

Chair Preview: September 2019

As I write this at the end of August, I have been reflecting on the spiritual change I have experienced as a result of AA. I was once terrified of an honest self-reflection. I had no principles upon which to stand, and I did not know how to communicate clearly, fairly, and directly with the people that I loved. I have changed a lot in my nearly 10 years of sobriety. And I am so profoundly grateful.

By the time this is mailed out, we will have held an election for the position of Area Treasurer. This has been a challenging time for the Area, and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in our Area Inventory this coming November. I have often found great relief when I am disturbed or hurting in a fearless and searching inventory, because with transparency and honesty comes freedom and joy.

As an Area, we have started to take steps toward that freedom, starting with a sometimes difficult discussion that we had during the afternoon business meeting of the August Area Committee Meeting. Much of that decision centered on the reasons the election was called for by seven of the Area Officers (after months of deliberation, prayer, and meditation), as well as information from our Treasurer and several other trusted servants.

These discussions – about finances, health, trust, and responsibility – can sometimes be very difficult. In AA, much like in life, we do not necessarily get to choose what we discuss – but we do get to choose how we discuss it. We get to choose to be honest. We get to choose to be loving and compassionate. And we get to trust the process. While the conversation at the Area Committee Meeting was sometimes difficult, it reflected the principles of AA and was a true test of character for us all.

Now we move on, hopefully in unity, and hopefully trusting that nothing, absolutely nothing, happens in God's world by mistake. Our next opportunity to meet all together will be at the Fall Inventory Assembly in San Francisco on November 2, where we will get to have more sharing and more soul-searching. Suggested inventory questions are due by September 28.

We will also get to keep talking about the numerous motions at our assemblies, including the request for a pamphlet for transgender alcoholics and our newest motion – requesting the production of a one-page summary of the warranties (which can be found in Concept 12). This was originally presented at the August ACM, where we also unanimously approved a request from a local AA member to write a letter of support for her bid to present a play about remote communities at the International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Detroit.

This next month, we might hear more bids for assemblies in 2020 (three 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.

I look forward to continued growth with all of you,

Eric L.
CNCA Chair Panel 69