

# PRAASA REPORT 2017



3/11/2017

DISTRICT 43

**This magnificent facility is where the 50th Pacific Region Alcoholic Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA), was held.**

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## DISTRICT 43

### **Supporting Our Future**

“The purpose of PRAASA is developing a greater unity among the members, group and Areas of the Pacific Region, to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of A.A. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity, Service legacies of A.A. (praasa.org)”

Nearly 1800 recovering alcoholics from all over the Pacific Region came together in Sacramento to uphold the PRAASA purpose statement, (above). They were from every level of service, from across the Pacific Region. This PRAASA, the 50<sup>th</sup> was hosted by our area, California Northern Interior Area (CNIA07).

The PRAASA Committee did an extraordinary job, it’s amazing to see that many alcoholics in one place with the same goal in mind giving back what was so freely given to them. There were Panels Roundtables, and just the love of service. District 43 was well represented; there were 7 members from our district. All of us either facilitated a roundtable or volunteered. I attended most of the scheduled events.

Here are some the highlights:

- The first panel was made of the Pacific Region Delegates including our own Vikki R. Each Delegate gave a short about their area, an area highlights. It was moderated by our Pacific Regional Trustee, Joel C.
- Panel 2 covered supporting the General Service Conference – What’s my role, Lisa G (92), Supporting Our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition – Do we fear talking about money, Jerry M. (08), and Supporting Our Grapevine and La Vina – Am I responsible or Apathetic? All three-panelist talked along the lines of the theme, “Supporting Our Future.” If we are asking members, groups’ districts, areas, or GSO for contributions, we must show how the money is spent.
- There were a total of 7 panels. The panel made of Past Trustees was especially interested. They all had very good talks. Here are a few quotes: Sponsorship, “a good sponsor doesn’t complain a lot (Roberta L. Past Trustee),” Never sleep with someone crazier than you are (Paul P. Past Trustee),” “find people where it’s not working, and ask – “How can we help (Madeline P. Past Trustee),” “AA doesn’t have a money problem, if anything we have a participation Problem (Rick M. Past Trustee).”
- Our current Trustee, Joel C. Addressed us at some point during the weekend. He covered a lot ground in his report including:
  - ✓ “Whatever we are working on, - How does it connect to saving drunks? How does it connect to unity?”

- ✓ The PSA “I Have Hope,” out and successful in Spanish it is being translated to English, and French.
- ✓ There were 4 regional forums in 2016 with a total attendance of 1804 with 1000 first timers.
- ✓ Translation of the Big Book is now in 70 languages including the original English. The Navajo is progressing (Navajo is a spoken language, not written therefore it will be an audio version).
- ✓ There is a new piece of service material, “Safety is our common welfare.”
- ✓ The Number: contribution 7.90 Million, \$780,000 better. Grapevine circulation 77829, Lavinia 10,374.

This was my 4<sup>th</sup> PRAASA and each time there is a new spiritual awakening. To think how I was more than 5 years and the how the God of my understanding have delivered to a new, unbelievable life though Alcoholic Anonymous.

I would like to thank District 43 for sending me again.

Love in service,

Hurley T.

DCM-District 43

2017 PRAASA Hosted by California Northern Interior Area 07  
McClellan Conference Center  
McClellan Park (Sacramento), CA 95652  
March 3, 2017  
Round Table Discussion GSR-#3  
Friday Night 8:30-10:30 pm

Facilitator: Susan K Area 07 District 42  
Sec Recorder: Ray H Area 07 District 43  
Head Count: 34

The purpose of this communication is to summarize Friday night round table discussion. These notes only reflect the important points of the discussion as directed by round table coordinator. This summary will be emailed to Marianne H (Round Table Coordinator) from Area07, and also be emailed to each participant of the roundtable discussion who provided email addresses.

After picking from 10 GSR topics the group voted on the following 4:

1. GSR duties
2. Safe attendance at meetings
3. Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender concerns
4. Group Inventory

### **GSR Duties**

Although the GSR duties include wide latitude of responsibilities ranging from presenting agenda items each year at your home-group to providing monthly GSR reports and many things in between. GSR's also mature into having the patience and tolerance to listen while others share the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our groups and A.A. as a whole.

Most of this discussion however was focused on how to encourage members to become GSR's and how to pass on to new GSR's the information they need to become a GSR. This is and was a very important discussion. The important points discussed were:

- How important the service manual and Area meetings are to GSR's.
- When giving GSR reports make it exciting with at least three exciting points.
- Pick your GSR carefully and with care. General Service is not for everyone.
- Discussion of service sponsor and how important and informative this is.
- Make the GSR position cool. Explain how much fun being a GSR is and the benefits of it.
- Attend District meetings/Area assemblies and take alternate GSR and other interested members.
- Participate in GSR school from Area.
- Explain to your home group that, "I am here on your dime"
- Be familiar with Traditions and Concepts.
- Share how the GSR's are the guardian of the Traditions.

## **Safe attendance at meetings**

- Discussions of young people, anonymity, ride sharing, and issues that can be sensitive to newcomers.
- Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. AA members are not always what they seem.
- Dangers of 12 step calls or going to meetings alone if you are new or a pretty girl.
- Discussion of being loving, informative and being protected was shared.
- Using simple common sense and understanding awareness.
- One woman sharing with another woman.
- Try to pick a neutral meeting place to meet with unfamiliar newcomers and not meeting at your home until you get to know a person.
- Knowing that some meetings are melting pots for criminals, sex offenders, child molesters and parolees so use your common sense.

## **Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender**

- Gay woman or man attending men/women's meeting. Some members mind and some don't.
- Subtle or indirect comments. Will my group put up with it?
- Cross dressers? Are they welcome? Inclusion and exclusion were discussed at length.
- What is a conference was referenced, "what his race is or her creed is....."
- Overtones in the service manual regarding women were mentioned.
- Love and tolerance is our code.
- Specialized interest groups were mentioned.
- Principles before personalities.
- People generally are fearful of other people before taking the steps.
- Lead by example.
- How valuable a group inventory can be?

## **Group Inventory**

- How to find your groups assets as well as liabilities.
- Do inventory's during meetings in 5 question intervals.
- Schedule inventory two Fridays of the month with potluck to encourage participation.'
- Inventory caused hard feelings and contention.
- Dissatisfaction and war of nutrition in regards to inventory.
- Accused of running the show by encouraging inventory process.
- Ask for Gods will to guide the group.
- Invite Area delegate and DCM to participate in your group inventory.
- Make sure you show up to make your voice heard. If you don't, don't complain.
- It can be a slow process and hard to get members participation but don't give up.
- District inventories were also mentioned.