

Chair Preview: February 2019

Welcome to Panel 69 (again). One thing I have learned in sobriety is that repetition is helpful, and here in General Service, you might hear the same thing quite a few times. It can be tedious, but I know that, for me, repetition was also grounding, and it helped me focus and learn. So, yes, I want to welcome you, again, to the next two years and this General Service adventure.

It will be an adventure. It already started, with a pretty hectic Area Committee Meeting (ACM) in January. We accepted last month's minutes and financial report, approved the Finance Committee, passed a housekeeping motion to replace shelves in the Archives Repository, and discussed two motions about compensating translators of our written material (including agendas, minutes, materials in the Comments, and the Agenda Topic Summaries). We also heard an incredibly moving final report from the Hispanic Women's Workshop, and we continued discussion about potential changes to the structure of CNCA.

We also heard presentations on new proposals to make it possible to submit group consciences and request the Delegate through the Area website, and we forwarded two other motions to the Pre-Conference Assembly. Those motions – regarding the formation of a new Accessibility sub-committee and a request for a new pamphlet for transgender alcoholics – will be presented again at the Pre-Conference Assembly in April, where GSRs will have a chance to ask questions about the intent and wording.

That Pre-Conference Assembly is right around the corner, April 13 and 14 in Santa Rosa. Along with those two presentations of new business, we will also be discussing several motions in the morning business meeting on Saturday, and could vote on proposals to request new literature regarding meditation and to request a fifth edition of the *Big Book*. In the afternoon on Saturday and on Sunday, we will be hearing group consciences on the Agenda Topics.

The Service Manual describes assemblies as the “mainspring of the Conference structure – the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself.” I personally think they are far more than that. At the assemblies, and through the agenda topics process, AA is able to grow and change – and to continue to ensure that every alcoholic, no matter their circumstances, is able to find a life-saving message. By gathering the group consciences of the 2000-plus groups in our Area, we ensure that every possible way of saving someone's life is considered. So thank you in advance for your participation.

Your Area Officers will try to help however we can. By the time these *Comments* are mailed, we will have started to work on summarizing the massive amounts of background information available on the Agenda Topics into an Agenda Topic Summaries booklet, which could help you become more familiar with the topic and could help guide the group conscience discussion. Many Districts hold Agenda Topics Workshops, and PRAASA (in Irvine this March) sometimes includes additional discussion. AA happens anywhere, and all this discussion helps fulfill our primary purpose of helping an alcoholic who wants to stop drinking.

So, again, welcome to Panel 69, to the next two years and this General Service adventure. I think we will have a lot of fun, and that we will do a lot of good.

Excited about the possibilities,
Eric L.
CNCA Chair Panel 69