

Chair Report/ Deborah L
February Committee Meeting
Hawaii Area 17/Panel 75
February 22, 2025

Greetings everyone, my name is Deborah L. I am an alcoholic and I am privileged to serve as your Hawaii Area 17 Chair. Thank you for our Panel 75 officer for facilitating today and thank you District 3, for hosting our February Committee meeting.

My duties, as outlined in the Structure and Guidelines for Hawaii Area 17 General Service, section 2.8 are as follows:

Area Chair's Duties:

The area chair should:

A. Read and adhere to the area chair's duties outlined in the A.A. Service Manual: Consult with the area committee before setting the date and time of assemblies. Make sure members of the area assembly are notified about the dates and times of assemblies. Consult with officers and committee members on the program/agenda. Keep the delegate informed about what is going on in the area. Make sure that committee members are aware of what goes on in world services.

B. Conduct all committee meetings: In 2023-2024, Panel 73, I am to chair six assemblies and four committee meetings, plus two additional optional assemblies and two additional optional committee meetings, usually held in October or November when the area committee deems it necessary.

C. Publish and present an agenda thirty (30) days before each committee meeting and assembly. The agenda for today's meeting was published 29 days before this assembly.

D. Appoint the area's standing committee chairs in conjunction with other area officers.

E. Service as a voting member of the Oahu Intergroup, when invited.

It is my responsibility to preside over our business meetings for Panel 75 and the word "preside" came straight out of the AA World Service Manual, Chapter 4, page 26 under the heading "Chair." The definition that I related to is that it means to exercise guidance, direction and control when it comes to our business meetings. I have been in service at this level since Panel 65, observing, listening and feeling the entire area body rooms like this and there were times I felt much intimidated, thinking to myself "Thank God, it's not me up there at the mic." Well, here I am at the mic as your Area Chair and only the in my life today. That means in a nutshell, I am connecting the dots. This opportunity is affording me to get out of my comfort zone, gain more understanding of our service structure and to in a room that is filled with members that share the common welfare of carrying out our singleness of purpose, lets me know that I am in the right place. Constant and consistent communication both ways is something I rely strongly upon and thus far through just that, I am able to get out of my comfort zone, stay out of myself

and stay on this journey. I have the support that I need when I need it, the clarification that I need when in doubt, and the guidance that I need when I am going off to the wayward side when it comes staying obligated to what is expected of me, but most importantly, I wake up sober and to me all of this a Blessing.

I attended an Area Service Sharing Session by invitation that consisted of US/Canada and I felt the need to inquire because, that is me, I am Area Service. I heard several things that stood out for me, 1) in this level of service, we are the Ambassadors that keeps the fellowship informed of what is going on with AA not only in our area but also with what is going on with AA whole , and 2) an Alternate Chair for Area 92, talked about a common challenge on “How can the area attract more GSR’s to attend assembly meetings?” He shared that in his Area, there is 26 Districts and at their assemblies, there approximately 78 attendees and of that 78, only 8 are GSR’s. Area 92 put together a GSR workshop in hopes of attracting members that may potential GSR’s. He went into details of what and how the ran their workshop, that consisted of lots of games, prizes, rewards and lots of pizzas. I think throughout is talk, I heard several times, “just make it fun, lots of fun, fun, and more fun.” I was thinking to myself, we have 14 Districts in our Area and at our assemblies we have approximately 120 attendees and more than ½ or more are GSR’s. I felt happy about that but yet; we too have the same challenges. At our orientation assembly, I have to share, when all the GSR’s in the entire room stood up from where they were sitting to introduce themselves, walking with the mic row to row from the back of the room to the front was overwhelmingly beautiful, I was looking at our future area officers. So, DCM’s keep doing what you are doing.

I attended virtually a “Chair Sharing Session,” an open discussion on preparing for the General Service Conference in April. Everyone got to share for about 2-3 minutes on what their Area is doing to prepare for the GSC. Some never heard of a “Mock Conference” and some areas are translating the agenda items into different languages, some areas are large, and are doing their assemblies either hybrids or all virtual in more than one session and some will be visiting their area’s telephonically or physically visit talk to members in small groups in their area for reasons being remote. As I stayed on, I grew more comfortable and had a desire to participate, so I did share a little about what we are doing here in Hawaii with preparing for our Delegate, Deborah S. to carry our voice to the General Service Conference in New York in April. I heard common thoughts and feelings with new chairs like me and that let me know that I am not unique. We are all adjusting and learning our position as Area Chairs.

I encourage all of you District Committee Members and Standing Committee Chairs to get connected with US and Canada when invited which means that you are going to need to check your email and hoping that our Standing Committee Chairs connect with her correspondent person with GSO. Any invitation that I receive, I will be forwarding to all of you. Know that it’ll not only widen your horizon but also be able to give and receive experiences that I believe can be strengthening for the fellowship.

In love and service,

Deborah L. P75/Area 17 Chair

chair@area17aa.org (808) 275-7151