

## **Inform - Communicate - Involve - Act - Inspire – Attract**

Twelve years ago, in February 2009, I was elected the GSR for what became my home group. The timing meant I had just missed the Agenda Topics Workshop in my district, but I did happen to attend PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) the first weekend in March because it was in Oakland that year. So, I was on fire with enthusiasm, but totally clueless since I had never even been to a sharing session, much less facilitated one myself. I didn't know why they were called Agenda Topics (I later learned they were literally the agenda for each committee meeting at the Conference), but I knew some of them were really interesting to the average AA member like me, and I wanted to do my part to participate. If you are a new GSR reading this, you are way ahead of me and you have so many people available to help you.

Thanks to my District Committee Member (DCM) and the other GSRs who shared their experience, strength, and hope in our subdistrict meeting, I gained the confidence and the tools I needed to obtain an informed group conscience. It helped that I was so enthusiastic—enthusiasm is contagious! And I did my best to be neutral and provide the information needed before and during our sharing sessions for members to be fully informed on the three topics we picked. And what fun! Like most of us alcoholics (or people in general, really), they had a lot of opinions. And we all grew in the process of those loving discussions.

Participating in a sharing session is an easy and important way for members to be of service—taking a little time to weigh in on matters that affect AA as a whole. Decisions made at the Conference as a result of these discussions can create or maintain our literature or other services and ensure that future alcoholics looking for a way out can find what we have found and recover. How cool is that? And even though the pandemic means you probably won't be able to bribe them with food, you might find some advantages to virtual sharing sessions, such as being able to screen-share information. And perhaps you'll be among those who get more people willing to participate because they can do it from the comfort of home.

Speaking of attending things from the comfort of your own home, don't miss PRAASA:  
[www.PRAASA.org](http://www.PRAASA.org)

Service is gratitude in action, Jennifer B., Panel 71 Delegate