

## **PRAASA REPORT-BACK 2012**

The purposes of the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, 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 and Service of AA.

First, I would like to acknowledge our Hawaii presence of 26 people and thank Elizabeth M, our immediate past delegate and co-chair of the 2011 PRAASA, for showing up to deliver the 2011 minutes of the business meeting and the final financial report. Also on hand, were Jim D., our Hospitals Chair and Diane L. District 3 DCM, both of whom made outstanding presentations. Mahalo also to everyone else who participated by going to the mic and asking thought provoking questions during the “What’s On Your Mind” sessions.

I am going to leave most of shared experiences up to others who attended, and share some of the value that I received as a delegate. First of all, the Pacific Region Delegates are some of the most well informed Delegates at the annual General Service Conference directly because of PRAASA. Not only are many of the Conference topics discussed with the general assembly, but also other topics and practical matters are talk about during the two 2-hour delegate roundtables. PRAASA exposes use to ideas, problems, and solutions other areas are facing, and, therefore, helps us to be better service leaders, partly because most answers come out of the collective group conscience and because discussions can trigger understanding and acceptance.

My personal PRAASA experience was, of course, completely different this year from last year when Hawaii was host to the Assembly. First of all, I was very sick before, during, and after PRAASA, so I stuck with the essentials and didn’t socialize much. Shortly after arrival, I was informed that there would be a “Second Year Panel,” for which I was unprepared. I had no choice but to trust in my Higher Power for the right words to come. And they did! Just amazing.

Part of PRAASA is the business meeting, which is conducted usually by a past trustee and during which everyone in attendance is eligible to vote. I always look forward to the business meeting because I love to see Roberts Rules of Order in action and I am inspired by the passion for A.A. I see in others. This year there was an interesting proposal made regarding the rotation of PRAASA host sites. As you may know, each year the PRAASA location is chosen four years out by a bid process made during the General Service Conference. The proposal is to set up a regular rotation of areas based on the fifteen areas in the Pacific Region so

that conceptually each area would host PRAASA every 15 years. After a motion and second, there was lively discussion followed by a vote in favor of the motion, a motion and second to reconsider which passed, more discussion followed by a motion and second to table the motion to next year. The PRAASA Delegate Advisory Board will take the proposal into consideration and present various plans for Assembly discussion for PRAASA 2013. If a motion passes, it would not be effective until 2017 at the earliest. I welcome your comments and questions on this important issue.

Once again I thank you for the privilege of serving Alcoholics Anonymous, and I hope to see many of you in Boise, Idaho on March 1-3 for PRAASA 2013.

In love & service,  
Linda McD  
Delegate Panel 61, Area 17