

Chair Preview: June 2019

I recently went on a Twelfth Step call, and talking to this potential future member reminded me of just how scary early sobriety was. His life is – right now – a mess. His boyfriend is kicking him out, he just lost his job, and he has a number of medical and psychiatric problems he hasn't dealt with in a while. What struck me most about our conversation, though, was just how scared he was – and how willing he was to do whatever it takes to get sober. The one thing he was most scared of was, "How much does AA cost?" His face flooded with relief when I explained that AA was free. At least now he had one less thing to worry about.

I participate in General Service because I want AA to remain accessible to anyone who needs our message. And, at least right now, there is at least one opportunity to continue to participate. We now have an opening on the Interpretation and Translation committee; anyone who is interested should submit their name to any Area Officer prior to June 22.

Another opportunity to participate is at the upcoming Summer Assembly, held September 14 in Petaluma. We are currently seeking out workshop topics for the assembly; these topics open up discussions about important topics of relevance in 21st century AA like anonymity, accessibility, finances, history, humility, humor, attraction, public relations, social media, and organizational structure. Any suggested topics are due in July.

In the Comments, starting this month, we will be featuring arguments in support and opposed to pending motions at the assembly. This month, several members of the Area have already written arguments regarding the motions to create a technology standing committee and the accessibilities committee. Next month, the arguments in support and opposed to the transgender pamphlet request will be printed.

Finally, at the Area Committee meeting, we remain quite busy. This past month, we heard a presentation regarding interpretation at the officer's meeting, continued discussing funding for liaisons to the Hispanic Women's Workshop, continued discussing a new position for the Archives committee, discussed whether Area Assemblies are open or closed meetings, and heard the final report from the ad hoc on our Area newsletters (that final report is also available from your DCMC). This coming month, there are numerous housekeeping motions on the agenda, as well as bids for the 2020 Election Assembly. It should be pretty exciting.

So back to that newcomer... I went to pick him up for his first meeting yesterday, and he wasn't quite ready. He told me that his boyfriend was kicking him out, and that because he lost his job, he had to scramble to find a new place to stay. He wasn't sure he could give up his best friend – alcohol – just yet. But he wants to. He is hopeful he will find his way into AA, especially now that he knows that it is free. I am so glad we keep the doors open for him.

Grateful for this service,
Eric L.
CNCA Chair Panel 69