

Welcome to Panel 69!

My name is Eric. Not Jennifer. But I am still an alcoholic, and I am pretty nervous – and excited – to get to serve our Fellowship in this capacity as your new Area Chair. I hope I can use this preview as a way of letting AA members in Northern California know what is going on in our Area.

At our December Area Committee Meeting (‘ACM’ for short), we heard final reports from outgoing DCMCs, committees, sharing sessions and Area Officers. You can read some snapshots of that day in the minutes. We also made some decisions that will impact the Area in the future, including approving guidelines for the Web and Finance committees, approving a bid from Districts 07 (Alameda North) and 20 (Spanish East) to edit, print and mail the Area newsletters, and voting to allow the Bridging the Gap committee to support the Pre-Release Contact Service on an ongoing basis.

After the ACM, the new Panel 69 officers met and selected our new standing committee members.

Finance: Dennis H., Don L., Cathy P., Chelsea W., and Laura W.(CNCA Treasurer)

Interpretation and Translation: James B., Hector C., Patrick C., Colleen G., Marianne G., Eliyah H., Linda T., and Juan T.

Website: Drew B., Bill B., Ed G., Megan M., Michael Q., Robin T., and Don Z.

Next month, we will be discussing two pieces of new business at the ACM about compensating translators of written materials (like the Comments, agendas, minutes, presentations, etc., and the Agenda Topic Summaries). We will also be discussing the status of and possible change to our Area’s structure and the AA Internal/External Communications Audit Report. Our newsletter ad hoc will also present their final report.

I am looking forward to attending PRAASA in March in Irvine, CA. For more information on this once-a-year event, which aims to develop unity within the Pacific Region, encourages the exchange of ideas and experiences, and provides an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA, visit the PRAASA website at www.praasa.org.

I am also excited about our upcoming Pre-Conference Assembly, on April 13 and 14 in Santa Rosa; it is the only two-day assembly of the year, and we will be discussing several motions, including one to create new literature regarding meditation and another to request a fifth edition of the *Big Book*. Now is a good time to start gathering group consciences on these motions, as the busy Agenda Topics season is nearly upon us. Final Conference agenda topics and background information will probably be available in mid-February, and your incoming Area Officers already have a plan to create the Agenda Topics Summaries as soon as the information is available.

I know this seems like a lot – and it is. But AA is magic and we get through things together. So please come visit us on the third Saturday in January in Petaluma, before we resume our regularly scheduled fourth Saturday meetings in February. I am looking forward to this adventure with all of you.

Please fasten your seatbelts,

Eric L.

CNCA Chair Panel 69