

It's that time in the two-year panel when we start preparing for service rotation. Trusted servants are updating and giving their job descriptions at the Area and in the Districts. It's a bittersweet and exciting time... I love hearing people share what they learned and how they grew in service.

We are responsible for preparing and encouraging those who come after us. If you are a GSR or DCM, do you have an alternate? Are you bringing other members along with you (in the car or virtually) to the meetings you attend? How about to the Summer Assembly? If you see a spark in someone's eye, let them know you think they'd be good at something. Personal invitations work wonders for filling open positions. The other day, I heard someone jokingly refer to creative recruiting methods as "General Service jujitsu" and I just loved that.

This panel has been full of challenges and opportunities. Our essential responsibilities are the same, but the ways in which we fulfill them in the "new normal" have changed significantly. I find a certain quiet satisfaction in preparing a good pass-it-on. Ultimately, it is up to the next trusted servant how they carry out their duties, but I can share what worked and what didn't for me. I can give them templates and tips. I can answer questions. And then I can let go and cheer them on.

What will you do next? Will you be available at District or Area (or both)? I see people get burned out with too many commitments or disconnected if they don't have any. Now is a good time to take an honest inventory and figure out how much time and energy you have. Listen to the job descriptions. Whenever possible, step outside your comfort zone a bit – for me, that's where the spiritual growth happens. We are looking to expand the Area Tech committee, and there will be many other Area standing committee positions available. (And of course, any service is good service, it doesn't have to be General Service!)

We will hold our Election Assembly on November 5, 2022 in Vacaville. Our only business at that assembly is electing your Panel 73 Delegate and other Area Officers. My last job as your outgoing delegate is to chair that assembly, so getting you ready for it is already on my mind.

While eligibility varies for other commitments, in order to stand for any of the eight Area Officer positions, you must be a current Panel 71 DCM, DCMC, or Area Officer. GSRs aren't eligible, but they do get a vote. Electing a new delegate is one of the most important things a GSR gets to do on behalf of their group. This person will be trusted to make decisions on matters that affect all of A.A. Choose wisely!

Our Election Assembly will be hybrid, with members able to vote either in person or on Zoom. But everyone who wishes to make themselves available for Area Officer must attend the assembly in person. Please plan accordingly.

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