

Jeff      Chairperson Panel 60      Area92      Eastern Washington State, parts of British Columbia, Northern Idaho and Montana.

At his first PRAASA he was like deer in the headlights. I found I needed to improve my ability to communicate with members and fellow servants electronically when providing and being asked for so much information. Peers he met at PRAASA were key in offering me guidance.

Some issues and challenges I have faced as Chairperson are traveling across the border into Canada, administrating an area that was being Sued legally. The law suit is now a non-issue but none the less did take effort and attention to address. We have 25 total districts with 4 of them linguistic. In 2011 we will be hosting a local forum themed on carrying the message across spiritual and cultural boundaries.

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Allison      Alt Chairperson Panel 60      Area 2      Alaska

Mostly listening. Also serves as Registrar for the Area.

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Bruce      Chairperson Panel 60      Area 2      Alaska

We have 5 assemblies over 2 years. In November we will have our elections assembly. The biggest challenge in Alaska is travel distance. Area 2 tends to spread their assemblies out to locations all around the state...which is good.

Other challenges we face is communication with remote communities, and keeping service structure alive in low populated areas. We are considering doing inter area remote visitation as is done in Canada.

We do have a phone outreach program that is active. There is a high rate of DCM resignation and committee chairs becoming inactive over time. They come in on fire...and over time become less active.

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Jeff      Chairperson      Area 6      California Northern Coastal counties, bordered on the north by Oregon and on the south by San Luis Obispo County.

In our area the Chairperson is the primary source to answer all issues, money, etc asked by area members. Single point of contact in other words.

We have 22 total districts, including 4 spanish linguistic, and 150 sub districts. Not all sub districts have DCMS at any given time. We have 4 assemblies per year and in odd years one of those assemblies is an inventory assembly. Each assembly brings about 4-500 attendies.

There are 6 standing committees. Of the 6 Web, Translation, and finance are appointed committees and do not have a vote at Area Committee or Area Assembly. In our area it is traditional that the Chair be extremely neutral.

Of our total 100K budget, 15k is spent on district visits and 10k on newsletter. A lot of Delegating is required.

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Renee      Chairperson Panel 61      Area 69      Utah

All of Utah state is one Area. Sometimes we arrange assembly hosting in Dark Districts and geographical areas to encourage participation. We have 3 assemblies per year.

My primary job is to facilitate the mtgs and inform the delegate. One issue we currently face is consideration of redistricting. Its been along time since this was looked at and in some cases districts are re drawing maps themselves showing new district boundaries...not good!

Dean      Alt Chairperson Panel 60      Area8      San Diego and Imperial Counties- California

As alternate chairperson my duties are determined by the primary officer (the chair). Our chair keeps me quite busy, thankfully.

My duties include Assembly Coordinator, (working with districts to host, doing bldg. walkthrus, other logistics). The also include publishing an Area workbook that is a complilation of the area calendar for the whole year, including all district mtgs, committee mtgs, assemblies, and workshops known to have a date at the time of book printing. The workbook also includes short form of concepts, 1 per month, and some other service items like the excerpt from Concept 9 – leadership. This is the first year we have been able to publish in Spanish.

In our area each officer also serves as Committee Liaisons. My duties are to build the liaison calendar that involves scheduling 9 officers to attend about 270 mtgs throughout the year. All officers know a year in advance where they have to be and what time. My personal liaison duties are at POLICY committee regularly, and various other committees and intergroups occasionally. Each Committee and Intergroup is visited by an area officer at every monthly mtg..in theory. There are no liaison police in our Area so everyone does the best they can.

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Carole      Chairperson Panel 61      Area 42      Nevada

Nevada is a split area set up. Northern half of the state and southern half of the state.

We have two assemblies per year and each half of the area has 4 local area committee mtgs each. We elect delegate from the North for one panel, and a delegate from the south for the following panel. Recently we have started a communications committee chaired by area officers. The committee includes web, newsletter, other communication related functions.

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Cheryl      Chairperson Panel 61      Area 17      Hawaii

We have 14 districts 7 of which are on Ohau. Traveling is a large part of our budget due to interisland travel. It was hard for me at first to get used to making decisions. One year we have 3-4 assemblies and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of panel we always have 4 due to election assembly.

There are 11 standing committees/chairs. 120 people attend each 2 day assembly on the average, with 1 day being for committee mtgs. Recently they went to approving budget as a whole, instead of by line item. Goes much smoother. They can now devote budget discussion time saved to conference items of interest. GSRs are showing up from previously dark districts.

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Lela      Chairperson Panel 60      Area 7 (CNI)      In California and extends from the Oregon border in the inland valleys south to Kings and Tulare Counties.

New discussions on Budget process in our Area have been exciting, officers mtgs are starting again, and our Area will be hosting a National Bridging the Gap workshop Sept 9-11 2011 in Sacramento. The delegate focuses on conference process all year long. Spanish participation is growing. We received first financial contribution from Spanish Group this year.

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Bob      Alt Chairperson      Area 17      Hawaii

Previously served as webmaster. He also sits on Finance Committee and the Hawaii Convention Committee. They recently have established adhoc committee to reach out to support neighboring island communities. Alt Chair in Area 17 also sits on the Ohau intergroup. He notices some historical tension between the intergroup and general service in the area. He is much busier than expected. Currently he is leading effort to develop guidelines for assembly planning/logistics.

Darron F Chairperson Panel 61 Area 72 Western Washington

We have 6 elected officers and 12 appointed. One yearly assembly that usually sees over 800 attendees. Two annual quarterly mtgs are held that include DCMs, officers, and committee chairs only. There is always a sense of urgency to get business done in one day since they only have one assembly per year. Some assemblies go into wee hours of the morning. Recently one ended between 1 and 2am in the morning. Some issues we have reviewing a proposal to split the Area, and processing a motion to have a second assembly each year.

Bids for assemblies are asked for 5yrs in advance. I find out its OK not to know everything.

There is talk of giving appointed servants the right of decision. Current mileage rates in IRS rates, however now everyone exercises this right to claim IRS rates.

14k was spent this past year on interpretation (ASL and Spanish) where persons needing the translation did not show up. We are looking at resolving that.

Serving is just FUN.

WE ARE HOSTING PRAASA – MARCH 2, 2012!!

Skip Alt Chairperson Panel 60 Area 58 Oregon State

Nice to have a year under my belt. One of my duties is Assembly logistics. 4 assemblies per year, 300 attendees per assembly. We try to host some assemblies in lower populated areas. Assembly planners use a 25 page guide developed by the area. I am in process of revising.

At assemblies I lead the GSR sharing session, and also choose the timer person and readers.

Also my responsibility to maintain the 1 page Assembly experience paper asked for from each of the assembly hosts. I maintain other data like meals sold, and other historical data.

The favorite job I have is the one I am doing at the time.

Gus Chairperson Panel 60 Area 58 Oregon State

We have various sharing sessions at the 4 assemblies each year. ½ of our officers are elected one year and ½ the next. I am constantly reminded I am NOT THE BOSS. We have GSR School every assembly. What has happened the last two years? What hasn't happened? ☺ There is a lot of work involved. One full day is devoted to Area Orientation in January at the assembly. Some issues we have faced in procuring new interpretation equipment, looking at cost of GSRs attending assemblies. We have 37 districts including 2 linguistic. Our annual budget is 85-90k. Our budgets are proposed in May and returns for vote in Sept. We have a traveling GSR school and traditions workshops. Hardest thing I have had to do is ask for resignation of an officer that was not active and doing his job.

Rafael Chairperson Panel 60 Area 8 San Diego and Imperial Counties - California

Previously served in Area 7 as alt chairperson and moved to SD in 2005. Started serving on translation committee in Area 8 and learned..each area does it differently. My biggest challenge as chair is being on the same wavelength as area officers and trying to keep lines of responsibility separate with delegate. My relationship with my alternate has also been important and decision not to overlap duties has worked well. We established 1 minute sharing at area committee and area assemblies for all districts, committees, and intergroups. This has allowed us to all see whats going on in the whole area each meeting. Service Sponsorship has been a big help. This job takes patience. Our area motto is to have all key area documents in both Spanish and English. We spend about 2800 per year for interpretation.

One issue our area is dealing with right now is servicing our first Deaf alcoholic GSR at an upcoming

assembly, and moving forward how to do the same in the future.

General attendance at our 5 area assemblies per year is about 200 persons. This past year I wrote an article on how our area uses modified Roberts Rules of Order to make motions, conduct business at area assembly, etc.

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Mike      Alt Chairperson Panel 61      Area 72      Western Washington

I learn most at PRASSA panels. My duties are straight forward. I really had no notions that the alternate chair job needed fixing before I took the job so that has helped my ability to do the job. One issue we have pending is Seed Money for Assemblies. One district in recent past over spent preparing for assembly by 10,000 dollars. This job is definitely easier than my previous position of Treasurer.

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Lisa      Chairperson Panel 61      Area 93      CENTRAL CALIFORNIA (CIAA)

I am following in the footsteps of past chair that made it look easier than it appears to be, in fact I still reach out to previous chairperson for guidance. Our recent officer team has good chemistry. Recently our Area changed from having 5ACMs and 5 assemblies to 4 and 4. We also reduced area guidelines from 58 pages down to 28.

Translation is a challenge with growing need but reduced funds to do the work.

It has been a good transition as new officer since there is a lot of respect amongst fellow officers. I would like to attend neighboring area assemblies to see how they do it.

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Jeryl      Chairperson Panel 60      Area 9      Mid Southern CALIFORNIA

A lot of work goes with this job. We have 4 assemblies per year and one FORO.

We have 25 districts, 6 of them linguistic/Spanish. I get to herd cats and feel blessed to have that opportunity. The area has 15 standing committees and our Area is considered committee driven.

This year we established a committee to gather and translate all of the conference agenda items. We have two area committee mtgs between each assembly. Recently we moved to member owned non-profit status. It might be tough to maintain. Our officers visit atleast two entities in the area atleast twice per month. Our translation process is healthy and working.

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Tina Marie      Chairperson Panel 61      Area 3      Arizona

I am thoroughly enjoying this job. In the past I experienced fear of confrontation.

Recently we upgraded our translation equipment. Also a linguistic district was created.

We are trying to use more video at assemblies for presentations and it seems to be effective.

Some talk about splitting the area due to geography. No motions on this yet.

We have 4 assemblies per year. Some are two day events.

We also have 4 administrative meetings per year.

GSR orientation is done at each assembly, Some are done twice in a weekend since not all can make it on the First day.

It's been a challenge getting pre conference topics out, but we got it done.

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