vote being considered on Trustee committees

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Treatment/ Accessibilities

Secretary will be requesting experience from Deaf and Hard of Hearing members regarding technology used for participation in A.A.

Finance

Literature sales down \$101,000 from 2017

Contributions are up \$139,000 over 2017

Expenses are up \$928,000 over 2017, due to eight new employees; many arose from previous retirements or temp positions, editorial services primarily from ASL project, up \$142,000 over 2017, manuscript settlement of \$135,000, and audio-visual costs for conference in each breakout room along with higher costs for being in NY city, rather than Rye from previous year

7th Tradition Challenge contributions are still coming in and can be sent in anytime, not just on 7/4 (as a reminder). It looks like we may receive about the same as last year

The Reserve Fund had a balance on June 30, 2018, of about \$15.9 million, which represents about 10.4 months of operating expenses.

International

Upcoming trips for the balance of the year are the 1) 25th World Service Meeting in Durbin, South Africa and a record number of countries will be attending; 2) The 30th anniversary of Latvia, and 3) Mexico's National Convention

Newton Pritchett will be attending our Regional Forum with the interactive Data Map

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Local Forum request from Area 05, Southern California was approved

The site selection team for the 2030 International has made site visits to St. Louis and Indianapolis and will be making a recommendation in October.

Detroit is on schedule with no issues

Literature

Still in need of many stories from Hispanic Women and the 3 legacies for new pamphlets

The committee is looking for a new ACM, preferably female bilingual to help with the Hispanic Women's Pamphlet

Publishing is exploring video/written pamphlets

Delegate's Message Cont.

Communication is the key to our program. If communication stops, we stop our Primary Purpose, we stop helping the still suffering alcoholic. We, as members of Alcoholics Anonymous, have the responsibility of keeping the communication flowing at all levels. We have to keep our groups informed of the new tools that will make the Twelve Step Work more accessible and more effective.

All Advisory Actions, Committee Recommendations and other informative documents, have been posted on our Website in English and Spanish. I would like to thank our Web-Chair and Web Master for all the help that they have provided, so this information is accessible to all of us.

Let's utilize these tools to keep our groups informed, let's encourage them to use these tools. Our members are interested in what happened at the Conference and of the results of the Agenda Items. Let's guide them on how to access these tools and how to use them, motivate them to get involved at the General Service level, our future leaders are in our meeting rooms.

This brings me to remind you that Elections are coming in a few months. We will be practicing the Spirit of Rotation. Some of you will be rotating to a different level of Service as Committee or Sub-committee Chairs or Officers, outgoing DCMs and DCMCs will have the opportunity to get involved at the Area level, there are a total of six Officer's Positions and 16 Committee and Sub-committee Chairs. Some of the current Chairs will also have the opportunity to rotate to another Committee or Officer position, a new batch of Trusted Servants will be here in a few months, let's get this ready for them.

If you are planning to continue serving your Area 93, and I hope you do, make yourself available in November. I encourage you to participate in the process, make yourself available for an Officer position and if you don't get elected as one, don't give up, there are other positions to be filled, 16 of them! As soon as the new Area Chair gets elected, write your name, and telephone number on a piece of paper and give it to the elected Area Chair. You can even write down the Committee or Sub-Committee that you would like to serve on, give a couple of options to the Elected Area Chair, there is always a need for committee chairs.

Once again, thank you for all you do and for your willingness to being of Service.

Thank you for allowing me to be of Service,

Melvin M.

Delegate Area 93, Panel 67

2018 PRAASA Experience

There are a few things I've come to expect when I go to PRAASA. Two of them are really long days, and at some point in the weekend, there's bound to be some sort of spiritual experience which I hope to be a part of.

PRAASA 2018 was no different.

This was my 9th PRAASA. I've gotten to the point in my service and sobriety where it really is something I start looking forward to the moment it's over.

Arrival at PRAASA itself was a challenge, not so much for me but for many others. Weather was bad. A winter storm had moved in across the Sierras. Snow and wind were making getting to Sparks, Nevada, difficult. I had a flight on early Thursday and it was quite the landing in a very strong cross wind. The flight did arrive on time and I was able to get to the hotel easily with the help of an old friend. I attended the early bird meeting Thursday evening. I saw many more old friends and just like that PRAASA 2018 was off and running.

As this was my sixth PRAASA as an Area officer and second as Alternate Delegate, I wanted to make sure to plan my weekend around ALL Alternate Delegate meetings and/or activities. This mainly meant roundtables both Friday and Saturday, and a lunch that was organized by the hosting area's Alt. Delegate which took place on Saturday. As with every opportunity to interact with other Area officers, the Alternate Delegate meetings were so valuable to hear what others are doing and share my experience. One of the topics we discussed was funding of the Delegates to the General Service Conference. Out of the 15 areas in the Pacific region, only four set out to "fully" fund their Delegates based on the actual total cost. We also discussed the roles we play as Alternate Delegates. In three areas, the Alt. Delegate is a member of the website committee. Another Area assigns the Alt. Delegate to be a member of the finance committee. In Alaska, the Alt. Delegate is a member of the remote communities committee. It's important to note they actually have a remote communities committee, but if any area is to have such a committee, it would be Alaska. We had a brief discussion about Hispanic women's meetings. I mentioned our participation in the recently formed workshop. Area 5 and Nevada Area 42 are also very involved in efforts to assist such meetings and the Hispanic women in general. Oregon, Area 58, conducts a full orientation designed for DCM's. Four other Areas have some sort of GSR "school". Area 5 has an audit committee. They have had financial issues in the past and find this committee is an important part of their checks and balances. Just sitting and talking with these other members sharing the same commitment as I is itself enlightening. Lunch on Saturday gave us the opportunity to converse and share stories, both good and not so good. I consider these opportunities priceless and am very fortunate to have been a part of them.

The highlight of the entire assembly for me was definitely during the Pacific Regional Trustee's report by Joel C. After covering several issues and topics, he came to a point where he gave us an update on the Navaho translation of the Big Book. He showed us a video on the big screens. It was the 12 steps in Navaho. It was tremendously touching as AA has been working on this translation for a number of years. When Joel was done with his report the mics were open. After several questions, a young lady came to the mic and began to speak. It was definitely not English. It took a moment but it became clear she was speaking Navaho. She was very emotional, and eventually transitioned to English. She explained how the Navaho people struggle tremendously with alcoholism and that it is hoped this version of the Big Book would prove to be a valuable tool against their struggle. She hoped that individuals like herself who were fortunate enough to have found A.A. and been able to break the binds of this disease could describe how the program helped them and now back it up with the Big Book. The entire set of events of Joel showing the 12 steps and the young lady expressing her deep heartfelt thanks was indeed a spiritual experience for me and by the reaction of the room, I believe for others as well.

Some other highlights of the trustees report –

Joel talked about the board reaching out for assistance in analyzing A.A.'s effectiveness with communication; a communications inventory, both within and outside the fellowship. They hired a third party firm to assist with this investigation. Joel stated we are perceived by the general public and the fellowship as being a lifesaving organization; "A.A. saves lives." He repeated this several times. It's an important perception. He also said we are seen as being a bit out of date, old fashioned, and a religious organization. The board expects to use this information on determining how to move forward.

Joel spoke about efforts to enhance unity. The Hispanic women's workshop was one. Another workshop focusing on English/Hispanic interaction. He said the biggest contributor towards creating unity on this second event was the joint planning committee. Creating a bilingual committee to put the event on was unity. He said, "We create unity when we do stuff together. When we make things together." A powerful testament to these efforts.

Another items Joel spoke about was the update to the Gay and Lesbian pamphlet which will soon be the LGBTQ pamphlet. He reflected on his experience as a young gay man coming into A.A. meetings. He would look for the Gay and Lesbian pamphlet in those first meetings and if he saw it, he would feel more welcome. He said, how special it will be for others in the future to be able to see this new LGBTQ pamphlet and maybe feel that same way he did, of being welcomed. He said, "That is a significant expansion of our third tradition."

2018 PRAASA Experience Cont.

Another memorable moment for me at PRAASA's I have been to has always been the past trustee's panel on Sunday morning. This one was no different. Past trustees Madelaine, Bob, Phyllis, Greg, Ruth, Paul, and George were true to the history of this panel. They spoke from their hearts with so much experience and insight of our program. This year there was a lot of talk, in general, about the conference agenda item pertaining to censoring the trustee board for their action related to attempting to acquire rights to the original Big Book manuscript which was being actioned off by the current owner last year. Without actually mentioning that specific topic, virtually every past trustee spoke about AA being non-punitive; about us learning from our mistakes; and about concept 3; the right of decision. It was clear to me they were all opposed to censorship. That was what I took away from the panel. Madelaine P. stated, "...how we treat each other is more important than what we get done." During Bob W's talk he said, "Stay open to what your higher power may want **for and from you.**" Phyllis talked about how "group conscience and self-support" are unique to A.A. "We will always need one another." Ruth, again hinting at the censorship issue said, "We are a self-correcting fellowship." I love listening to our past leaders. There is always so much we can learn.

I had dual agendas at this year's PRAASA. I was certainly there as our Area's Alternate Delegate, but since I have been appointed to the 2021 PRAASA committee as treasurer, I set out to soak in as much of the "behind the scene's" goings on as I could. I made sure I introduced myself to the 2019 treasurer, Annie D. As 2019 is in Irvine, I offered to help in any way she might need me both in the planning and at PRAASA. I paid closer than usual attention to the business meeting. Procedure...format...content. I attended the "after meeting" on Sunday after PRAASA is officially over. This meeting not only acts as a wrap up for the current committee, but also as a handoff to the next committee; in this case Area 9's 2019 PRAASA committee. We have just begun our journey to host PRAASA 2021 and with my perspective of this year's assembly we have a good ways to go. I am looking forward to all of it.

Some other random notes I made during the panels were the fact that in Alaska there are still populated remote areas with no Internet. In discussing remote areas, someone made a point at the mic that mental health issues can isolate someone who is not physically "remote". The north east region at NERAASA had their first Hispanic women's panel. We have our new SIS committee; seniors in sobriety. There are areas where it is called CEC; contact with the elderly community. Regarding rigidity, the comment, "if it ain't broke don't fix it" may not be wise when talking about AA in general. Is the program working for the 20 year old with 20 days? Is it still working for that alcoholic? Someone recommended A.A. should provide more time between the release of the conference agenda items and the conference itself, allowing more thorough review, discussion, and the gathering of feedback from the top of the triangle.

As PRAASA was coming to an end I sat in the main hall and I found myself looking around the table I was sitting at with a number of people from our Area who have been around a while; certainly longer than I. I thought, how lucky I am, or maybe how grateful I feel. Individuals I respect and admire and who have always been there no matter what or where to teach and help others in AA and in service. I felt a responsibility more than ever to carry that forward myself. I hope I can do the same for others in the future.

So those are my images, my thoughts, and some of the "take a ways" from PRAASA 2018. And yes, I am already thinking about enjoying PRAASA 2019 close to home in Irvine, Area 9. March will be here soon. I hope to be there, with many of my friends; old and new.

Jeff Gulack
Alternate Delegate
Area 93, Panel 67

Area 93 – 2018 Calendar of Events

- January 21, 2018 — ACM:
Fillmore Veteran's Memorial Building,
511 2nd Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
- February 18, 2018 — Area Assembly:
Santa Paula, CA
- March 2, 3, 4 — PRAASA (Sparks, NV.)
- March 18, 2018 — Pre Conference Workshop:
Bakersfield, CA
- April 15, 2018 — ACM: Fillmore Veteran's Memorial Building,
511 2nd Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
- May 20, 2018 — Area Assembly,
Santa Paula, CA
- June 10, 2018 — Budget Setting Meeting,
Archives Repository, Oxnard, CA
- July 15, 2018 — ACM Fillmore Veteran's Memorial Building
511 2nd Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
- August 19, 2018 — Area Assembly, Simi Valley, CA
- September 9, 2018 — Pacific Regional Forum, San Jose, CA
- September 16, 2018 — Area 5 & 93 General Service Workshop
505 S Huntington St, San Fernando, CA 91340
- September 29, 2018 — 4th Annual AA Pioneer History Meeting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
8956 Vanalden Ave.
Northridge, CA 91324
- October 14, 2018 — Spanish Foro, Delano, CA
- October 21, 2018 — ACM:
Fillmore Veteran's Memorial Building,
511 2nd Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
- October 28, 2018 — Oldtimers Event, North Hollywood, CA
- November 17 & 18, 2018 — Area Assembly & Elections,
Santa Paula Senior Center

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