

February 2017
Chair's Preview

Our January Area Committee meeting met early on January 21st and it was wonderful to see so many GSRs present, as well as meet our new DCMs, DCMCs, and Standing Committee and Sub-committee members. I think we're going to have a lot of fun this panel! Don't forget to check out the new Accessibilities Sharing Session starting in February.

We had a presentation of new business from our PI/CPC committee and viewed some Public Service Announcements (PSAs) from the U.S. and Australia. After a vote, we decided that the following motion will become presentation of new business at our Pre-Conference Assembly: *"That the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous approve the development of a new public service announcement in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of A.A.)."* Background information on the motion from the District 90 PI/CPC committee was provided and is available by email (please contact our Alternate Delegate, Teddy).

After we heard an H&I liaison report submitted by email from Diane O., who was at that very moment attending an AA conference inside Soledad State Prison, a member came up to the microphone during What's on Your Mind to share that when he was an inmate at Soledad, he was part of the group that first brought the idea of having that conference to the warden! Magical, goosebumpy moments like that are what keep me coming back. We also had some lively and thoughtful sharing on the 2017 Conference Theme: "Supporting Our Future." Next month's discussion topic is: "What are the technological needs of the Area?"

What we did not see in January was a bid for the *Comentarios*. Approximately 900 issues of the *Comments* are mailed out to our English-speaking trusted servants each month, and another 200 go out in Spanish. If no one steps up, those 200 people may start missing out, as one district cannot be expected to do all the work as they are doing now—though they are happy to lend a hand to help another district get started! You do not have to be a linguistic district in order to bid. You just need someone who can oversee the translation and printing, and a group of volunteers to do the folding and mailing.

I got introduced to General Service when my sponsor invited me to a "lick and stick" party, where we would eat pizza and fold Area newsletters. It was so much fun! That was the first time I ever did service outside of the recovery meetings I attended and I finally started to feel "a part of." Thanks to the lick and stick, I became a GSR, my heart has opened to new possibilities in sobriety and I feel connected to AA as a whole. I have traveled all over, met so many amazing people I probably never would have met (including my husband—awww...), and made lifelong friends. You too can bring that joy and camaraderie to members of your district and your sponsees. Please contact Miguel H. or any other Area officer for more information on putting together a bid for the *Comentarios*.

In service and gratitude,
Jennifer B., Area Chair