# PACIFIC REGION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY ("PRAASA 2024")

### **REPORT**

## VICKI R., DCMC DISTRICT 5 - PANEL 74

(Prelude: To help keep this report as short as possible on Page 2 is a copy of the program, along with a list of the round tables, so that you can see all the wonderful participation opportunities and learning experiences that we PRAASA attendees were given. I also have a few PRAASA recordings on flash drives for those who may be interested. If more are needed, I will have them available at our May meeting.)

I want to first acknowledge how grateful I am to you, the members of District 5, for my having been given the opportunity, as your DCMC, to attend "PRAASA 2024" in San Francisco, CA. The last I heard, there were over 1,800 of us.

Secondly, I want to be sure to congratulate our own District 5 Archives Chair, and past Area 09 Panel 72 Delegate, etc., Mitchell B., for being the new PRAASA Archives Chair. Such great news!! And so that I don't give you misinformation, I'm hoping he'll share with all of you a bit about the future dedicated "PRAASA Archives" and what that and his position entails. Due to time, if not during tonight's meeting perhaps during a future one.

Now onto my report...

For those who may not know, or who may need to be reminded, **PRAASA** is the acronym for "**Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly**".

There are six (6) demographic regions in the U.S., which are: Pacific, Southwest, West Central, East Central, Southeast, and Northeast. (*If interested, you can view a map of all six (6) regions on Page 89 of our A.A. Service Manual.*) The nine (9) U.S. states within the Pacific Region is our own great state of California, along with Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

PRAASA is held annually every year and is hosted by one of the fifteen (15) areas located within the Pacific Region. This year's assembly was the Pacific Region's 57<sup>th</sup> and was hosted by "Area 06 California Northern Coastal Area" with the theme being "Connecting with Love, Unity and Service". *I can attest to the fact that there was a whole lot of that going on!* 

It was a three (3) day assembly filled with opportunities and experiences starting from 12:00pm to 10:30pm on Friday, 8:00am to 12:00am on Saturday, and 7:00am to 12:15pm on Sunday. Three (3) days filled with early bird meetings, panel presentations, round table discussions, open mic sharing, and speakers, along with a few breaks here and there, banquet dinners on Friday and Saturday nights, and an ice cream social And with all that came three (3) days of learning, hearing others' shared ideas and experiences, opportunities to ask questions, inspiration, spirituality, and, yes, a lot of rain.

Of the seven (7) panel presentation opportunities, I attended six (6) of them. I admit, I woke up later than I should have on Saturday and ended up not hearing the Panel 5 presentation. On a good note, that extra hour of sleep gave me the energy I needed to make it through the next twelve (12) hours. Although, not enough energy to make it to the ice cream social. And I love ice cream! LOL!

During Panel 1 - Pacific Region Area Highlights, I was reminded that, as noted in "Chapter 2 – There Is A Solution" of the Big Book, "We are people who normally would not mix". While looking around the filled ballroom, I loved seeing the diversity of the attendees as they sat in their chairs waiting for the Pacific Region delegates to give their reports.

This panel's delegates also reminded me that we have always had a diverse group of delegates. Each with their own personality, their own personal sobriety recovery story, their own first time 'being of service', and their own introduction and reporting style. Yet, they all reflected and showed us the same 'being of A.A. service' willingness. They all showed us that although other Areas may do it differently than our own Area 09, what they do works for their Area's fellowship needs. They all showed us their willingness and eagerness to learn from other Areas that which may help their Area's needs even more.

During Panel 2 – The Hand of A.A., one of the four topics was "Utilizing the A.A. Membership Survey data in 12th Step Work — At the home group, district, Area, and in PI/CPC Committees, which was presented by our own Area 09 Panel 74 Delegate, Alex W. She gave a great and detailed report not only on the survey data, but also shared a bit of her own sobriety journey. For the sake of time, you can read it online on her Area 09 Delegate's Corner webpage: <a href="https://msca09aa.org/delegate-page/">https://msca09aa.org/delegate-page/</a>.

I could go on and on about all the Panels and their applicable topics. But, again, for the sake of time, I won't. Besides, it's best if you hear them firsthand yourself to gather the information you may want to know and may want to share with your meeting group.

Now onto the round tables! As you can see on Page 2, there were twenty-two (22) round tables that I could choose from. Each being a two (2) hour timeframe which were held on Friday night from 8:30pm to 10:30pm and, again, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm on Saturday. Therefore, the opportunity to participate in more than two (2) was not an option unless I left one early and arrived late at a different one. The ones I participated in were DCMC and Archives. Gratefully, due to having gone to past PRAASAs, I had already participated in Registrar, Treasurer, Newsletter, and Website.

The "**DCMs and DCMCs/Alternates"** round table meeting room was filled with both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking attendees. And I was reminded that, due to not having subdistricts like District 5 has, a majority of the English-speaking districts do not have DCMCs. In those districts, my position is titled / known as being the "DCM". And, to my knowledge, Spanish-speaking districts do not use the position title "DCMC" at all.

Our moderator gave us the opportunity to choose 3 topics, which was done. However, I had another reminder and that was...there will always be alcoholics in A.A. that will go to any length to be heard and have their way. As was in the case of one attendee insisting...and I mean insisting by standing up, yelling at the moderator, and not taking no for answer...that there be four (4) topics. The fourth topic being the topic that she wanted discussed. It was definitely the only uncomfortable moment I had during the entire assembly. But bless the moderator for ending that uncomfortable moment by including her topic.

I admit to leaving the round table feeling that the "DCM versus DCMC" scenario may have caused others some confusion. Gratefully, because of attending our Area meetings, I knew ahead of time what "DCM versus DCMC" looked like. And, gratefully, half-way through the round table, there were a few that clarified their district position title and stating whether they had subdistricts or didn't have subdistricts.

The "**Archives**" round table was filled with archival information, which I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about. Amongst those attending were Mitchell B., who in addition to his other positions I've already mentioned, is our Area 09's Archives Committee Alternate-Chair, and Gerry W., Area 09's Archivist.

The "A.A. Speaker Meeting" speaker was Bob W. / GSO Manager. What a great share and opportunity to get to see and hear the 'man' behind the written reports we receive from him. And, although his written reports definitely reflect his immense knowledge of the General Service Office, they don't reflect his humor.

I definitely don't have time to report back on all that I participated in or that I learned. And, at the same time, I don't want to make one opportunity sound as though it was less important than another.

But let me end with this...

I left home filled with excitement because what I was going to get to experience, hear, and learn once I arrived. That excitement continued throughout the assembly even when the tiredness kicked in and the rain straightened my curled hair.

I left the assembly filled what I left home with, along with even more gratitude, clarity, and the reaffirmed confidence that A.A. as a whole will continue to help the suffering alcoholic for generations to come, as long as those who are 'being of service' continue to follow and maintain our 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts, and never forget our Responsibility Statement.

"I am responsible, when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I AM RESPONSIBLE!"

Thank you for allowing this alcoholic those additional days of sobriety. And for reminding me that it's because of you and, also, those who attended PRAASA 2024.

Grateful to be sober...grateful to be of service...and grateful to all of you!

### Vicki R., DCMC

District 5 - Panel 74





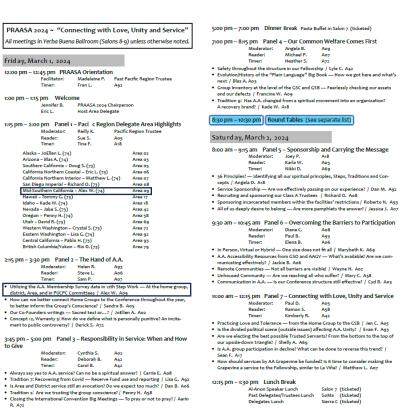
57th Annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

## "Connecting with Love, Unity and Service"



AREA 06 CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 1–3, 2024

The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of A.A. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity and Service legacies of A.A.





Find this program and more at PRAASA.ORG
Or SCAN the QR code with your phone camera:
Please remember to complete the PRAASA
evaluation form (available online)!

**ROUND TABLES:** Registrars, Treasurers, GSRs/Alternates, DCMs and DCMCs/Alternates,

Accessibilities/Treatment, Archives, Remote Communities, Central Offices/Intergroups, Bridging the Gap, Corrections/H&I, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Grapevine, Guidelines/Policy, Literature, Newsletters, Public Information, Seniors/Cooperation with the Elder Community, Tech/Hybrid, Website, Young People, Pamphlet Writing Workshop: