

FINAL REPORT

PACIFIC
REGIONAL FORUM

SEPTEMBER 7~9, 2018

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

**LAST NAMES OF CLASS A (NON-ALCOHOLIC) TRUSTEES
AND NON-ALCOHOLIC EMPLOYEES ONLY APPEAR IN THIS REPORT**

Dear A.A. Friends,

Please mark your calendar for the next Pacific Regional Forum, which will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada on the weekend of August 21-23, 2020 at the West Gate Las Vegas.

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Language. I agree with many of you, if you know where they are, you can just follow along by watching the love. It's a beautiful language.

- And how do we reach those in institutions? I was overwhelmed by a gentleman who started out by saying that Corrections Correspondence Service worked for him. He has now been serving on the Corrections Correspondence Service for some thirty-odd years. In Corrections Correspondence—writing to inmates—there is always a need, particularly for men, and particularly for the Spanish-speaking men in this group. You don't have to be a great writer. You are not going to do anything except share your experience, strength, and hope in writing. Or it can even be orally now; some prisons are now allowing phone calls. Some prisons are now allowing the Internet. I know this because I know someone who has been in Corrections Correspondence for years as a servant and I have seen it. It is wonderful and it is breaking down more barriers. How many inmates cannot read or write? I bet it is an unusually high number, compared to the population as a whole. So, once we open the doors of being able to do it by telephone, it will be wonderful. The opportunity is there. So, if you are looking for a way to be of service, consider that, please.

I hope you heard something about how we even need to provide the Big Book in other languages here, within our service structure, in the U.S. and Canada. We had to produce the Big Book in Punjabi because there is a big population here that needs access to the Big Book. Hopefully, you've also heard that we've licensed the Big Book CD in Arabic, in Russian, in Navajo. I had the incredible privilege to stand at the mike and give that CD set to the president of the Navajo Nation, and watched how that man's face changed—it went to that spiritual space. He got it. It was amazing. You know what? That is your dollar in the basket. We are spreading the language of the heart.

And, you know, we are very privileged people. Many of us can afford to put at least a dollar in the basket, maybe five. But there are so many folks out there, in our service structure, who do not have a penny to their name, and they do need recovery. I am in awe of all of your efforts to reach those folks. And what we do, at the General Service Office and on the board, is try to help you do that work. So let us know what you need, put those dollars in the basket, and we'll do our darnedest to meet those needs and to help you. As George said, "This is a one-on-one program of recovery. There is always other stuff going on to help you do that well, so that someone else might live." As you can tell, I'm passionate about this.

I am trying to process everything that I heard, everything that I hear at regional forums. I do come away with some questions that I want to leave you with: What more can each of us do to communicate that A.A. is welcoming to everyone? And how do we communicate with each other and encourage more folks to come in to our wonderful service structure? That's the challenge that I see.

I saw some great ideas here, I saw some great stuff, and I will tell you that this regional forum reflected great inclusion. But, of course, as someone said, one of the magic things about A.A. is that we are never done, we are never finished. What more can we do? This regional forum is for anyone and everyone that wants A.A. to be here tomorrow. So, I hope there will be maybe 1500 of you in Las Vegas in 2020. I want to close with something that Bill W. wrote, and I love it. I guess I would say it is my theme: "Honesty with ourselves and others gets us sober, but it is tolerance that keeps us that way."