

March 2021

As I write this, I have just had my spiritual tank filled by a weekend of love and service at the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA). In 2020, PRAASA was the last big service event many of us attended before the shutdown.

Over the years, as I rotated into different service positions, my relationship to PRAASA has also evolved. The continued experience only deepens my love for the event and Alcoholics Anonymous. From a shy but enthusiastic GSR who observed from the sidelines, to a DCM determined to be of maximum service to the GSRs in my subdistrict, to a DCMC watching the light come on in the eyes of members from my home district that we funded to travel as they discovered a similar love for PRAASA and General Service. As Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, I started attending smaller roundtables, with just 15 or so members doing the same service position, and I developed a greater appreciation for all the different ways our areas communicate. I've made acquaintances and forged friendships with members from all over the western U.S. that I really only see once a year. This year, I bonded so meaningfully with the other Pacific Region delegates, as the Panel 70s passed on their experience, strength and hope to us newbie Panel 71s.

It was bittersweet to go virtual this year, and not get to connect in the usual way. But I still felt the presence of so many friends. I have some group pictures of members of our Area taken by Miguel over the past several years, and I kept one on the desk in front of me as I participated for the first time as your Panel 71 Delegate. Not how I pictured it, but it was still magic. And so many of you reached out to me before and during the weekend to offer love and encouragement. It touched my heart, maybe more than you know. It's truly an honor and a privilege to serve with all of you.

It was a busy weekend. And now we get even busier! It's been so cool to see so many new GSRs and DCMs in the district meetings and more than the usual number of people in attendance at our monthly area meetings. You are off and running with agenda topic sharing sessions, and I am starting to plug away on what is now almost 1500 pages of background material. I look forward to hearing from you at our Pre-Conference Assembly next month. And you can also submit group consciences to me by email or a form on our website up until April 8. Together, we will help me become as fully informed as I can be before I attend the virtual General Service Conference later in April.

In service and gratitude,
Jennifer B., Panel 71 Delegate