

Hawaii Area 17, Panel 65 Orientation Assembly Delegate Report 1.17.15

Aloha. I am truly honored to be serving as Panel 65 Delegate for Hawaii Area 17. I am excited about our next two years together and the growth and fellowship that lies ahead. Past experience tells me that we will all become proficient at our new service positions at the end of the panel.

I'd like to start by outlining my duties as described in Area 17's Structure and Guidelines as well as our General Service Manual. The General Service Manual (Ch. 6) states that though the high point is the Conference meeting in New York in late spring, "the delegate's job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:

- Attend the annual Conference meeting fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the GSO mailing list to receive Conference materials.
- Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate's enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices.
- Be prepared to attend all area and regional service meetings and assemblies applicable his/her respective area. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda.
- Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and GSO.
- Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the AA Traditions.
- Remind GSRs to inform groups about the AA Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.
- Cooperate with GSO in obtaining information – for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches GSO in time for publication in the AA directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
- Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
- Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. Obtain feedback on reports on the Conference.
- Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
- Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active so the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.

- Late in the second year of the term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.

When I was a DCM attending PRAASA, I heard someone describe my job then as being a link in the chain. Just as we are all essential links in the chain of General Service. As delegate, I am the liaison between Area 17 and GSO. I pass on information, announcements, and requests from GSO to our Area. The DCMs pass this on to their GSRs who carry the message to the groups and AA members in general. And the information, ideas and requests of AAs and AA groups are passed on by their GSRs at District meetings, carried to Area assemblies and on to GSO. The business of the Conference comes from all of you.

All delegates serve on committees at the Conference. I have been assigned to two committees – International Conventions/Regional Forums and Corrections. I am very much looking forward to the Committee on IC/Regional Forums especially since the 2015 IC will be held July 2 – 5, in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free." The AA website – www.aa.org has a page filled with helpful information for anyone already going as well as anyone considering it, http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/2015-international-convention-of-alcoholics-anonymous.

To date there are two agenda items for the committee:

1. Discuss the upcoming 2015 International Convention.
2. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Hawaii Area has the honor of hosting the Pacific Regional Forum Sept 30 – October 2, 2016 in Waikoloa on the Big Island.

News from GSO –

- Reminder from GSO - There is an upcoming vacancy for General Manager of the General Service office. Deadline for submitting your application is April 15th. The letter and application have been emailed in the past. Please see me at a break if you have questions.
- Reminder from GSO - Their experience has shown that planning a large AA event too near the International Convention may result in smaller than normal attendance at the local event. The International Convention will be held in Atlanta July 2 – 5.
- There has been some misinformation regarding the availability of housing for the International Convention. GSO asked that we clarify and spread the word.
 - The convention is not sold out. The Georgia Dome has ample space for 'tens of thousands' more.

- There is housing available. Use this link on the AA website – www.aa.org to find out more - http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/housing.

News from PRAASA –

- March 5 – 8, Layton, Utah
- PRAASA is seeking people to be in service as presenters, panel moderators, timers, readers, roundtable moderators or roundtable secretaries and have asked me to submit a list. This is a great opportunity and I hope many of you will step up to be of service in this way. You must be registered at PRAASA to serve in one of these positions. Please note - the deadline for me to submit the list is **January 20th, next Tuesday**.
- Delta airlines are offering a discount for those who have chosen to fly on Delta to PRAASA in Salt Lake City, March 5 – 8. People who have already booked a flight on Delta coming to Salt Lake City for PRAASA 2015 qualify too. The transportation page on the PRAASA website, <http://2015.praasa.org/>, has all the details. This is the same type of discount Area 17 has with Hawaiian airlines. This does not imply endorsement of Delta airlines and this discount is offered to any organization that meets the criteria.

News from Grapevine/La Vina –

- Grapevine/La Vina is holding a subscription challenge to increase new subscriptions in 2015. The state with the most new subscriptions will have stories from the state featured in a 2016 issue. More details coming soon.

Mahalo for this opportunity to serve. I look forward to the next two years as we carry the message of hope and recovery to alcoholics throughout Hawaii.

Cheryl N., Delegate
Area 17, Panel 65