

Chair Preview: December 2019

Greetings from the Indian Ocean – more specifically, the Maldives, a string of tropical islands (the name means necklace islands) famed for postcard-ready white sand beaches. There are no active AA meetings on any of the more than 2000 islands (only about 200 are inhabited), but I have old issues of the *Grapevine* and access to online meetings. And I am still thinking of all of you.

We gathered together as an Area for the first time since a canceled Area Committee meeting in October for our delayed Fall (Inventory) Assembly. Our October ACM was canceled because the facility we use was converted that morning (just as some of our committees started to meet) into an evacuation shelter for people leaving communities in the path of the Kincade Fire.

The Fall Assembly was also delayed (because that facility turned into a shelter as well), so we were finally able to get together to conduct our Area Inventory, and to meet in the morning for a pretty eventful business meeting. Notes from the business meeting and the inventory are included in this issue of the Comments.

What comes next? Well, our next Area Committee meeting is the third weekend in December. Since we haven't met for two months, we have a backlog of motions and discussion topics, including several housekeeping motions, the review of the 2020 budget, an assembly bid for the Pre-Conference Assembly, and a motion to add the Hispanic Women's Workshop to our annual budget. Note that in January, we also meet early (the second Saturday); we return to regularly-scheduled fourth-Saturday meetings in February.

Officers have scaled back travel to Districts in November and December. We are trying to be financially prudent since we have dipped into the prudent reserve, in part because many contributions were not processed in the two months prior to the election of our new treasurer. As a former group treasurer, I can empathize with the frustration associated with waiting for a check to clear – and discovering that it hasn't. Those delays should no longer be happening, and we are now trying to process contributions as quickly as possible.

Eric L.
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