

Pacific Regional Forum
Hilton Waikoloa Village, 9.29 - 10.2.16
Delegate Report

The Pacific Regional Forum held at the Waikoloa Village resort was my fourth forum. Regional forums provide an opportunity for direct communication with some members of the General Service Board, AA World Services, AA Grapevine Corporate Board, GSO and Grapevine Staff. In a sense, these forums bring a little bit of New York and the General Service Office and board to AA members who might otherwise not be able to have direct contact. There was a total of 13 people from the General Service Board, staff, directors, and AA Grapevine/LaVina including Joel, our Pacific Regional Trustee. In all, 449 people registered and of those, over 300 were first time forum attendees. Hawaii was very well represented. Every forum is a 'magical' experience for me but this one was even more special since it was here in Hawaii.

In addition to presentations by representatives and workshops from GSO, GV/LV, and Pacific Region Delegates, there were sharing sessions and two workshop sessions on Saturday evening. I had the honor of presenting on the topic "The Meaning of I am Responsible." Once again, I saw firsthand the commitment of the GSO directors and staff to spreading our message of hope and solutions for a new way of life. At a prior forum, I remember someone saying 'Hope comes from hearing my story told by another alcoholic.' The first time that happened for me, I knew I belonged. A glimmer of hope appeared where there had only been despair, loneliness and gloom. And I know that 'I am responsible - when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there - and for that, I AM RESPONSIBLE. I'm one of the lucky ones because, as your delegate, I have had the opportunity to spend time with the folks from GSO at the General Service Conference.

I am always most moved by the Foreign Translations table. Early in my sobriety I was grateful to be sober but didn't begin to understand all the acronyms, what they stood for and what the various entities did. One of those was GSO. Learning that stood for the General Service Office in New York, I still wondered what GSO does for me and the alcoholic still suffering in Hawaii? They are almost 5,000 miles away. There are almost 65,000 listed groups in the US and Canada - surely GSO gets enough support from them and doesn't need to be part of the split from the Seventh Tradition of my group. Right? They say a picture is worth a thousand words and the picture from the forum of the foreign language translations of the Big Book answered my questions. Did you know???

- The Big Book has been translated into 69 languages.
- AA literature is available in over 90 languages and there are 58 translation projects in the works.
- New productions of the Big Book and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions in ASL on DVD and streaming are in the works.
- The Braille Big Book is 7 volumes. Other literature available in Braille - 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Daily Reflections, and more.

Lastly, I want to share with you a few of the comments I heard that stood out.

- Terry Bedient, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and chair of the General Service Board said 'The essence of the General Service Board is not the General Service Office, it's in our hearts.'
- An 'at the mic' comment - I can't tell people anymore that we have to do it this way because GSO says so. But, if I did tell them, they would probably believe me.
- In a workshop, a comment that being at the forum reinforced the feeling of being connected to something larger than them.

Mahalo to Hawaii Area and to each of you individually for the opportunities I have had these last two years as your delegate. This has been a transformational experience. I am grateful for the life I have today full of light, love and laughter.

Cheryl N., Delegate
Hawaii Area 17, Panel 65