

What I always love dearly about her was whenever we would sit in a round table she would go Bob here the scribe take the notes and darn it I always did so with love and Aloha, please welcome Riley our Pacific regional dialect trustee Riley, Aloha welcome to PRAASA this is the most wonderful service assembly in the world my name is Riley and I'm an alcoholic I am privileged to serve you as the Pacific regional trustee I want to give a big thank you to area 17 for hosting PRAASA on this beautiful island it's really been great so far so how many people are here at Rosa for the first time Oh my God welcome you don't know what you're doing here and I and I'm so glad that you're here to learn so welcome for you how many people have been in general service for less than 10 years holy cow I'm so glad you're here I'm not going to say anything that will help you I'm sure but just listen and it might come through in some way um I love PRAASA and I love the Pacific region I do hope that you find some information this weekend to take back home and share with your groups you've already gone to the different panels you've heard a lot of presentations that are well researched informative and put together by trusted servants with a lot of experience and also Kenyans the Pacific region delegates have a well-deserved reputation can you hear me OK I'm all right if you can't hear me then say something the Pacific region delegates have a well-deserved reputation of being the most informed delegates at the conference these are your delegates who care deeply about Alcoholics Anonymous would you stand up please our delegates stand up thank you thank you for your service thank you for your maintenance I love you guys I'm so glad that you're here representing your areas for the Pacific region yeah these delegates care deeply about Alcoholics Anonymous they're willing to put their personal opinions to the side to make sure that the collective group conscience of their area is informed and well served and I thank you for your service So what am I doing here well I was Pacific regional trustee I have no position in process I serve on the general service board of trustees but it's not a representational position I don't represent you I don't vote for you I just find you I go to your areas and I talk to you and I listen to you that's what I do there is I have no committee to vote for I have no delegation of authority what I do to the board is I bring the flavor of the of my region to the board and we the Pacific region is one of the most wildly inclusive regions in AA and there is a lot of flavor to drink and I do that to the best of my ability to not to represent you but to present you to make sure that they know that there's a diverse area like Hawaii that's here working for and that's who they're working they are working for you the different areas each have their own flavor and I am so pleased to have been able to spend the last four years with each area for time to time now when we come to Hawaii we're encouraged to dress accordingly I'm a suit and jacket type and this is hard for me my last and longest husband loved to wear Hawaiian shirts and so all eight kids wore his shirts to his memorial service so last week when I was trying to find something at least colorful my daughter brought this this shirt to me and she said please wear daddy's shirt Bob passed away many years ago with 39 years of sobriety but he is apparently still is showing up everywhere process is very special to me I've been involved with process since I was on the host committee in 1971 and I went to the Hawaii process in 1978 but this is only my 29th process I can't make them all after the general service conference in April I will rotate off the general service board after four years of service to the Pacific region it has wait you may want to take that back it's been a wild ride some of it has been awful but every time I hear a story about how someone is

being able to change their life and help others I feel the joy of participating in this business of recovery and I think every one of you who do that you go home and you take care of business and you take the drunks off the streets and you put them in your their chairs in your groups and you make sure they stay there if you can and I know you do that because I hear you and I listen to you today I'm feeling immensely grateful to you all for trusting me to stay sane and sober long enough to be useful I was drafted into the general service almost 60 years ago and I've been active ever since in this year I was celebrating 60 years of sobriety I want to thank you for all you've given to me now there were a lot of surprises serving as a board trustee I grew up in the area in Southern California hanging out with past delegates and trustees they talked a lot they were a social bunch our homes were open to each other groups celebrated sobriety with food and meetings and a members gathered everywhere we didn't talk on the phone because even calling across town was long distance and expensive some of you just can't believe that but thank goodness for cell phones now we can talk to anyone anywhere for hours at a time it's just lovely so back then nobody knew we were coming so we just showed up at each other's house our doors were open we just came in and we talked to each other typically we had a car full of newcomers with us and now I know that in those early years trustees and delegates may have had more time to be social they weren't constantly in virtual meetings even bill communicated with us by letters and responses took time I was surprised to find that although trustees are social people's trustee business is not a social activity there isn't time to get to know each other as we move from room to room on board weekends or when we dash offline and on again to join the next meeting I know I know now than I had expected a return to the old days of friendly debates and endless questions that changed when the world shut down I came on the general service board in 2022 just as we started to come back together after two years of isolation I missed social interaction so much I wanted my new community to be my friends I wanted to know who they are and how they think I expected the social interaction that I'd been used to we used to gather to talk about what's happening in a in in just casual groups and we talked about what we could do for service that's exciting and encouraging and how we can grab somebody else and bring them into this exciting world of sobriety and service the last six years have been the loneliest time I've ever experienced in sobriety my solution though because I always have one is to find one Home group that I don't miss for any reason unless I'm traveling even though I travel a lot but if I'm in town last Tuesday I got off the plane after 15 hours of traveling and drove to my Monday night meeting or was it that was Monday I must have been on the plane then I don't even know what month it is or day it is anymore they all merged together but that group is my lifeline and when I they don't expect me to be there because they know I'm traveling but when I walk in they all say welcome back and people have been saying to me to welcome back for 60 years and they're still doing it because I keep coming back wherever I am I try to take advantage of every opportunity to talk to someone new for a few minutes at each meal I try to sit with different people so when I'm when I'm with you when I'm sitting at your table or in your area or at a GSR or get together show me your puppy pictures and your cat videos tell me about your grandchildren this gives me that spiritual connection that bridges the gap between what we do and who we are I thought at first that instant electronic communication would allow us to work faster did you yeah but instead of making a 5 minute phone call we schedule an hour meeting we decided not to have hallway conversations and only talk if everyone is included so it takes a week to schedule a meeting virtual mean preparation takes a lot of time arranging organizing researching writing reports reading reports and getting partially addressed also time zones have no respect for meal times we all feed ourselves between

or during meetings there are five time zones in the Pacific region alone so we have to make sure that the right time zone is always shown or will miss a meeting which sometimes we would like to do in claim time zone and deficiency but we're getting pretty good at knowing when to show up the group conscience of the of the board changes with every rotation committees rotate in April staff rotate rotates in July delegates rotate in January it's hard to keep up with who is your immediate group conscience if you get upset with something though wait a little while and a whole new group conscience will rotate in I traveled through the Pacific region and I talked to everyone I can I always want to know how your groups are doing how newcomers are finding my party thank you OK thank you what's in my room it's a long walk I love the Pacific region so I always want to know how your groups are doing how newcomers are finding meetings and how you maintain unity through changes if your group experiences conflict well so does every other group so I'm here don't let conflict rule your life that's important talk it out ask your elder statesman to share an experience ask other members for guidance ask at your district in the area and call your delegate who will then often call me we all share the load and we all have something to offer if you've got a problem different perspectives and one of them will fit host a workshop or a sharing session have a special meeting bring food some groups have shifted away from being living some social sharing organisms toward individual recovery groups meet in homes or online they may study the latest popular book that it's serviced on social media instead of the old reliable a books time to remind you that every group is autonomous but if you do use non AA literature just tell them that it's non AA literature and then read it if it helps districts are having a hard time keeping the essential line of communication open between groups who don't see the value in community in rural areas like mine there's a pattern of individuals to move away from Home group participation to contribute directly to the general service board and to reduce district support if there's confusion in your area about the difference between a meeting and a group read the pamphlet the a group let me remind you of the third tradition our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism hence we may refuse none who wish to recover nor are they a membership ever depend upon money or confirmative any two or three Alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves in a group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation you can't start a Home group you get a chance to choose one from any group you want you can visit all of them and decide which one fits you and join it make that home your Home group there's an old adage that says all you need to start a group is a coffee pot and a resentment that's not true no one person can start a group you've seen him trying you have to at least have a friend with the same resentment you have to be able to break off and go somewhere you can sit and agree with each other but according to the third tradition it takes two or three people to make a group now if my math is correct less than two people is only one and that's a very unstable group conscience there's a couple of questions that you can you can ask people if they're confused 1 is do you know when you're in a meeting of a Home group the second question is do you know when you are not in an AA group meeting those all need answers and we need to we need to ask those I haven't figured out what we can do to increase unity out of this tendency to separate so I've just started talking a lot more about tradition one and about group conscience for one thing it's constantly changing as members leave or arrive the general service conference becomes a new group conscience every year as delegates and trustees rotate so never there is never a conference the same as another conference I'm constantly reminded that one person is no important then the next one may be louder or newer or braver but no one has more importance every one of us has a concept of a power greater than ourselves and maybe just a vague idea maybe a nothing and maybe the electricity and maybe

anything maybe it's a firm religious belief but whoever we are and whatever we believe in we bring that personal contact with us into every meeting and into the conference we have an inclusive and robust discussion then which you can look forward to you first timers it'll be fun and then after if things get a little hairy or a little long then we start realizing that all those higher powers that we each carried in they're talking to each other and so I know that whatever is decided it won't come from any one person but from all of us together so I believe in the conference and I believe with every person going into the conference that they step in there with their own higher power and that's who goes to the conference for you before be sure you tell them what you what you think about the agenda items and then know that the higher powers are in there duking it out with each other The ultimate decisions of these higher powers may result in an action that will one day save lives so just let him do it I see the result of tradition too at work in board committee meetings this is my fourth and last year as a trustee and the workload is much lighter now than it was since I'm not a director on a WS I serve on committees from currently serve on nominating conference and finance I chair archives compensation and the ad hoc on report and charter it's a new committee each committee has been doing a lot of cost cutting I have never seen so much effort in budgeting as we've done this year just to keep up with rising costs from outside our own control we still get comments from members who are worried about the level of the reserve fund like we won't send more contributions until you put back what the pandemic took out or I can't make the math work on that one sorry I also can't work out the perspective of we shouldn't have spent the money to move Grapevine into digital we should have let it die I can't we might need it no you shouldn't have taken out the money to save the Grapevine we might need it someday I've heard them but we don't have any control over contributions and the rest of the fellowship is trying to help take up the slack for those who are uh are using their rights I wonder I wonder though there's some groups are not done you know we have if we if we got lower contributions we try to get some more books sold and that's not happening either so I wonder if some groups are waiting for a new edition of the big book they know then they know it's in the in the works we just don't know exactly when it's happening so maybe that's what they're waiting for it'll be talked about in the conference but in the meantime we're still selling 4th editions and we have them stocked in an in in a in a warehouse we have all our books that that aren't currently going out we put them in a warehouse and we pay fees for that just so you know you could buy up a lot of books and give them away to people who don't have any yet reduce inventory warehouse costs give away some books make some books sales win win well the whole world is still bugging building back and our groups are finding ways to stabilize with higher costs it isn't as easy to find places to meet as it used to be online groups have equipment to maintain and they have meeting costs rent coffee equipment insurance now sending a GSR to area assemblies these basic basics are covered by your group 1st men are just trying to break even at home and still put what they can in the basket and bring their own coffee to meetings my own traveled aboard is to board meetings is reimbursed with your basket dollars I stay aware of that by packing a lunch for those 15 hour travel days and I bring my own snacks well I'll get creative when we're trying to help I bring bagels along for breakfast hotels they're cost cutting so they don't offer microwaves any more so every morning I iron a bagel the last four years have been hard I haven't been available to those I love and want to help I knew that going in I traveled thousands of miles in four years on nearly 105 day weekends I knew that going in I've been encouraged to speak up and told to keep silent I've faced heavy pressure from every side of many questions from people I love I don't sleep several good friends have died during this term and I couldn't go to any

of their the memorials my brother died my sister had a stroke my cat died and I've taken about 100 personal inventories and emerged a much better person than I was when you elected me this isn't the talk I wanted to give I wanted to talk about the reserve fund and how you shouldn't be worried the reserve level will grow and then it'll reach 1012 months and then we'll have to spend start spending on it like crazy and then we'll argue over what to spend it on so that's coming later I wanted to caution you to remember that when you asked the conference for something that's you are the conference so be prepared to offer what you're willing to Andy up to provide it I wanted to tell you about the committees I serve on and how much fun I've had forming a new ad hoc committee for report and charter actually get something new to do in and the responsibility that I haven't had before and it's been the most wonderful part of the of the last four years the best part is going to your areas I never forget that I wanted to tell you about the fabulous new Class A trustees were blessed with they are wonderful I still don't know why they're there we're wiggled through this because it's life and death they do it out of love for us and for the same people that we're trying to save we're both we're both classes are there for the same reason they just got I don't know where they get that but their love is immense I wanted to ask you why you're upset about paying for an office for the people who work at TSO there's a location plus report in the 2024 final conference report that shows much of the work that went into the search for office space and every delegate got a copy of the detailed report so you know how who to ask if you still got questions the actual motion was to accept or not the professionals recommendation after that study was done so how would you have voted faced with that motion you don't know I don't know I know how I voted but you don't know how you would have voted it had all the detail behind exactly what it would cost what the alternatives were would you have voted no let's move into this street let's fire everybody they don't know wouldn't happen we would have done something but we did what we did every motion is deliberated and researched and we do our best to find answers I also wanted to remind you that the general service board does not run the corporate offices responsibility lies with the authority of the corporations those group services you asked for and then and then you approve it the conference your group also pays for that do you need more translations pamphlets service materials financial reports analytics well if you ask for something new GS will provide it if they can we're all on the same side we only have one job each one of us here to provide enough services so your groups can keep helping drunks find sobriety I have so much to tell you about I'm not done yet but I'm done for today and now I look out at your faces as I prepare to say goodbye I see I see your love I feel your commitment and I think of all the wonderful people I've met and talked to and wish I could remember your names 60 years ago I asked my sponsor he was a man of few words if I could ever be someone important in a he said no so I asked him what I could do for a he said be there and that's the only thing I've ever been able to do I've been to your groups listen to your complaints shared my hope and experience with you I've been there every day for the last four years whether I wanted to or not I probably have not accomplished anything significant but I hope I've been able to share my gratitude for a traditions and concepts that have changed the world and a steps that have changed me I ever did was show up and share what I believe in thank you for my life

