

Aloha everyone, I was told before the event to have my own experience at PRASSA, and that is what my report is to you, my experience.

I'm not under the belief that 20% of the people in AA do all of the work. I AM of the belief that all of the people in AA are doing just what they're supposed to be doing at any given moment, whether that's making coffee, being a greeter, answering a hotline call, or being at a meeting as a power of example for the person just needing some recovery time for an hour, the list goes on and on. However, if that saying were at all true, then the 20% were in that conference center all at one time over the weekend. The energy was something I've never experienced before. It wasn't like an Alano club in Florida, the GSO and Intergroup office in New York, or even a State convention on Oahu. It had it's own unique color and feel.

The first day had orientation, hearing from our Pacific Regional Trustee Joel C. Who moderated the whole weekend. We were fortunate to have him at the orientation assembly on Maui in January for those who were able to make it. It also had former and present Delegates giving two minute presentations.

At PRAASA, they use the light system similar to our assemblies for timing purposes. When the light turns yellow, better finish soon because it's going to turn red, and everyone will start clapping, signaling a loving end.

There were breaks in between, for a cup of coffee and a smoke outside, some conversation with friends, and with those I've never met. As a matter of fact, I'm going to go to Alaska this summer and go fishing with a DCM who travels 80 minutes each way for a district meeting. And there's a GSR in that district who has to get in his boat for a half hour then drive for another hour just to attend the same meeting. Talk about a commitment to recovery huh?

After a break for dinner, it was time for our area chair Kunane to moderate the evening panel. He did a great job, and looked like he enjoyed his experience.

The night ended with a 2 1/2 hour roundtable event, similar to our assembly format. I was at the DCM roundtable with about 75 others from our region. Topics were discussed and solutions were shared.

Saturday began very early for breakfast with Jim at the Waffle Shop in Downtown Sacramento, or at least that's where I where I think we were! Then off to the conference center with a full agenda ahead.

There were topics such as “taking our inventory”...are all members, groups, and areas treated equally in the conference process”...when do I speak up in my home group, and when is it appropriate to practice restraint of pen and tongue”...gotta mention that everyone got a good laugh when the speaker for that topic gave an example of a situation where it certainly would've been a better move to practice the restraint of the pen and tongue part!

There was another presentation by Joel C regarding his trustees report, and a short PRAASA business meeting. Interesting enough, PRAASA is very much in the spirit of AA in that it is run by those attending in the most essential ways. The whole body in attendance forms the group conscience... Very similar to our District 6 group today...

What followed after a banquet dinner with a group of GSR's from California, and our friend Hilly, (a lively bunch indeed), was another of my favorite events of the weekend, Greg T our current GSO manager. He brought back the memories of early AA recovery in the bottom of a church basement, for me in a Long Island beachfront community, and for him in New Jersey, a meeting started by Bill W.

After a break it was back to the DCM roundtables for myself and more topics discussed with solutions shared by many. I must say that the DCM roundtables could've been scheduled for the whole weekend, and I would've been ok with that, they were fascinating to me personally. I sat with my Alaska friend Sheri and a few other DCM's from Hawaii area.

Sunday morning breakfast with Jim again at the Waffle Shop, and back to the conference center. I had been told that Sunday morning was the “highlight” of the weekend whereas some former Trustees were to share their experience for 7 minutes each...and I must say that my expectations were met fully.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me to serve all of you, and the AA population on Kauai, and for sending me to the 50th annual PRAASA in California as your DCM.

In Love and service,

Steve Q