

Welcome, hope you had a nice dinner. Aloha my name is Claire and I'm an alcoholic my sobriety date is August 9th 2012 my Home group is the Friday night young people group in Kihei Maui Fridays at 6:45 come join us I am currently the Kihei district DCM thank you for letting me be of service this is the anonymity statement there may be some here who are not familiar with our tradition of personal anonymity at the public level our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion we need to always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press radio and films thus we respectfully ask that a speakers and a members not be photographed videotaped or identified by full name on audio tapes or in any published or broadcast reports of our meetings including those reports on the Internet or other media technologies the assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us our tradition of anonymity reminds us that a principles come before personalities we have an agreement with an outside vendor smile God loves you media services to offer for sale audio recordings of this event you can purchase a recording on a thumb drive a link to an MP3 or CD outside this room at the smile God loves you table welcome to panel 4 finding common ground our friends in the professional community and beyond our reader for this panel is Tracy F good evening everybody my name is Tracy and I am an alcoholic let's be friendly with our friends these facts of alcoholism should give us good reason to think and to be humble surely we can be grateful for every agency or method that tries to solve the problem of alcoholism whether of medicine religion education or research we can be open minded towards all such efforts and we can be sympathetic any ill advised once failed we can remember that a itself ran for years on trial and error as individual A's we can and should work with those that promise success even a little success nor ought we allow our special convictions or prejudices to overcome our good sense and good will for example members of us think that alcoholism is mainly a spiritual problem therefore we have little time for biochemists who would like us to believe that drugs drink mostly because they are bedeviled by bad metabolisms likewise we are apt to get red hot when psychiatrists leave aside all issues of real problem of the alcoholic always gathers around the neurotic compulsions which he innocently acquired as a child becoming maladjusted because of his airing parents or when social workers say that the true cause of alcoholism are to be seen in faulty social conditions we are apt to get the restive and say who care a hang what the causes are anyway that he can fix drums without getting into all that in similar fashion some of us ate A's deprey every attempt at therapy save our own we point to certain clinics and committees that have accomplished little we complain that huge sums are being wasted by state and private sources we roundly thump every experimental drug that turns out badly to belittle the attempts of the men and women of religion to deal with us drunks we believe that sound alcohol education is a good thing but we are also apt to think that AA indirectly is doing most of it anyhow from let's be friendly with our friends with the alcoholic

Our presenters for this panel are Heather N area 18 delegate drew B area 5 chair Joe S area 58 alternate delegate sues B area 72 CPC chair Larry S area 3 delegate our timer for this panel is Rachel E hi my name is Rachel I'm an alcoholic for this session each of the presenters will give an 8 minute presentation the green light comes on immediately after the presenter introduces themselves the yellow light caution comes on after 7 minutes and the red light ends the presentation if the red light turns on we will thank the speaker with a warm applause the presentation is being interpreted and time allowed will be doubled to 16

minutes with the yellow light at 14 minutes sharing from the floor microphones will be timed at 2 minutes the yellow light comes on at 90 seconds and the red light at 2 minutes followed by loving of blocks if the speaker is being interpreted the time allowed will be doubled to 4 minutes but the yellow light coming on at 3 minutes OK

1st we have the Heather Ann with the topic reaching professionals in 2026 what's working what's not and where are the gaps Aloha my friends my name is Heather and I am an alcoholic I have the honor of serving Idaho area 18 as her panel 76 delegate I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PRAASA host committee as well as my dear friend and program chair Bob H for this topic when we talk about common ground it's important that we start with something simple and true our common ground is the alcoholic who still suffers that's where Alcoholics Anonymous began and that's where every one of our efforts inside and outside the rooms must land if they're going to matter today I want to talk about cooperation with the professional community and beyond not as a program not as the committee function but as people showing up where Alcoholics are already are with humility clarity and there from the very beginning Alcoholics Anonymous has had friends in medicine and education and corrections and faith communities and industry Bill W. wrote an AA comes of age that what these outside services have meant in terms of aid to AA and endorsement of our society is beyond estimate our common ground with professionals is not a shared ideology it is not agreement on everything it's not affiliation it's shared concern for human suffering the alcoholic suffering and a willingness to help when PIR CPC trusted servants show up at professional events we are not endorsing a program a system for a point of view we are showing up because someone there may need a or may someday be the bridge that helps another alcoholic find us so I reached out to the CPC committees across the Pacific region and here's what they told me that what's working personal relationships members who have built trust with professionals over time simple tools like business cards that make a easier to refer to tailored presentations that respect the audiences time and language thinking outside the box like making inroads into trades or workplaces we don't traditionally think of starting small one project one relationship 1 success doing it well no matter the size collaboration and idea sharing amongst the various CPC MPI committees what's working is not perfection what's working is presence was not working so let's be honest about that getting in the door can be hard too many committees have one little understanding or interest in CPC work among the broader fellowship our materials can be overwhelming the sheer volume length and density of materials can be hard for committee members and for busy professionals to absorb and frankly there's a lot of pushback from within our own fellowship concerns about anonymity promotion or affiliation none of this means the work is wrong it just means the work is unfinished there are gaps one of the most important things I heard from our region was this we often have to start by educating our own fellowship first many volunteers show up with enthusiasm and good intentions but without enough grounding in our 12 traditions conference approved materials or the purpose of CPC and the eye the gap creates fear creates resistance can turn into apathy and apathy is something we've been warned about for decades in the night in the 1980s Grapevine article a member wrote about discovering that AA itself is not perfect and that much of what we what could be done is not being done not because of opposition but because of apathy another Rd. in a Grapevine article in 1990 in my Home group 80% of everything is done by 20% of the members if you're lucky the imbalance doesn't just affect service it affects our own personal recovery and the effectiveness of our society as a whole I know

from my own personal experience as a CP CPI W chairperson for Idaho last rotation starting small educating our little committee so that they can in turn educate those around them paid dividends and just two short years later they are highly active educated and enthusiastic group that continues to grow we are fighting the good fight against apathy to ensure the hand of a is always there but people who come into contact with Alcoholics before we do know how a can help how to find us and where to send those who need to find a here's a little loving reminder from our history bill warned that Alcoholics Anonymous would not be destroyed by outside forces but by internal disunity and failure to adhere to spiritual principles and one of these principles is action and a comes of age he wrote a is more than a set of principles it's a Society of recovered Alcoholics and action and an A services anything whatever that legitimately helps us to reach fellow sufferers that is the measure not comfort not approval not unanimity does it help us reach the alcoholic who still suffers that's what we should be asking ourselves and why does this conversation matter now well in my humble opinion this conversation always matters and should be discussed often but at our 2026 general service conference on the agenda there is an item to consider a request that standalone audio visual clips be created when developing any new or revised videos for professionals I hope you do help fully informed your delegate what are your group's thought on this item do you believe it is necessary do you believe that this will help carry the message do you believe this is the best not just a good solution So what is our common ground our common ground is that Alcoholics are suffering inside and outside of Alcoholics Anonymous, professionals encounter us every day AA has something unique to offer and cooperation not isolation is how the message travels our friends in the professional community are not replacing a they are not defining AA they are often the first point of contact before the alcoholic ever walks into a meeting this work asks something of us it asks us to trust our traditions stay anchored in conference approved materials speak simply listen carefully and keep showing up even when it's uncomfortable it all also asks us to look inward where are we hesitant where are we silent where might apathy be costing someone their chance to find a the good news is we don't have to fix everything we just have to do something together because the common ground has always been and always will be one alcoholic reach and another sometimes through unexpected hands, thank you for letting me share.

Thank you um hmm our second presenter is drew B liability and shared spaces how do we cooperate with affiliating when estares mente I'm drew I'm alcoholic my sobriety date is December 6th 1995 my Home group is the love and service group we meet in Pleasant Hill CA that's in the California northern coastal area 06 at which I serve as area chair my topic is liability and shared spaces how do we cooperate without affiliating liability is about responsibility and we have a statement for that right say it with me when anyone anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible. So let's zoom out and look at our shared geography I have some bad news for you if you don't know AA has not seen any significant membership growth in over 30 years since I got sober in 1995 registered membership has hovered around 2 million in 1995 the registered number was around 1.7 million members in 2021 the last time the estimate was shared it was 1.9 million yet as a ratio of the population these numbers appear much more alarming the US population in 95 was approximately 266 million in Canada 29 today the population of the US is 345 million 40 million in Canada considering the rise in population a membership has shrunk by 16% that's the equivalent of 300,000 a members both the substance abuse mental health services administration and the National Institutes of health estimate that 10% of Americans and Canadians suffer from alcoholism meaning that there are over 38 million potential or actual a members walking around our part of North America my first question is this why is our fellowship shrinking as there are over 35 million potential members of a walking around out there is it because we are not friendly with our friends cooperation not

affiliation is the core of our 6th tradition ensuring the fellowship remains independent nonprofessional and focused solely on recovery a works with professionals treatment centers and courts to help Alcoholics but never endorses finance or joins outside organizations but have we crept too far away from the professional and the public communities and blunted our outreach efforts are we letting fear get the best of us when we neglect the opportunity to cooperate with local level with non-alcoholic professionals who encounter suffering Alcoholics in their line of work physicians nurses psychologists and medical students judges attorneys law enforcement and police officers and court professionals educators social workers and students and professional schools members of the clergy and faith-based organizations human resources professionals employee assistance programs industrial managers and union leaders these members of our communities are the ones who should be recommending Alcoholics Anonymous are they recommending us in your neighborhood hometown district or area sounds like a no what about the more obvious organizations like rehabs detox centers clinics and psychiatric facilities military bases and Veterans Affairs facilities let alone homeless shelters senior centers and civic groups we share the same geography and physical spaces with these community members who are absolutely trying to deal with desperate Alcoholics looking for a solution unfortunately at many levels the  $\pi$  and CPC committees that are charged with spreading the word to all these potential friends of a tend to be the last ones filled if at all Kurt Vonnegut said another flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance what is it about 6 PICC work that seems so unsexy to us or have we tacitly adopted a mindset that a is a secret society or are we just resting on our laurels waiting for that drunk bus to deliver newcomers to us like DoorDash and don't get me started about the space called the Internet that's a space our seeming reluctance to engage people online has mostly has most likely also added to our shrinking of the membership that was maybe the last generation to get sober with pay phones and phone books now people are asking AI agents to help them stop drinking and I'll tell you most of the time AI is not recommending a bill wrote in the Grapevine in November 1960 a vast connects vast communications net now covers the earth even to its remotest reaches therefore nothing can matter more to the future welfare of a than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication used unselfishly and well the results can surpass our present imagination in cooperation with the public and providing them information what if bill's net of communications was many more intergroup district area and individual a group websites making us more discoverable to the local online searches when someone looks for a solution into their drinking online a is never an upfront suggestion in my 15 years as a tech professional I think we have missed the boat on search engine optimization that toothpaste is out of the tube but we now have a chance to get on the ground floor of how generative AI is fundamentally redefining search from a list of links to a direct answer model transforming how information is discovered and access look I know that our generation of AI is going to have to figure out anonymity in the age of AI and believe me it's not going to be easy but doing nothing is no longer an option we have to try and probably make several mistakes but try nonetheless in summary the data reflects a stark reality our fellowship is shrinking even that the number of people who need us continues to grow this suggests that our traditional  $\pi$  and CPC models while historically effective remain rooted in the 20th century by staying within our comfort zones have we missed the opportunity to properly arm today's frontline professionals with the facts about our program the rapid pace of the 21st century isn't a threat it's an invitation we have a massive opportunity to modernize our outreach using digital tools to do 12 step work at scale I realized here at PRAASA I'm absolutely preaching the choir I must look at myself and how I treat my fellow members of AA and make AA attractive in this version of service work that I call 12 step at scale and let's continue to encourage my fellow service members to think creatively and revisit the often overlooked communication methods as

well as try new the 11 tradition defines us as a program of attraction rather than promotion however let's be clear our policy of attraction was never meant to be a shroud of obscurity tradition 11 predicts our egos not our accountability to the still suffering if the suffering alcoholic cannot find us whether that's in a doctor's office a homeless shelter or an online search result we haven't protected our traditions we have failed in our responsibility to the still suffering alcoholic mahalo thank you drew thank you drew our next presenter is Joe S the CPC work whose job is it committees groups or individual members my name's Joe and I'm an alcoholic I'm not Mary see if you look on your agenda Mary C was supposed to be with us tonight but she got sick so I received a call at 7 or earlier this morning from our delegate asking me what I was doing at 7:00 PM this evening my first thought was yeah right and here I am uh the so my name is Joe and I'm an alcoholic my sobriety date is September 18th 2005 and my Home group is hope no smoke I am currently the alternate delegate for Oregon area 58 I am pretty familiar with this topic so that's a good thing so here we go PC work whose job is it committee groups or individual members all of the above I first got sober when I was a couple of months before my 21st birthday and I wasn't quite prepared to go out and reach out to professionals but I was newly sober and young and I was super passionate about service So what this did was afforded me the opportunity to be a member and to be boots on the ground and be able to do some of that committee work and get acquainted with Alcoholics Anonymous I quickly learned they didn't know a little bit more about Alcoholics Anonymous so I took a district committee position as the literature chair so I could learn a little bit more about what's what I'm supposed to be talking about doing these panels shortly after I was the literature chair I took a Pi position I was extremely passionate about carrying the message into the high schools and taking panels to middle schools and high schools this was my first opportunity to actually do some to be a committee chair which is kind of scary for anybody who did that for their very first time cracking open that workbook those crisp pages so many different things you could be working on but I was super excited to do that why my mom was in education she was able to introduce me to health and Wellness teachers around the Portland metro area and we were able to take regular presentations quarterly into many high schools in the Portland area which was super exciting we had young people speaking to high school students and it was just a cool opportunity I was super worried rotating out of that position because we had regular commitments and so I took the CBC chair because I was becoming more comfortable interacting with the administrators and the teachers that we were regularly speaking with so as the CPC chair I got the opportunity to really light a fire in myself for Alcoholics Anonymous it allowed me to build out a committee have people come with me and deliver these panels light the fire and Alcoholics Anonymous than I was afforded by being able to speak to these students it also was an opportunity to have such a large committee below me that I didn't have to do all these panels myself anymore I had the opportunity to go out and reach out to other professionals we were able to set up with Med students at OHSU and 2nd year Med students a luncheon learn where they were able to sign up to go to open a meetings and we were able to reach out to the clergy and do all the exciting things in Alcoholics Anonymous CBC work doesn't come easy at all it takes a lot especially as a young person I felt very uncomfortable as a 2526 year old reaching out to professionals when I wasn't a professional myself but I was in sales and I was very familiar with rejection so I was OK getting shut down by professionals that we reached out to them for service opportunities the one thing that I really learned in the committee work that I did is how organized we really have to be at the service committee level UM my nervousness of rotating out of that Pi position because I wanted continuity in our ability to continue to carry the message into the high schools was so exciting for that to disappear was scary and I believe that we need to be as we're

rotating training the people below us making sure that we're introducing them to the context that we have that all the facilities that we're attending and making sure that they know who they are I think it's extremely important that we're organized because we need to know where we're going who we're talking to when we get there for me it was what was I supposed to be wearing to one of these panels like I didn't know that type of stuff I needed to learn those things in Alcoholics Anonymous the speaking at non AA meetings really applied to me and so for me committee work is it was just so exciting and I think that's a huge responsibility for us as Alcoholics I think at the group level are my Home group had the opportunity to yeah OK uh my Home group had the opportunity to create a liaison position for the Pi and CPC committees as a previous Pi and CBC chair and I think at that time was a DCM for our district I knew how scary it was to be that committee of one there was so much work to be done and doing that as one person is very hard and so just having one other person show up to your meeting and gain momentum was exciting and so I think as groups creating these positions to be able to help out the CBC chairs at the district and at the area is extremely important as the PIN BC chair I was both at Oregon area 58 we were able to get the CPC chairs from all the districts together and make sure that we had a committee that was actively working on this I think it's been said before I think I think PICC is underutilized in Alcoholics Anonymous and that is my experience with it it's not the sexiest treatment and corrections um I think it's pretty sexy I love it it's it is a passion um but I think the ultimate the ultimate responsibility is to us as members we all have professionals in our lives we have the opportunity to we have a family doctor or we have an HR manager we have somebody in our life that we can carry the message to if there are doctor they've probably seen our lives changed in dramatic ways we're supposed to be anonymous at the level of press radio and films but it's our responsibility and encouraged to have those open conversations the dialogues with the people that are in our lives so they know that Alcoholics Anonymous is here when we need it or when they need it and you know they might be the we might be the only big book that that doctor ever reads I think that that is our responsibility and us as members carry this message in a way that no committee can ever do so I think the ultimate responsibility when it comes to this work with professionals is working individually and carrying that message on that on the professional level so I think that's all I got thanks Joe that was great.

Our next presenter is Sue B. her topic is other fellowships and recovery programs cooperation without affiliation in 2026 hi I'm Sue I'm also proud to be the area 72 Western Washington CPC chair and I my sobriety date is today 2014 thank you my Home group is Saturday morning attitude of gratitude and I'm not going to say anything that's new here we had similar topics but I think I'm going to reiterate and drive home what everybody's been saying and I want to begin with a sentence that might feel uncomfortable professionals don't understand a in 2026 it's not their failure it's ours to repair and let me explain why I believe that in the early days in Akron sister Ignatia she worked at Saint Thomas hospital and doctor Bob Smith worked with Alcoholics Anonymous and they shared a problem sick Alcoholics who needed help so they cooperated the hospital provided medical detox A provided peer support and a spiritual program of recovery but they did not merge they did not Co brand they did not create joint governance they cooperated without affiliating and because they understood that distinction Alcoholics lived non affiliation protects a cooperation extends it both matter when we talk about cooperation with the professionals we also have to mention Marty Mann Marty understood early that staying sober was not enough the world needed to understand alcoholism differently she built bridges to physicians educators and the media and she helped professionals see Alcoholics as people who could recover and that spirit became what we now call cooperation with the professional community or CBC and here's the hard truth that landscape is changed In recent AA membership surveys only

about 4% of members report that a health professional introduced them to a just a few years earlier that number was 6 or 7% and that might not sound dramatic but when professional referrals represent a shrinking slice of how people find us visibility matters as we heard also at the same time there's a decline modest decline in our overall membership and we can't necessarily claim direct causation many factors affect membership culture demographics technology COVID but here's what we can say when fewer professionals mention a fewer suffering Alcoholics know that it's an option and here's the statistic that should bring urgency according to national data more than 90% of people with alcohol use disorder receive no treatment at all in a given year and that means that the overwhelming majority of people suffering never reach treatment they never reach mutual help and they never reach recovery support of any kind and that's not a problem and that's not the hospital's problem and it's not some other recovery programs problem that's a shared human problem and that's our common ground recently a non-alcoholic teacher who invited us into her middle school health class she suggested it might help her get approval to hang a poster in her classroom if we listed multiple recovery options not just a she was thoughtful she's hugely helpful and supportive she just did not understand affiliation and at that moment it taught me something if we don't clearly explain who we are other people will fill in the blanks another professional told me that at her hospital she rarely hears doctors recommend a anymore most of them don't even think it works but here's the irony they see the relapse cases they see the emergency room patterns crisis they don't see the quiet long-term recoveries they don't see this monster calls it 10:00 PM or the grandmother who picks up their grandchildren sober they don't see the small business owners celebrating 15 years they definitely don't see all of us here today because when a works it's invisible and when we're invisible myths grow the research doesn't support these math major systemic reviews including work from the Stanford and Cochrane collaboration they found their participation in AA and 12 step facilitation produces rates of sustained abstinence that are comparable to and in some cases higher than other treatment options AA is not outdated it's not unstudied it's not irrelevant but if professionals don't know that and whose responsibility is it if professionals don't understand a in 2026 that's not their fault or failure it's ours to repair so let's be clear that affiliation would mean shared governance legal ties joint branding public identity is 1 entity and that's not what we do it's not what we should do because affiliation blurs responsibility affiliation pressures AA to promise outcomes it was never designed to promise affiliation compromises our spiritual independence but cooperation is active cooperation means we introduce ourselves we learn the language that the professionals use we understand current research we clarify what a is and is not we show up when we're invited and then we go home having stayed true to ourselves and here's the distinction not affiliation is a boundary cooperation is a behavior a boundary without behavior it just becomes isolation and isolation does not serve the still suffering alcoholic recovering in 20 recovery in 2026 is diverse many people try multiple pathways some find us later some find us first some believe it or not recover without us we're not the entire ecosystem of recovery but we are a vital part of it confidence in who we are allows us to cooperate generally generously we don't need to compete we don't need to dilute and we don't need to affiliate but we do need to engage because when over 90% of people with alcohol use disorder received no help at all the this cooperation could look like this we share a mission with professionals fewer people dying more people recovering now that's common ground So what do we do we rebuild relationships intentionally we reach out to one hospital one clinic 1 school District 1 counseling office we share accurate information not slogans we remember Marty Mann we remember Akron remember we remember that cooperation has always been part of a survival and we take responsibility for our narrative because visibility matters clarity matters and lives depend on whether somebody hears about AA's adoption so I'll

end where I began if professionals don't understand AA in 2026 that's not their failure it's ours to repair non affiliation protects us cooperation propels us and when we practice both with integrity AA stays AA and alcoholic still find us thank you.

And presenter 5 is Larry S with the topic of Corrections and treatment our facilities still opening doors to a ohh good morning good afternoon they shouldn't let me go fast or last I'm over here rewriting my screen because that's like ohh yeah there's that so my topic is corrections and treatment facilities still opening the doors to A and I'm going to focus on the corrections aspect as I know it so thank you for the opportunity process the committee for me to participate tonight my name is Larry and I am an alcoholic my sobriety date is April 7th 1993 and my Home group is the way out group in Mesa AZ way out I am currently serving area Arizona area 3 as the yellow area delegate I'd like to start with a simple reality alcoholism does not stop at present in fact for many who enter the correctional facilities alcohol has been a part of their story for years sometimes decades it may have shaped relationships employment health and eventually the decisions that led to their incarceration question are correctional facilities still opening the doors to A and why it matters in the treatment of alcoholism in 1942 warden Clinton Duffy at San Quentin asked nearby AA AA's to carry the message into the present he was heard to say that if the a program will help just one man I want to start it we and a are very blessed to have area and local correctional committees working together to provide resources and volunteers to carry that message to the confined Alcoholics and I know there are scores of you in the room today and thank you for many years AA meetings were almost synonymous with recovery divine bought behind bars today with modern therapies medical treatments and some changing philosophies the role of a may be evolving look a little closer so alcoholism in corrections why this matters alcoholism remains one of the most common substances used among incarcerated populations many individuals report being under the influence of alcohol when their offences occurred like I have heard many people say in the rooms I may not have gotten in trouble every time I drank but every time I got in trouble I'd been drinking and unlike some drugs alcohol is legal socially accepted and widely available and as we full know well it's often makes alcoholism harder to recognize or hide or easier to hide so when someone enters a jail or prison they don't leave the alcoholism so are we simply confining people or can we give them a real chance at recovery why a became so important for decade decades the answer inside of many facilities was simple bring in a the reasons made some sense it cost almost nothing volunteers were willing to come inside facilities meetings could be held anywhere a classroom a Chapel or any other common area more apparently AA offered something powerful which is Alcoholics talking honestly to other Alcoholics no hierarchy just people saying I've been when you where you are or sure could have been for individuals who often felt judged or isolated that message can be transformative when someone hears another person describing losing control over their alcohol and that story sounds exactly like their own something shifts shame begins to loosen and hope becomes possible and in correctional perception settings that matters even more because incorrect and incarceration can strip people of identity and control AA meetings often restore the sense of dignity and the idea that recovery is still possible even behind bars and when someone leaves and incarceration that continue unity can be lifesaving I knew that word but yesterday a person released on Monday can attend an AA meeting Monday night that bridge matters are the doors still open that that that the short answer is yes turn on that yellow light so I can really speed up I can talk a little bit about this topic in Arizona many correctional facilities still welcome a volunteers and hold regular meetings

however many do not it varies vastly by facility and jurisdiction the area 3 corrections committee is working hard to establish relationships with corrections officials who make these decisions and also to develop an advocate the purpose of the Arizona area corrections conference is to encourage and improve cooperation between Alcoholics Anonymous and the congressional correctional professionals who administer the facilities the goal of a fractions and Arizona for 2026 and 27 it will be to explore ways to help A to improve recidivism the overall theme for this rotation is break the chains no going back at the Arizona State prison wet zone complex new near Tucson there is an egg a group called sons of serenity group we are very welcome at this state prison the CEO and the deputy warden both say having a group inside makes their jobs easier and they thank us for coming in this is a registered a group which holds pure lead meetings it is not a panel that brings in a meeting out from the outside they have their own GSR and an alternate GSR who is not incarcerated and that person is in the room today yeah isn't that awesome they communicate the group's conscience to the area and to a as a whole our delegate goes into the prison and gives them an annual delegates report to the group the Tucson area intergroup is doing a corrections workshop with inmates participating on zoom this is only possible because we have a strong relationship with these corrections professionals 2 members of the corrections committee working on this conference are former inmates from that complex and have over 2 years sober another testament to the strong relationship between A and the wet stone complex is they allow former inmates to revisit the complex after two years of sobriety even if they are still on paper so our facility is still opening the doors to a yes and they all bring seemed to be opening more doors overall the key seems to be the relationship fostered with the corrections professionals people from recovering from alcoholism need connection and a continues to provide that pro incarceration and after when it comes to alcoholism the goal is and just released from prison it's thank you my name is Larry Stanley and I'm alcoholic thank you Larry um OK the floor is now open for sharing on the presentations there are two microphones on the floor I thought that there was 4 maybe there's only two now please line up and you will be selected one at a time I would like to remind everyone of the two-minute limit and four minute limit for those requiring interpretation the clock starts after you introduce yourself please do not come to the microphone for a second time until everyone else in line has had a chance to share first please keep your comments to the topic of this panel we invite Spanish speakers to come to the mic volunteer interpreters are available don't go ahead let's start here ohh there's no mic we'll come back to you in the back ohh OK just a second try again there we go I'm Robert I'm an alcoholic I'm from district 17 in area 7 West Sacramento or is my Home group you still a fellowship and yellow and yellow county you know we talked about you know outside help many Alcoholics have more than one affliction and I'm one of those and so I took this thing called dialectic behavioral therapy and in DBT they taught me that there can be two realities that seem to be opposed and they can exist at the same time but they both can be true so I want to offer two realities one reality is what we've heard tonight that in our membership is not grown and we face a lot of challenges but from my perspective I see also another reality and that was I got sober in 1994 and I went to a recovery house and at the time we used to make a joke that she spent \$2000 and they taught you how to go to AA and gave you a big book and there were quite a few recovery houses when I talked to other people that had the same strange now what was that what was that was happening but something else happened about that time this thing called proposition 36 so when I went back to volunteer they got well we got a couple of prop 36 beds well now Fast forward to now and you go back to those same facilities and their entire clientele comes from prop 36 or other government funded sources so there's the reality is that there's a huge recovery industrial complex that are taking members that we would

have had in a now I'm not saying that's good or bad I'm just saying I think that's the reality and we need to we need to acknowledge that recently I did a YouTube search for something and a speaker and I'm cheap and so I don't have a service where you don't get commercials so I get commercials right and it started forcing to feed of anti AA commercial so here's another here's another reality we have the same membership we did in in the 30s or in in 1993 that's a win there's so much opposition to a you know we get called a religious organization we have Celebrate Recovery thank you we'll come to the front now my name is Jeff and I'm an alcoholic hi Jeff the area 93 chair and I love the fact that we're talking about this topic because confession time I know that our local groups are not doing CPC like actually doing it we talk about it our committee is will meet about it but we're not actually doing it right and we have addressed the problem with the technology and the reaching out to making ourselves accessible online but again we don't participate like there's a you'll see these Flyers on your tables right now the ATW national a technology workshop most people have never heard of it your central office isn't intergroups can go to this and learn how to take care of these issues but there's also the ICOA meets every year it's the intergroup central office AA world services shows up a Grapevine shows up and we communicate on how we're addressing these kinds of problems are we accessible and reachable online how are we conducting our business in the office how do we keep contributions of everything to do with the central office we deal with right there and people are working on these things but you'd be surprised how few people go to these two sessions and I think part of that is because like bill would say that we're tight fisted right is that we don't want to we don't want to spend the money to send them so the ICOA is coming up November 5th through the 8th San Antonio TX send your inner groups thank you thank you please I'm Michelle I'm an alcoholic uh this is my first process I am absolutely blown away the chairs are so comfortable thank you area 17 this room is beautiful I want to give a massive thank you to every single person who has spoken on our panels today I am blown away uh you guys have shared so beautifully a message that I'm really excited to integrate and take back to my district and to my Home group um and I forgot what I was going to say so here I am with my notes OK I have so first I wanted to say I over 7 years ago my therapist introduced me to A and I just wanted to try and stop drinking for a little bit I was just going to try a for a little bit and see how it went and seven years later I haven't found it necessary to take a drink so thank you to my therapist for that and I did have a question about bringing meetings into jails I have never been arrested and a friend asked me hey do you want to take a meeting into a jail with me and I feel apprehension that someone in jail if I go into the jail won't connect with me because I've never been arrested or been in their position and so I wanted to bring that question to the person who spoke about that thank you thank you in the back hi everybody my name is Don I'm an alcoholic from area 42 district 6 DCM uh I want to thank the panel for carrying that message with enthusiasm but while still presenting the reality of the data that we have from the scene from the membership survey I said that at a recent service assembly and it was like everybody the wind had been sucked out of the room when I told people that a had not grown and everybody kind of got this down face and you know I love when we're able to carry a realistic message with positivity because I was taught to be real and authentic in a that's where I found the real me so thank you for doing that drew I agree with what you said bill W says in our great responsibility our message won't change but the way we communicate will be very clearly states that message and every college colleges are teaching people AI prompt as a course that's a reality to the current right now our current condition and so the more we can look to how we see that because that membership survey also told us that most people don't get to a until they're 45 when they actually get here and stay sober and so the opportunities that we create for ourselves through utilizing this technology I mean they figured out how to do PSA's when TV became more prominent you know a was willing to

change then and like if I hadn't made the biggest change in my life, I wouldn't be standing in front of you at my 5th PRAASA you know change can be scary, but change can also give us the most opportunity for the greatest thing so drew definitely want to get your number thank you for all your message thank you for the process committee this is incredible appreciate it thank you back to the corner yeah my name is Brent I am an alcoholic come from San Mateo County that's district 05 area 06 thank you for saying I'm saying things that I've been trying to say for quite some time our PICC P well first of all I put my foot in PICC about a decade ago and it just won't come off its stuck but one of the things I've been working on since our committee was pretty much decimated by COVID I was reminding our groups exactly what was shared and that is that our professional community if they don't know who and what we are that is our fault and one of the things I like to talk about is there's a statistic that I believe was 2012 pointed out the 2/3 of the people who come into the rooms OK I do so at the suggestion of a non a person who informs that non a person you know our PICC folks that's who and I also pointed out the observation I've been doing that for some of our larger groups pointing out the observation that our membership is shrinking you know and I didn't realize until it was pointed out for and percentage wise how badly it's shrinking but is that any surprise then when I pointed out the reluctance in our county to participate in PICC we've been begging people to participate for years nobody's showing up and so I kind of got in a passionate play and pointed out there that you know is it any surprise we're shrinking man and then that worked it actually got some people motivated unfortunately people show up in a lot of instances like that ready to go and the and the response to their what do I do now is find something to do OK and real quick just respect to the message in the jails I'm also blessed to be our league coordinator for seven meetings we take in a month we share the message not the mess those people don't want to hear your ship they want to hear the hope that we carry and the hope is that there is hope that that that there is the message so don't worry if you haven't got a big mess carry the message thank you I just want to let everyone know that the panel will end in about 15 minutes and that will go as much as we can through the people in line thank you go ahead please I love when you make it to the mic it's fun stuff hi Aaron I'm an alcoholic I'm representing an area 72 I will be honest I came to very specifically listen to sues you did a great job girl that was awesome she said something extremely important and that I appreciate that she said yeah it means a lot and it resonates a lot with me is that it is not the professionals responsibility to know about us it is our responsibility to let them know what's going on with us right and ohh some of the things too is that you know the professional community what did she say when they when a is working we're invisible and unfortunately when we're not working properly we're not invisible things do happen and things do leak out that affect the professional community right we had a lawsuit to try to get the original manuscript and then had to pull back because the fellowship said hey what are we doing that is out of line and that looked bad to the professional community lawyers question what AI is doing Linda Cheatham who is a chair a Class A trustee came from the professional community as a very highly respected and honored judge and she was forced to resign and that affected the professional community and they questioned what we're doing you know when a is working properly and working correctly we would we would do yes we make mistakes it happens we're human I get that but we have a program not individually do we just do our step work but as a whole in our groups all the way down to New York we should be doing our step work program and then an amends would need to be made a true inventory would need to be made thank you thank you please Sir hi everybody Bob alcoholic so I'm the chair of the Santa Clara County PICC committee um so I was at a processor one time and was I was sitting at dinner with some past delegates and they were talking about all this and they said if we spend as much time and I've said

this before maybe you remember you saying this if we spend as much time with PICC as we do trying to change the wording in pamphlets, we'd have a lot more members than a so the those our committees are limitless on what we can do the only thing that's stopping us is not having enough people, so we need all you people in here to be making announcements that we all need reps we need people doing this stuff I go to meetings all over the place it doesn't have to be my Home group I could never have been in the meeting before I go up and ask the secretary can I make a Pi announcement and they always say yes and I make one and I just I'm just relentless I just keep going around doing this all the time we really need to be pushing and working on trying to get more people working at a booth in a PICP thing it's just fantastic it is sexy it's a blast and you really a lot of the times you just you know make people aware of the meeting guide or something like that but sometimes you get involved with some really amazing conversations with absolute strangers that Spiller guts out to you so get involved with this and get the rest of the fellowship excited about this stuff we are actually doing quite a bit of stuff in Santa Clara County but we could be doing more there's nothing we could have a once a month we could have a booth in front of a library yeah there's a bunch of libraries around where we are there's it's just limitless on what we could do thank you thank you in the back and Tammy and I'm alcoholic I'm from area 72 district 43 in Seattle WA I want to say congratulations happy birthday sis that's awesome um thank you to the panel I relate to so much of it I am currently I'm GSR at my Home group but I do go into the prisons twice a week and they tear their own meetings incarcerated individuals they have their we have Queens we have papers we have printed out so that we can give them coins for their birthday they tear the meetings we do we read the book I came to a for women that's how I found a so I go back and I share the message 20 years later and last summer I was able to do a first step I went through 8 and do all 8 steps with a bunch of volunteers and incarcerate individuals in one day it was absolutely amazing 20 years later being released from there it was the biggest step for me to see the change in the women's faces when they came in and when they left it was absolutely the biggest gift you know I give back where I can you know and PSI and CBC I've also done those service positions we are at a point right now where a lot of people don't want to show up and help you know and it's like so I want to get numbers and your presentation so I can take it back home and give them ideas so that we can you know continue to do this thank you thank you we have time for two more in the back an alcoholic area O2 Alaska anchorage AK alternate delegates and I'd like to comment on the taking the message into treatment centers and many of the people coming into a now coming from some kind of a treatment center rather than walking through the door on their own and what we found is that when people aren't treatment centers they a lot of them form a camaraderie with the other members in there and that kind of working one other helping one another and so in anchorage what we're doing we go in seven days a week to various treatment centers we go into a symbiotic institute we go into rescue missions we go into cold weather shelters and have a man speaker shared the message of a fellowship that see when these people get out many of them go right back to the same friends same neighborhood and they're right back on America so by taking the message in there it's giving them another chance of fellowship with people so they can get the message and it it's very effective I think and we keep doing it so thanks for letting me share it thank you hello my name is Doris I'm an alcoholic area 8 San Diego San Diego so I thought bilingual Espanol yeah OK I'll do both I wanted to say thank you to all the speakers and thank you very much for every person who came before me thanks to you I am here I did receive the message through my therapist and my psychologist and while I was in

treatment OK Las gracias A todos Los veteranos Silas personas vieron a un status  
amendment therapist and musicologo which has gracias and I also am here because I have a

message from an incarcerated member a member they have an A group I just started volunteering  
at Donovan prison a federal prison in San Diego and then I have a message for all of you yes, so  
you keep porque apenas impasse uh well as her voluntaria an una prison federal la Donovan and in  
in San Diego entanglements Uno de Los miembros de El Grupo Los nueva Esperanza Grupo  
registrado and oppression and it says getting the help by volunteers is one of the solid  
cornerstones because it shows the highest level of humility that's what give him back is to give  
back hope to those who lost hope while being incarcerated it's a selman saheb camera video  
celestra Hera recibira yuda de voluntarios ES Uno de Los pilares mas solidos porque de muestra  
El nivel mas Alto de milda moreso de volvera recibido estaline portante direct speranza aquinos  
loan perdido mientras estamos encarcelado so to me that phrase was so important because I  
never in a million years would think I would go into a prison full of men pajamas as their own  
service an una precision Jenna de hombres and I thought I was going to carry the message to them  
and they actually carried the message to me yoyo pensando mucho fregona keyless if we  
complete a mental Revis use my pasaron events like me so thank you very much for all the work  
that all of you have done everyone who came before me thank you delete this column thank you  
we are out of time for this panel for those who wanted to share but did not get an opportunity there  
is a what's on your mind session on Sunday morning at 7:00 AM also please be sure to put your  
questions in the delegate ask it basket throughout the weekend so there are plenty of questions  
for the 11 AM on Sunday the Ascot basket will be available until 8:45 AM on Sunday please join me  
in thanking the presenters there