

## Chairperson Report

AWSC Feb 5-6, 2016



Welcome to the second year of Panel 55!

We have come a long way, we have learned a lot, changed a lot, and have a lot left to do!

I hope you all will give some understanding to, and have patience with, our move to the new hotel. I am confident it will be a comfortable and cost-effective place for our Area meetings, but there are always bumps as we settle in. Any questions, concerns or issues you have please send me an email. [Chairperson@AFGArea9.org](mailto:Chairperson@AFGArea9.org)

This is not the only change! We will be having an election at our May Assembly. If you know someone who is qualified for, and interested in, the position of Treasurer – be sure they have access to the Area Job Descriptions, and the Election Procedures. Both can be found on our website. [www.AFGArea9.org](http://www.AFGArea9.org) Look under “Members”

We have a new Area Spanish Coordinator. Please welcome Elsa C. to the Panel. She will be working to catch up with our changes, and reaching out to each of the Districts. I know everyone will give her a hand. I look forward to her first report in May. Her information is on the new CMA.

We also welcome Lily N., from District 8, who will be chairing the 2016 Area Alateen Conference. Things are moving along for that to take place this summer. Her information is also on the new CMA.

I’m often asked “What do you do at Area?” I don’t really have a short answer, but I usually say that we gather together and work on the business of service, so that we can support the Districts and Groups in their direct outreach to members and potential members. It got me thinking of ways to make this information public.

We all depend greatly on our Service Manual to answer questions, and settle disputes. But I am also finding lots of other very helpful information in there, and end up using it just about every day.

I encourage you to read the section with the tab “Charter” – as I read through that over and over, it occurs to me that we could create a document like this to put down on paper all the traditional ways we operate as an Area. Not to change what we do, but to record what we do. And to look at it – like we would in a Group Conscience.

To that end, we will be doing some Area vision work at the AWSC meeting. A few of the things we will be working on:

- tweaking our job descriptions – now that we've worked in them for a year, maybe we know some things that need adjusting
- creating Area Guidelines – not creating something new, but writing down what our expectations are and how we work together
- working on an Area Charter – here we would be working together to describe the Traditional arm of our Area service structure. It won't look exactly like WSO, but I think the idea is a sound one

Some of these topics may seem strange or new, but actually all three of them are simply opportunities for us to discuss with each other what we are already doing. And, if possible, work out ways to bring these actions and processes into a format that all members of the Area know and understand. This way we can continue to attract members into service, because they will have the knowledge they need to make the decision.

Our finances are in very good shape. The donations are being forwarded from Ormond Beach and Llew and I are working together to keep things up to date, and make the transition in May as simple as possible. We are also working with the Accountant to get our IRS forms filed in a timely manner, and update our Corporate Records with the State of Florida. We welcome any questions. Our financial data will be posted on the password protected part of the website. Contact your DR or AISL or any Officer or Coordinator for the password.

A reminder for the upcoming deadlines:

January 15 – deadline to make reservations at the Hilton in order to get the contracted rate of \$99 per night. I do recommend staying on Saturday night for the Spiritual meeting. It is a wonderful way to end our time together.

January 22 – deadline to give me the full names of all members of your District that are attending the AWSC.

January 29 – deadline for submitting your report to Roger ([technology@AFGArea9.org](mailto:technology@AFGArea9.org)) so that it can get on the website before the meeting. DR and AISL reports should please be combined into a single report.

Dinner will start at 6:30 pm – and we will have Friday night breakout meetings.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me! I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks!

Yours in service,

Cindy J.  
Panel 55 Chairperson