

## Chair Preview: August 2019

After a very hectic June, July was a quieter month here in CNCA. We continued discussing whether Area Assemblies are open or closed, and we ended our discussion regarding the potential electronic distribution of the *Comments* and *Comentarios* (no consensus seems to have been reached, but it is possible to request to stop receiving the newsletters via the mail – just talk to your District Registrar).

After several months of discussion, we also decided to start providing translation during the Area Officer meeting (now, every standing committee, subcommittee, sharing session, and meeting of CNCA has translation available, if requested). We have come of age as a truly bilingual Area – 29 years after we created the first Spanish-language District in 1990. This is all done in an effort to ensure that language is not a barrier to participation in service.

Up next for us is the Summer Assembly, held September 14 in Petaluma. Our workshop topics are now selected, and six different members of the Area will make presentations and facilitate discussions on big themes of importance to all of AA. Last month, I asked the Area to submit suggestions for possible workshop topics – and we ended up with 72 different options that were eventually whittled down to six. We will be talking about AA in the Digital Age, inclusivity (and who is missing from our AA meetings), local customs and group autonomy, the group inventory, our personal contribution plans, and whether AA remains receptive to bold new ideas. I am looking forward to the through-provoking discussions we will have.

I now need help preparing inventory questions for our Area. Our Area takes its inventory every two years, at the Fall Assembly (this year, it will be in November in San Francisco). Suggested inventory questions are due by September 28.

At our next ACM, we might hear some bids for assemblies in 2020 (all four assemblies remain open for bidding). We will also keep discussing whether to purchase web-conferencing accounts for the Area, how to reach out to African American alcoholics, and the Agenda Topic Summaries (and their purpose, use, and future). We might also hear a final report from the ad hoc committee exploring our Area's structure (as an unincorporated association) and whether the committee has any suggestions for us in the future.

It sounds like a great time.

Eric L.  
CNCA Chair Panel 69