

## Area Chair Round Table – Friday, Mar., 2, 2018

Attendees:

Kevin	Area 69		Assembly Agenda Chair
Sherry	Area 02	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Candice	Area 18	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Penny	Area 58	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Alt Chair
Rob	Area 58	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
David	Area 69	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Chair
Kevin	Area 93	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Chair
Lauren	Area 05	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Chair
Diana	Area 92	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Alt. Chair
Debbie	Area 92	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Kuanane	Area 17	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Jen	Area 07	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Jennifer	Area 06	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Chair
Corey	Area 03	non-chair but sister is Alt.	
Sutton	Area 08	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Alt. Chair
Monty	Area 08	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Emily	Area 42	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Chair
Maegan	Area 03	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Chair
Julie	Area 42	2 <sup>nd</sup> year	Alt. Chair

What would you like to talk about... Everything you want to know but are afraid to ask

1. How do you interact with your standing committee chairs? Support/cheerleader not hounding or pestering
2. Web site struggles – communication committees, privacy issues, translations, anonymity breaks
3. Translation / collaboration with Spanish speakers
4. For 2<sup>nd</sup> years – what do you wish you knew at the beginning of your first year that you know now?

### 1. How do you interact with your standing committee chairs?

Kevin, 93 – 16 standing committee chairs, 15 resumes and 4 wanted one job)  
Guidelines say if you miss 2 meetings in a row chair appoints someone new. People are getting upset with my decisions. “Hardest and most rewarding job I’ve ever had. This is the job in which I’ve grown the most.” We have a guidelines committee. Elections take a long time, each election costs about \$5,000. For room rent, mileage, etc.)  
Question – What are the standing committees? What are the expectations and do you fund their travel to area?

Ans. Web, PI, Seniors In Sobriety, Translation, Guidelines, CPC, LV, GV, Literature, Newsletter, Treatment, Registration, Finance, Audio/Visual plus one more. Expect them to come to Area meetings, and yes they are funded to area meetings for mileage.

Emily, 42 – Area works as two sub areas – North and South. We have 2 meetings a year at Assemblies. DCMs will all meet to share ideas and Committee Chairs all meet to share ideas.

Lauren, 5 – We also appoint Committee Chairs, I appointed Literature and she disappeared, web chair has also disappeared. I took it on, even as Chair. I asked Past Delegates to chair the committees.

Kevin, 93 – Custom is that they have to have been a DCM first.

Debbie, 92 – We take resumes and Officers together choose the chairs.

Jennifer (06) – We have three standing committees and have sub committees. The committees pick their chair. There is always an officer available to help the committees. Chair appoints when lose chair, always hard when they disappear. We asked all committees to come up with guidelines for their committee.

Maegan,3 – Body made a motion to go to 2 day elections for committee and committees do their work through intergroup and coordinate thru Area.

Kuanane,17 – work is done at the district level, but our assemblies float from island to island. Being done on the district level, on each island allows them to choose the chair. Communication – how to connect better with districts to choose a pool of people to stand as committee chairs – we just did an inventory and standing committee communications came up with a how to serve the area as a whole. Inventory can raise the level of involvement for the Area.

Hiro,9 – Not getting to have (or express an opinion) while our guidelines say we appoint and the body approves replacement officers and that there is a board conscience to decides my appointment.

Sheri, 2 – Alaska is quite spread out, we don't appoint, we only take volunteers. And the first question I ask is "How can we help you do your job?"

## **2. Web site struggles – communication committees, privacy issues, translations, anonymity breaks**

David, 69 – database of old assembly archives, hard to find, communications drab, wouldn't share password, sending mean emails...

Q: Is there a system to easily couple a database with a website?

Kevin, 93 – we made a website and all emails go thru that site.

Dave, 92 – we've had a website for 12-13 years run by an AA member whose business is websites. More or less functioning ok, save slowness because he is the only one who can do updates. 1 chair, webteam coordinator. We want to take it out of the member's hands and instead pay someone in the private sector. Webteam oversees the website.

Jen, 07 – served as webmaster of district then area. Co-chair of Natl. AA Technology Workshop. District website – AA members own, has keys to the kingdom, only one to update it was the pitfall, decided to go with wordpress and paying for our own hosting . No email forwarding.. The area is transitioning from older webmaster's site – clunky. We are also transitioning to Wordpress at the area level. Have the Delegate as the owner of the domainname and 4 addresses for each domain name and give different people access to it. Delegate is the owner, Alt Del is the Technical contact, not an appointed committee chair.

Maegan, 03 – log in at smartmail (notification or personal email) so that responses we sent out are from the Area.

Monty, 08 – posting on website in English and Spanish, different plug ins for Wordpress. Area 05 and 08 have a translation committee and also are part of guidelines.

Kuanane, 17 – our webmaster would be happy to share any information

Maegan, 03 – has an excellent webmaster

Hiro, 09 – HACOAA.org is Harbor Area Central Office was an insanely good webmaster who beats simmeetings on directory search via search engine optimization (SEA).

### **3. Translation**

Emily, 42 – we have only one translator with 2 linguistic districts

PROPOSAL – to have unified agenda summaries no have each area do summaries

Lauren, 05 – Translation committee has cooperation with the 20 Spanish Speaking Area members.

Maegan, 03 – we pay them

David, 69 – We use Google Translate to Spanish then back, then fix the errors

Jennifer, 06 – just a few people are translating so we were thing of paying because there is so much work involved. NYC Spanish does not equal CNCA Spanish.

Jen, 07 – Translation Committee chair relies on various members to translate and chair acts as editor. Another area's summaries may not have what's important to your area as the pre-conference process may be different.

Lauran, 05 – Have Spanish speakers submit articles to the newsletter and get them active that way. Then they will step up their level of commitment.

#### **4. What the 2<sup>nd</sup> Years knew when they were new that they know now?**

Emily, 42 – left this round table and had a nervous breakdown. I had just gotten a new service sponsor and texted my new sponsor “nothing's going to work, nothing's ready, I am a mess” after Robert's Rules and parliamentary procedure. The key is – it is going to be OK, you have lots of support. I created workbooks with checklists of what needs to be done when. The 2<sup>nd</sup> assembly fell apart when the banquet fell through in a town with no food choices. Everybody was mad and we refunded their money, and glad that was my second assembly. I will leave some best practices in place.

Jennifer, 06 – I also left overwhelmed, inspired, terrified. Trust your gut. Not everyone will agree with your decisions, have an answer ready. People always feel better if they know why you do/decided what you do. Be flexible and forgiving. Keep a grateful thank you face even when you think it is the stupidest motion ever.

Kuanane, 17 – Rely on your past delegates and past chairs. I look at past delegates when something new comes up. Be prepared with \$ discussion come up. They can be contentious/ loving discussions, know your process/guidelines and be transparent. “we're following the process and explain. If people are mad at you, you are probably doing a good job.” I learned at the orientation assembly to sit in on committee chair's round table, so we all have the same vision.

Lauren, 05 – Past Delegates are vital, ie – panel o Group Conscience – presentations by my past delegates at every assembly. We have round table discussions at every assembly. Having the Area talk to each other. I feel connected to all the chairs and groups.

Kevin, 93 – I love this job. Most rewarding and most difficult in AA service. Spanish Aa at assemblies are more serious about AA than anyone I have ever seen. It is a shocking difference. Have fun and then they will probably have fun. I'd like to help the next chair, I didn't realize the power I would have as chair.

David, 69 – Probably the week before PRAASA, I let things get out of hand at my first ACM, and I didn't sleep well for a night. Use your “sense of the meeting” – you don't always have to vote on everything. Ask the body for help “Does anyone know about...” Mentally separate motive. Housekeeping stuff – get it done. The body's in charge.

Saturday, March 3, 2018

## TOPIC SUGGESTIONS –

1. By-laws – Do you have them? Are you Planning to create some?
2. Ad-hoc for communications
  - Anonymity breaks on-line
  - How do you communicate within the area
  - Fostering Communication between committee members and DCMs

### **1. By-Laws**

Diana, 92 – very rural and have needed to change the handbook away from 72old area handbook. By-laws more rigid than handbook. Some by-laws very long, others just a page.

Q: What does it take to change the handbook? Easy, but guideline changes are more rigid and difficult.

Emily, 42 – We have financial guidelines, website guidelines and regular guidelines.

Geene, 72 – handbook is a living document. Updated with each outgoing rotation. Don't have by-laws, motions are used.

Q: What do you need By-laws for? Clarification, quorum, to pass motions, bring a motion to the Quarterly, goes to the Assembly. Floor motions – right of decision or go to quarterly process. Exchange of information, handbook changed in 92, maybe the procedures are a better word than by-laws.

Kevin, 69 – 69 has guidelines from general service manual. Everything voted on is written in the guidelines. Has a specific process to go through for voting. Who can set motions and who can't. Every year we go through the guidelines and review and change. ie sending the corrections chair to the National Workshop.

Kevin, 93 – Brought our guidelines from area 05, tinker with them all the time. We have a guideline committee. They formulate the language to send to the GSRs. We have 4 assemblies a year.

### **2.Communication**

Emily, 42 – spread out area, not everything can go into the newsletter. Adhoc committee set.

Ron, 58 - Oregon communication with officers, send emails. Group email, officers@area58...

appointed@area58...

dcm\_\_@area58...

Webservant set them up for us.

Kevin, 93 – we have the same, registrar puts out roster, available to DCMs and updated 8 times a year. Do they actually look @ email? Can only do my job. I ask the standing committee chairs “what are your goals? What would you like to get done?” I suggest they introduce themselves to the staff member at GSO. Pick a co-chair and create committees. Educate and encourage – be the cheerleader.

Geene,72 – Website is informative, all documentation, all events, DCM and GSR workshops. Creates peer support for DCMs. Check-in meetings with appt and electoral, 4 times a year. Fellowship for hand off and rotation. Solid unity best way for solid communication.

## **AREA OFFICERS**

92- Chair oversees standing committee chairs, chairs quarterlies/assemblies, educates. Alt Chair – fills in if necessary, oversees host committees, website chair

18 – “Ringmaster of the shit show”, chair meetings, den mother type of stuff, appoint standing committee chairs

93 – set agenda for ACMs. Helpful bidding on assemblies, cheerleader for DCMs, herding cats, selecting standing committee chairs.

09 – set agendas, appoint ad-hoc committee, help districts chair meetings, responsible for the health and unity of the area.

07 – appoint standing committee chairs, set agenda, work with newsletter chair, admin stuff. Alt Chair – host liaison, sets program for non-business portion of the agenda, GSR school, PA system.

17 – agenda, chair meetings, publish agenda 30 days prior, vote on Oahu intergroup, responsible for standing committees

42 – chair – Alt Delegate chairs the South quarterly and Alt Chair chairs the North quarterlies. I chair two assembly of everyone, appoint newsletter editor, agenda out 30 days prior.

72 – herding cats, facilitate 3 quarterlies and one assembly. Set up 6-8 pre-assemblies. Chair meetings with elections, choose secretary, check-in meeting, monthly newsletter, mediator, PNC business meeting, herd appointed and elected to update their sections of the handbook, inventories. 72 Alt – host committee liaison – quarterly assembly, non-business portion of assembly program, DCM sharing, support chair, newsletter article, inventories, area officers role.

58 – 4 assemblies – facilitate business meeting, rotate officers – ½ each year. Voting at the Sept Assembly. Appoint service committees, business meeting agenda, agenda for round tables and GSR school.

69 - Chair elections on even years at Fall Assembly. Simple majority of standing committee, deal with controversial issues. 3 assemblies, pre-conference, post conference, voting assembly. Chair of the finance committee.

69- Assembly Agenda Chair in charge of sound equipment, bids for assemblies 2 yrs out, keep recordings of the business meetings.

06 – Chair facilitates quarterlies and assemblies, Delegate facilitates election assemblies. Chair appoints standing committee, advisor for newsletter.

06 – Alt Chair bids for host committee, recap of assembly actions, visits districts, all officers visit all districts – each district gets a visit from an area officer each month – go to about three district meetings a month.

07 Alt Chair – assembly coordinator, four assemblies – winter, pre-conference, post conference, election/inventory. GSR school, sound and translation equipment.

08 – Alt. Chair had special election at last assembly to elect me because last alt chair had to step down. All new to me. Master calendar. Responsible for key to storage locker, holds coffee pots and translation equipment. Set up assemblies.

Many area have Archivist and Sound people

Per Joel “ The relationship that you have with your delegate and alternate delegate is so important. This is the best job.”

There is no mistake that cannot be undone.

Consult others before you act, sponsor, alternate delegate, etc.

There is no greater job that will prepare you for delegate than area chair.

Don't just not share your opinion, legitimately don't have an opinion.

Wellbeing of AA as a whole is most important.

God, I am willing to be embarrassed but I hope it's not necessary to be yelled at.

Utilize Past Delegate

Cheat sheet

I can't break AA

I am going to have a spiritual experience very few get to feel. Stop and listen, feel the love and energy in the room. Rule 62 says I can enjoy myself.

Go pee, take breaks and go to the front of the food line so you don't restart late after lunch!