

**2011 PACIFIC “ADDITIONAL” REGIONAL FORUM
AUGUST 19-21, 2011
WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA
DELEGATE FORUM REPORT**

Last month I represented Hawaii Area at the 2011 Pacific “Additional” Regional Forum. I was among the 373 first time attendees. Total registration was 723, which means over 51% of registrants was attending a forum for the first time. Regional forums are intended to be weekend sharing and informational sessions to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., The Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service at every level of the service structure. Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. No formal actions result. Regional forums carry A.A.’s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our Fellowship. and reflecting the wonder that is A.A.

The 2011 Forum was chaired by our Pacific Regional Trustee, Rod B. Opening remarks were made by Ward Ewing, our Chairman of the General Service Board. He informed us that the General Service Board, The General Service Office, and Grapevine were there to serve our groups now and to explore better ways of doing so in the future. He quoted Bill W.: “We cannot sit comfortably in our groups and hope that others will hear about us and come around. Next came Rod, who described the make up of the GSB and the rotations of each member. GSO Staff assignments were explained by Adrienne B., Staff member currently assigned to the CPC desk at GSO. Adrienne is a remarkable source of information and was called upon many times throughout the weekend to answer questions during sharing and ask-it-basket sessions. The forum consisted of 14 presentations by directors, the GSO Manager Phyllis H., and 9 of our Pacific Region Delegates. Saturday night there were 12 workshops, including “Carrying the Message to the Elder Community” that I moderated. In between presentations and workshops, over 100 people participated in a total of almost 4 hours of ask-it-basket/open sharing sessions.

Among the presentations was one made by Ami Brophy, A.A. Grapevine, Inc. Executive Editor Publisher, who reported on progress made by Grapevine, Inc. since the General Service Conference. The redesigned Website was rolled out, the magazine is now available in digital format and has more stories and features than the print version, and ebooks will be available next year. Ami appeals to the membership to submit stories and pictures of your home group site – no peeps of course. Phyllis H., GSO Manager, talked about “Where does the money go?” All of our money goes to fund A.A. services in the US and Canada and all around the world. No contribution is too small. Phyllis urged each of us to think of money in spiritual terms, making our services available everywhere to reach alcoholics who may be suffering in Iran, Mozambique, or in Aala Park. For detailed information on our finances, visit www.aa.org and go to the “Finance” section. All of the presentations, etc will be available in the Final Forum Report soon to be published. You may access the report on the GSO Website.

Overall, I felt that the forum was a valuable experience. I learned a lot and have added to my knowledge of what A.A. does, which makes me be able to better serve you. I saw dozens of A.A.s in service, whether they were handing out programs, giving hugs, or making presentations. I loved the informality of the event and seeing all the participation from attendees during the question/answer periods and during the ask-it-basket/general sharing sessions. And being with the other Pacific Region Delegates was at once heart-warming and melancholy because about half of my new friends will be rotating on at the end of this year. In closing I quote Ward Ewing: "I firmly believe that together we can ensure that this Fellowship will not only stay together but will continue to be that beacon of hope for alcoholics yet to come." Mahalo for allowing me to attend this service event,, and I hope that each of you will one day have the forum experience.

Respectfully submitted.

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