



# CNCA COMMENTS



A.A. Confidential -- September 2015  
[www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org)

**California Northern Coastal Area of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Preview of the Area Committee Meeting**  
**September 2015**

What a Summer Assembly that was! It was with great fun that we gathered in Petaluma on August 1st at the Petaluma Veteran's Hall for the 2015 Summer Assembly hosted by Districts 12 and 18. Thank you both for a fabulous time.

At our Area Committee meeting there was an amendment to the Assembly bid by District 3 and 40 to change rooms at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds in hopes of not having competitive noise during the breakout sessions of next year's summer assembly. The amendment increased the bid by \$700. This amendment passed with no objections. At this point, all assemblies for Panel 65 are filled. This means that Panel 67 dates will be made available to the Districts to bid on future assemblies.

There was a housekeeping motion to replace PI/CPC's broken DVD TV at cost not to exceed \$150 which passed with no objections.

We were still not ready to vote on the BTG motion. Lots of loving discussion still. Kelly, Alt Chair of the BTG committee offered an internet link to some documents that might answer questions that some of our members still have. This link will be shared with all DCMCs who will share with their districts.

Ken M. gave us a presentation on Self Support which led to a discussion on how to share self support information with the groups. It was agreed to continue this vital discussion next month as well.

Now is the time to be thinking about inventory questions for our November assembly. Please submit your questions to any Area Officer.

In service and gratitude,  
Joann L.  
Panel 65 CNC Area Chair

**Please bring your FM Radios! To the Area Committee meeting and to all Assemblies!**

Hello Leaders of CNCA,

The 66th General Service Conference, will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Times Square, April 17-23, 2016. The theme of the 2016 General Service Conference is: "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts." Conference Coordinator sent out a request for theme, presentation and workshop topic suggestions for the 2017 General Service Conference. I will resend that to you in case you don't have it, for you to share it with your fellow members.

As I reported at the Summer Assembly, the new General Service Manager Greg T. was selected at the last General Service Board Meeting and he will start on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Annual Conference Report will be sent out on late summer.

Staff Rotation at GSO will take place on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015.

NCCAA is taking its inventory on October 31<sup>st</sup> in Fresno; members from CNIA 07 and CNCA 06 have been invited to facilitate the process. Everyone is welcome to participate, for more information go online: [norcalaa.org](http://norcalaa.org)

With **leadership** we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem in its very nature cannot be permanently solved.

I would like to share some of my story when I first came to AA. I was sober for three months, I was attending the afternoon meeting from 1 to 3 pm when I was invited to attend my very first business meeting. The meeting was from 8 to 10 pm, that night. We were electing the new secretary/chair to open the 1 to 3 pm meeting every day for six months. I was very surprised but more scared that no one was available. They asked for volunteers, they nominated people but no one raised their hand. I was so afraid, thinking that the group might close the doors, and my sobriety meant the whole world to me. I was just hired as a bartender and I was struggling with a lot of problems, but I had found a new way of life and I really wanted my group to continue with the afternoon meeting because it was the only one I could attend. So I made myself available, but everybody disagreed because they thought I was very new. Some even joked saying that I still smelled like alcohol, but after a long discussion and lack of volunteers, they gave me the key to open the place and I was granted with one of the most rewarding gifts in our program: the Legacy of (**Service**), that has been keeping me in the rooms of AA until now. I would like to mention though that every time that my service commitments almost come to an end my head tells me that this will be the last one, but when I share it with my sponsor, he suggests me to make myself available and allow the higher power to decide through the group conscience.

I want to thank you all for my sobriety, my life and for allowing me to be of Service.

Raymundo L.

### Looking for Something?

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## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 2015

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held August 22, 2015 at the Petaluma Community Center. Joann L. opened the meeting at 12:30, with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Joseph of District 13. Dan of District 70 read Tradition 8 and Julia of District 03 read Concept 8. There were 5 past delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Doug G. (Panel 53), and current committee member of GSO Literature Committee, David N. (Panel 59), and current non-trustee director of AAWS Board, Ken M. (Panel 61), and Padee M. (Panel 63). There was 1 GSR present and 1 new DCM present. The July 2015 minutes and financial report were accepted as printed in *CNCA Comments*. Birthdays: 133/11.

Registered attendance: Voting= 62, Non-voting= 53.

### Officer Reports

**DELEGATE Raymundo L.:** Sent out highlights from AAWS in English and Spanish. 57000 people attended the convention along with more than 4000 volunteers. We will be recording a video to Phyllis H. of the GSO wishing her well in her retirement as of October 2015. Final Conference report will be distributed by late August or early September. Currently AAWS literature is translated into 80 languages. The Big Book has been translated into 69 languages and 15 translations are pending. Greg M., past GS manager will be our facilitator for our inventory assembly on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE Phil B.:** Thank you to District 12 for a wonderful Summer Assembly. I am still praying for the Delegate's health.

**AREA CHAIR Joann L.:** We are looking for Inventory questions. If you have any ideas for questions, please give to any of the area officers. One addition from the assembly has been added to the lost and found.

**TREASURER Teddy BW:** Cash balance as of last month, \$7,658.71. We received \$8,772.84 in revenue, including \$2,201 from the buckets at the Summer Assembly. I have written \$8,078.51 in checks, leaving us with \$8,353.04 in the bank. I expect to write about another \$350 in checks today. This will leave us with around \$8k in the bank, plus our prudent reserve of \$9,194.39.

**REGISTRAR Ray W.:** I sent out new summer assembly totals. Totals did not change for the area, but the districts' numbers did. 430 attended: 247 voting, 183 non-voting, 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Summer Assembly. I am still getting return mail from the Comments, which tells me addresses have not been updated with the District Registrars. If you have GSR's or other officers that are no longer in service, I need to get a change form to show as vacant to remove from the mailing list.

**RECORDING SECRETARY Barbara S.:** Just wanted to thank my fellow officers for the time that I was allowed to spend with family this month. Thank you so much for taking some of the responsibilities.

**ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR Michael Q.:** Thank you District 12 and 18 for a wonderful assembly. Copies of English and Spanish inventory assembly flyers are on the table. This is a preliminary flyer and we will add the inventory questions next month. We are asking the Districts to please encourage their members and GSRs to submit suggestions for Area Inventory questions to any area officer. There will be an amended bid for the summer 2016 assembly from District 03 and 40.

This is a newer facility and we will have the amended bid today. We will be finalizing the dates for the 2017 Assemblies tonight at the Officers meeting and the dates will be posted in the Comments.

**LITERATURE/GV/LV Agustin L.:** New Grapevine book, "Forming True Partnerships," how the fellowship use the program to improve relationships. The Book will be available Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> by print and eBooks. Online subscriptions still available for \$20.00 through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Accepting stories for "Staying Sober Through Adversity", (due 9/11), "Our Old-Timers" (10/5) and "Relapsing" (Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>). You can send your stories to [www.grapevine.org/contribute](http://www.grapevine.org/contribute). LV is also asking for stories in Spanish, "Our General Service" (9/8), and "A.A. in Prisons" (1/4/16). New translation of the BB into Twi. 1,200 copies were printed in Twi language of Ghana. Also deadline for updated pamphlets stories, "AA for the Woman," and "Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic," and new pamphlet "Mental Health," all due by October 15, 2015.

### District Reports

**01 MONTEREY Susan G.:** We are experiencing turnover this month; we need a Secretary and Register. We had good discussion on Self Support.

**02 SALINAS/SAN BENITO Mark C.:** We are having planning meetings with the district officers. We are looking to clarify our roles, identify and prioritize areas of concern and apply solutions. We are looking forward to gaining some traction and some cohesion to develop into a more effective influence in carrying the message in District 04.

**03 SANTA CRUZ Jeff W.:** We will be submitting a revised bid with District 40 for the 2016 Summer Assembly. Changes in the layout required us to use a different space. Our ad hoc Website Committee presented their report at our last district meeting. Resulting in a housekeeping motion that was passed, "That the committee prepare a proposal and budget to create a new website for Santa Cruz County General Service."

**04 SANTA CLARA NORTH Eric L.:** We had a discussion on how to make meetings more accessible to members with special needs. Discussion on what happens to motions once/if they are defeated.

**40 SANTA CLARA SOUTH Miguel H.:** About 23 members of District 40 have submitted their stories for the updated pamphlets and new pamphlets at GSO. We are continuing with our monthly "stories writing workshop" prior to our monthly district meeting at 6:30. We will be amending our bid for the 2016 Summer Assembly due to the increase of \$700 to the last amount given.

**05 SAN MATEO Erica S.:** We had a great Unity Day and everyone was having a great time. There was an interest in all of the service committees in our district and there was a definite feeling of unity. We passed a motion to form an ad hoc committee every year to produce our budget. We are hoping this will make the process easier.

**06 SAN FRANCISCO Dennis H.:** We had a presentation on how to submit stories to GSO for the pamphlet updates. New Travel guidelines were presented. A number of friendly amendments were suggested to further clarify the intent. New guidelines will be presented next month.

**07 ALAMEDA NORTH Thomas V.:** Our meeting for August

## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

has not happened yet, so I will be reporting next month on two.

70 ALAMEDA SOUTH *Kathleen L.*: We had 2 elections for open positions. We passed a motion to send the BTG chair to the National Workshop. We also passed a motion to form an ad-hoc committee to review our district handbook and advise/recommend revisions. We will be performing district conscience next month on assembly motions.

08 CONTRA COSTA *Laura W.*: We are still discussing a motion to form a finance committee. We will be having our unity day and are in the process of planning this event. We will be making an effort over the next months to update and correct registrations of our groups and GSRs, using our new sub district worksheets.

09 SOLANO SOUTH *John M.*: We filled another DCM position and have a new PI/CPC chair. Our Unity Day will have the Delegate's Report along with two movies. Flyers on the table.

90 SOLANO NORTH *Evelyn O.*: Our officers have been trying to make the meetings more comfortable to new GSR's so they will be able to share their voice at District. Past officers are stepping up with willingness to help our present officers with their positions. Our district PI/CPC Chairperson will be participating in the BTG Forum.

10 MARIN *Chris H.*: We had a brief presentation on how to act at an assembly. We had a round table discussion filled on how important the DCM position is at district. We are working on the Pre-Conference Assembly in 2016.

11 NAPA *Mary S.*: We had no meeting in August due to conflict with the Summer Assembly. We are looking for a new PI/CPC chair, but the committee is keeping up with commitment for now.

12 SONOMA *Jennifer B.*: This year our intergroup is planning the Unity Day. We have started our inventory process for our District. We will be working on the questions over the next couple of months. Our Herbert Spencer motion failed but there was a motion to reconsider and we will continue the discussion next month.

13 LAKE *Joseph C.*: The program we started with the visiting officers to give a presentation on all the assembly motions, so the GSR's can get an informed group conscience.

14 MENDOCINO *Tim D.*: Our District showed great support at the Summer Assembly and it carried over to our District meeting. We furthered discussions on our financial guidelines and hopefully will have them ready for a vote next month.

15 HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE *Candida W.*: Absent

16 SPANISH CENTRAL *Reynaldo M.*: We had a great time at the assembly. We talked about the responsibility under Concept 9. We are working on our District's anniversary event. We will be providing translations.

17 SPANISH SOUTH *Benito C.*: We have been visiting all our groups. Sub district 01 is participating in meetings, sub district 002 is vacant.

18 SPANISH NORTH *Ramiro A.*: We will be having our District Anniversary next week. Flyers on the table. We will be providing translations. We will be working with District 11 for the Assembly. We are working also with District 10 for their assembly. We are glad to be of service. We also now have a person covering the BTG committee.

19 SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH *Fermin M.*: We talked about the stories needed for the pamphlet. Our Public Information had a roundtable event. We will be doing this event every month.

20 SPANISH EAST *Enrique E.*: We are still visiting groups and have been asked to share and answer questions. We will also be having workshops for stories for the updated pamphlets.

### **Area Sub-Committees**

ARCHIVES *Sheri W.*: Discussion about responsibilities of District Archives Chairs and how to better structure our monthly workdays in Walnut Creek. We were busy taking oral histories and rearranging furniture and books to make room for our new desk. During the process we discovered a broken vacuum cleaner. We will be making a HK motion to replace later today. We are also preparing to open registration next month for the National AA Archives Workshop in October 2016. We are working with the finance committee to open a check account to deposit the funds.

BRIDGING THE GAP *Bill B.*: 8 Districts reporting, 30 presentations, 199 requests for contacts and 6 letters received by Secretary. All needs have been met for the correspondence committee and all requests have been filled. You will be contacted direct from GSO if your service is needed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Russ A.*: We will begin using the new QuickBooks software next month after the treasurer has completed some balance sheet journal entries. Thanks to all the committee chairs for the thorough job done in completing budget worksheets for next panel. We have completed review and revisions of the financial reimbursement guidelines. Copies will be sent to the officers for review and we trust that we will be able to present the new guidelines in the next few months.

PI/CPC: *Phil B.*: The SF PI/CPC committee staffed the CPC booth at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> major convention we have had the privilege to attend. GSO has paid for both events and supplied all the AA approved literature. Thank you to all the volunteers that made themselves available. Today we had District Reports and sharing in the PI/CPC sharing session, which was followed by questions and answers. We had a new member from District 09 today at the meeting.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE *Cheryl G.*: We talked about the District updates and meeting links for all districts in English and Spanish. Still working on updated theme for the web and still working on the calendar. Working on new form page and will have a larger font to make it easier to read.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION COMMITTEE *Claudia N.*: We had discussions on the summer assembly. We are discussing radios and the needs of the area next month, along with inventory questions. We have received a few requests for equipment this month, both the Williams and FM transmitter for upcoming events at the end of this month along with the BTG Forum. Please ask as soon as possible if you will need to borrow our equipment. We will always do our best to serve our Districts and areas.

CNCA COMMENTS *Robin T.*: 969 Bulk Comments sent out this month, along with 43 First Class. Additional copies on

## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

table. Next mailing party September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ukiah Fellowship. COMENTARIOS DE ACNC *Manuel R.*: 190 copies made and 176 sent out. We have suggestions to revise the map to upgrade to the new numbers.

DCM SHARING SESSION *Linda T.*: Today we had presentations from several members sharing experiences at the International Convention in Atlanta. All were humble and full of gratitude. Highlights included the Flag Ceremony, the experience of being of service, the chair from the member from prison and the excitement. Next month we will have a presentation on "Taking a Group Inventory."

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VINA *Agustin L.*: We discussed getting members to write stories for the GV/LV. Some ideas were: hold a workshop to write stories, encourage to submit stories to help the next generation so reading the BB will make more sense to them. Get a partner and write stories together. There is something for everyone in our literature. Next month: "What can we do to win the GV/LV challenge this year."

NCCAA *Peter Murphy*: Our next event is October 30 – November 1 in Fresno. There are flyers on the table. We are working on getting a complete collection of the "Good News Newsletters." GSO, CNCA Archives and local offices are helping with this. What is available now is on our website, [www.norcalaa.org](http://www.norcalaa.org). There is also an interest in a local artist Peter R., who is also an AA member who contributed artwork and cartoons to the Good News in the 1960's. I am working with Santa Cruz archivist and Santa Cruz's central office to get more information.

H&I *Diane O.*: Our new General Chair has been busy appointing her new Steering Committee. Gary H. will be the new P.I. chair when all appointments are approved at our General Meeting October 11. He will be appointing someone to my position as your liaison. I will become the NCCAA Conference Coordinator, whose job it is to set up the H & I panel at the Conferences and to choose someone to share on the All Services Panel. We will also be taking our 2<sup>nd</sup> vote for approval of the new pink pamphlets. If approved by substantial unanimity, the new pamphlets will be in your hands. YPAA REPORT *Coventina W.* – SCCYPAA is having their 8<sup>th</sup> annual speaker meeting, Saturday 8/29. It starts at noon @ the Bowers Park, 2582 Cabrillo Ave, Santa Clara, CA. This will be co-hosted by CRUZYPAA. SCCYPAA has also been invited to share at the North Coast Hispanic Central Offices Anniversary on Saturday, September 5.

19<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LA VINA: *Jose A.*: 1200 new registrations for the GV/LV. We are still working on getting more subscriptions for this year. We had some problems with the CD's, and if you received one that does not work, please let us know and we will refund your monies.

### **Housekeeping Motions:**

**Motion:** "To purchase new 20" DVD-TV combo to replace damaged current 20" DVD-TX combo. Not to exceed \$150.00." – PICPC Committee

Q. What is this used for? A. It is used at assemblies and district events to show PI and other CPC messages. Q. What happened to the old one? A. It was returned damaged after it was borrowed.

No objection: << Motion Passed >>

**Motion:** "That the archives committee be reimbursed

\$141.04 for a replacement vacuum cleaner."

Q. What do you use this for? A. To clean the 4 rooms where the documents are stored. We should be doing this every month. The vacuum broke while we were cleaning under bookshelves. Q. Is this within your budget? A. This was not in the budget, but it does need to be replaced. Q. Since you already spent the monies, is this just a formality? A. No, we needed the vacuum to finish the moving of the furniture that day so we were out of the meeting room when the next meeting started.

No objections: <<Motion Passed>>

### **Assembly Bids:**

Districts 03/40 bid for the Summer 2015 Assembly on August 6, 2015 at Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. Total bid cost \$5,325.00. (This is an amended bid). This is a change to location and an increase of \$700.00.

<< Bid accepted by committee >>.

(Seventh Tradition and Break) 2:05 to 2:25 pm)

### **Area Business**

#### **Old Business:**

**Motion:** "That BTG Committee implement a pilot program offering short term correspondence with certain prison inmates, similar to the GSO Program for long term correction correspondence, using the BTG P.O Box to facilitate inmate volunteer communication. The pilot program is to be evaluated by the committee after an initial six month trial period. The results of the pilot program will be shared with ACM before consideration as a permanent program."

**Discussion:** I'm still not clear about the pilot program. At first my inclination was to trust our trusted servants, but at a gut level, this makes me a little nervous. Something does not feel right. I read over the discussions in the Comments and also the CNCA BTG workbook, along with the H & I booklets on policies and procedures and the Conference approved Corrections Workbook. If this motion is to start a local short term correspondence service only, this does not fall under the BTG statement of purpose, and without actually bridging the gap, I'm not sure I see the point. Correspondence with a local pre-released contact who also plans to take that person to a meeting upon release does fall under that purpose. There are sample letters available in the Corrections Workbook. Our discussion has been all over the place about if this letter is sharing experience, strength and hope or helping someone to get to a meeting. I'm still not clear what the purpose of this program is. We don't have Corrections at CNCA, we have H & I and they do things differently. My main concern is, the danger this may pose to the relationships BTG and H & I have with the correctional institutions, and by extension the AA groups that meet inside the institutions. Caution should be taken against a cavalier attitude about what volunteers or inmates may or may not choose to do in terms of letter content, sponsorship, etc. We can't control the alcoholics, but we can provide firm guidelines. If not, this could backfire in ways that affect the message being carried to countless others, who may never be released.// I do correction correspondence through NY. My experience has been that it is difficult to do, because the institutions' rules have to be followed. There is a reason why NY has us communicate

## Balance Sheet July 2015

California Northern Coastal Area

### Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of July 31, 2015

	Jul 31, 15	Jul 31, 14	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
B of A Checking	8,748.01	16,381.74	-7,633.73	(46.6%)
B of A Savings	9,192.67	9,485.16	-292.49	(3.08%)
Total Checking/Savings	17,940.68	25,866.90	-7,926.22	(30.64%)
Other Current Assets				
2014 Fall Election Assembly	2,500.00		2,500.00	100.0%
Assembly Deposits	-3,068.34	1,402.35	-4,470.69	(318.8%)
BTG	124.00	124.00		
CNCA Comments	427.98	427.98		
1499 - Undeposited Funds		19.18	-19.18	(100.0%)
Total Other Current Assets	-16.36	1,973.51	-1,989.87	(100.83%)
Total Current Assets	17,924.32	27,840.41	-9,916.09	(35.62%)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>17,924.32</b>	<b>27,840.41</b>	<b>-9,916.09</b>	<b>(35.62%)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
Equity				
3900 - Operating Funds - Adjusted	14,593.68	18,634.13	-4,040.45	(21.68%)
Prudent Reserve	9,485.16	9,485.16		
Net Income	-6,154.52	-278.88	-5,875.64	2,106.87%
Total Equity	17,924.32	27,840.41	-9,916.09	(35.62%)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>17,924.32</b>	<b>27,840.41</b>	<b>-9,916.09</b>	<b>(35.62%)</b>

## Expense Report July 2015

California Northern Coastal Area

### Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through July 2015

	Jan - Jul 15	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Assembly Contributions	3,888.00	4,400.00	-512.00	88.36%
Group Contributions	52,508.79	50,000.00	2,508.79	105.02%
District Contributions	5,935.86	4,500.00	1,435.86	131.91%
Tradition 7, Area Committee	2,084.00	1,950.00	134.00	106.87%
H & I Archives Rent		250.00	-250.00	
CNCA Comments Subscriptions	42.00	30.00	12.00	140.0%
Personal/Misc. Contributions	1,195.16	700.00	495.16	170.74%
Interest Income/Prudent Reserve	1.18	3.80	-2.62	31.05%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>65,654.99</u></b>	<b><u>61,833.80</u></b>	<b><u>3,821.19</u></b>	<b><u>106.18%</u></b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>65,654.99</b>	<b>61,833.80</b>	<b>3,821.19</b>	<b>106.18%</b>
Expense				
Reconciliation Discrepancies	10.57			
DCM Sharing Session Copies	8.46			
Delegate Expense	5,507.88	3,870.50	1,637.38	142.3%
Officer Expense	22,065.07	16,999.29	5,065.78	129.8%
Committee Expense	16,473.00	15,037.15	1,435.85	109.55%
General Expense	<u>28,575.40</u>	<u>27,355.15</u>	<u>1,220.25</u>	<u>104.46%</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>72,640.38</u></b>	<b><u>63,262.09</u></b>	<b><u>9,378.29</u></b>	<b><u>114.83%</u></b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-6,985.39</b>	<b>-1,428.29</b>	<b>-5,557.10</b>	<b>489.07%</b>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Refunds/Rebates	<u>830.87</u>			
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b><u>830.87</u></b>			
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b><u>830.87</u></b>			
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u><u>-6,154.52</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>-1,428.29</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>-4,726.23</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>430.9%</u></u></b>

## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

with inmates in a different state. I can see where there could be problems corresponding with local inmates.// This motion is very unclear. What is written here, is not what has been discussed. I think this needs to be a little bit more clear in the wording.// I am left very sad, I think there is a need for this, but I am uncomfortable with the program not having firm guidelines and leaving the individual to make the decision. I remember what it was like getting out of the institution. Why can't we have some distance with the member and the inmate? Is our member going to meet this person after they are released? There is a lot that could happen here and we need to be very careful.// Our BTG chair at our district that was having a discussion with a correctional officer that works in the prisons, they stated that the prison would not accept this.// I think the good wording is that it is a pilot program that will run for 6 months. If it is not working it will not continue. All I hear is that the rules of the State are changing and there is some confusion on the inmate's side about contacting AA.// This program came from an inmate in San Quinton. We on the committee feel that this is something we should try. We are in the process of writing guidelines, and the PO Box for BTG is being used which keeps the member safe.// After the 6 months what determines that it is not working?// On a monthly basis we would have to make a report to the ACM. The ACM will make the decision after the 6 months.// I understand that there are many concerns, but this is to help the member that is getting out of prison soon. The PO Box is a buffer to the member. Maybe we need to make it a requirement that 2 people meet the inmate to take to the meeting. Maybe we should look at other area guidelines. A 6 month trial period would be very beneficial.// I am a member of the committee and was there when the discussions were taking place. In the meeting today we were told that no one had any questions. It seems to me that you do not trust your trusted servants.// I think the committee would have to adjust the guidelines of the committee before this program started. We are putting the cart before the horse.// How is this filling the gap? I understand what H & I does, and I not sure why BTG would be writing to inmates. If this is only writing a letter to an inmate for the last six months and not taking to a meeting, what does this have to do with BTG.// Why are we not getting information from other areas?// The BTG statement of purpose is: [person read the statement]. I'm not hearing how we are in conflict with this.// I feel like this is an itch that I can't reach. I am uncomfortable with this and I am not sure why. I work with a lot of Pilot programs, and Pilot Programs don't fail because the criteria is made based on the results of the Program. I have heard so many statements about how this is helping someone. I'm not sure what the purpose is to this program.// I am not ready to vote on this motion because I have not seen guidelines. I would hate to see this fail because we don't have enough information.// The following link was provided by the BTG committee for information and sample forms. [Link listed in print version of Comments] This will be Old Business at the next business meeting.

### **Presentation on Self Support by Ken M.**

I will be talking specifically today about the General Service Board. All other entities are equally important: your Area, District, Intergroup or CO. I am going to ask you questions

today that don't require an answer, but maybe you will think about them. I hope to give you some tools to use, if and when you decide to do your part to raise awareness. The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, like all our traditions, was hammered out on the anvils of experience. When AA was young and went to JD Rockefeller for help, the response was "Won't money spoil this thing?" The Foundation received 10K from a member's will. Although the money was needed, they declined it. AA's principal of corporate poverty was embedded in AA Traditions. I have a friend who likes to say, "You can't ask others to observe all 12 Traditions if you pick and choose which ones you are observing." I wonder if the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition is the least observed? Is AA truly self-supporting? There is a 2 million dollar shortfall from the services provided and contributions from members and groups. This is made up for with profits from literature sales. Good, but is it the enemy of the best? Some say we should "slash expenses and learn to live within our means." In Concept 11, Bill talks about the 2 schools of thought. The spenders say "never mind the money, let's get at it." The savers say "stop, look and listen." Bill also says, "We should scrutinize our expenses. Is this necessary and desirable now? Can we afford it? The safe course usually lies somewhere between the reckless budget slashing and imprudent spending. David M Morris, a Class A Trustee, was asked what challenges are in AA's future. He stated, "As the world in general moves toward less print material, whether it's newspapers, magazines, or the Big Book, organizations such as A.A. are going to have to come up with new ways to survive with less print being sold. Whether that's going to be a problem or not, only time will tell. But it's certainly going to be on my radar. "Luckily, change will come when we're ready for it.... Bill W. set it up that way. Why would we not want to be self-supporting through contributions? What is keeping us from achieving this goal? Chair Terry B. who formerly served as GSB Treasurer said this in the 2013 Finance Report. "With print media declining, it is vital that our Fellowship will need to look at our practice of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to carry us through the coming years.... The secret of self-support may very well be in sustained communication. In Concept 12 Warranty 2, Bill talks about finances. AA does not beg for money, we simply show where the need is through right information and education. We portray what the service dollar brings in terms of steering alcoholics to AA, and how countless alcoholics and their families are helped. So if it is just a matter of getting information to our fellowship, how do we do that? Don't be afraid to talk about money; stress the spiritual angle of Self Support. In the Fall Box 459 there is a great tool. A table top display for use at Unity Days, District meetings.... Also on the Area's website we passed a motion to have a finance section. There are also links to AA.org. We have 5 documents in the Self Support Challenge section, along with a link to SMF-176. We also have business cards which show that for less than \$8 per member, General Service could be fully Self Supporting. 42.5% of groups contribute, 57.5% don't. They are missing the spiritual connection that comes from contributing. Also think about your personal contribution plan, Birthday plans, Online Contributions. There are some hard decisions coming up for AA. We can start the conversation now.



## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

**Sharing:** When I was in Sweden, they had an account for the members of a group could make donations direct to a group. It is something like Pay Pal. This maybe could help for those of us who do not carry cash today.// I Heard Phyllis, our NY General Manager's story, and she was living in her car. She was told that if she had 2 nickels, one needs to go to the basket because you believe in AA.// I'm not sure that the GSO Office being self-supporting under the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. The tradition states the "group." I'm not sure this includes the GSO office.// My experience is that many not in General Service think they are always asking about money. Many groups do not contribute because they are tired of hearing about money.// I think this comes down to communication.// We need to set an example to the fellowship. When we put the money in the basket we have the feeling of gratitude.// I have been thinking and talking to people about this. People do not know where the money is going. I think that it is important to let them know where their money is being spent outside their group. Education will help them make a decision. When I found out where the money was going to and what it was paying, it made me excited to put money in the basket.// My experience is that communication and education at the group level and also education of the GSR's and DCM's.// In my home group the treasurer never asked for money. When our donations went down, we were thinking about changing our meeting location. She told a story about a group that was able to get a BB in a different language for a member so he could get sober. This was paid for by the contributions of a group. Our donations went up.// I think the most important part of this is the future. The future of print literature is a huge concern for the NY Board. We are talking about all kinds of answers to this. Audio is the fastest growing area of literature.// The AA budget had a surplus of \$100,000. Then the Conference and some other projects were added; we are looking at about a \$200,000 loss. The most important part of this is the future and what services do

we want to provide, and where is the money going to come from. Literature is a great source of funds, but what is the future?// Sometimes I think the informed part of the group conscience is missing.// Many people think they send their monies to Intergroup and then they send it to GSO.// Sometimes this discussion can get a little intense. My first 2 years of sobriety I was not allowed to have a job or money. I heard people whisper about the fact that I did not put money in the basket. I think we need to be careful about what we say to people about the way they contribute.

Discussion to continue next month.

### **"What's On Your Mind?"**

When I came to General Service I was told we do things slow. I am hearing people ask questions at the ACM instead of before looking for the information and answers to your question. I think we need to take the responsibility of looking for the answers ourselves.// I think we look around the room and see the sparkle in people's eyes. We know they are informed and excited about GS. Padee was one of those people. She will be leaving us soon, and I would like to thank her for her service.// This will be the last ACM I am at. My move has been delayed for a while and I am ready to go now. If you are ever in Alaska, call me. I would love to see you. This is a dream I have had for a while. I learned here to be able to have those dreams, and how to make them happen. Thank you all.

The meeting was closed at 3:46 pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

Submitted with Love and Service,  
Barbara S.

CNCA Panel 65 Recording Secretary

## CNCA SUMMER ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held August 1, 2015 at Petaluma Veterans Hall, Petaluma, CA. Joann L. opened the meeting at 9:32 A.M., followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Larry of District 70. The Traditions were read by Patty of District 12. The Traditions in Spanish were read by Alma of District 18. There were 4 past delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Nancy H. (Panel 49), Sharon A. (Panel 57), Padee M. (Panel 63). The Post Conference minutes were accepted as printed in *CNCA Comments*. Registered attendance: Voting= **247**, Non-voting= **183**.

### **Officer Reports**

**DELEGATE Raymundo L.:** Thanks to the members that attended the International Convention. It was a good representation of 80 Years of Happy, Joyous, and Free. This weekend is the NY Board meeting. I will forward the highlights from the AAWS when received. Some of the information that will be included is that the 2015 sales of literature were below the estimate. The April gross sales including digital books was \$1,066,220 versus the budget of \$1,299,714

(18% negative variance). April sales were about 6% higher than last year. The total was \$1,051,148 which is when the commemorative Big Book was released. The unit sales of all our major print books were lower than last year. April total eBook sales were 421,133.82 with \$5,596 units sold. Big Books were 1,669 units, 12 and 12 was 1,592 and Daily Reflections sold 951. The total for the first four months of 2015 sales of eBooks was \$93,993.55. The Navajo translation for the Big Book is slowed to an early complete half for the moment. The working committee of delegates (Panel 64) has continued to monitor the situation "from the field." The ASL translation of Alcoholics Anonymous and 12 Steps and 12 Traditions is progressing. A.A.W.S. Board passed a motion to grant a license to reproduce and distribute A.A. literature within Russia to the RSO Board upon the expiration of the two temporary licenses. Both RSO and FOAA service structures have been notified of the decision. We remain hopeful that discussions will continue regarding Unity for the good of AA in Russia and the still suffering alcoholics yet to come. The annual conference report will be available in September. The *La Viña* Celebration collected 1,200 subscriptions.

## CNCA AREA AND ASSEMBLY MOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2015

### Area Committee:

#### **Assembly Bids:**

#### **Housekeeping Motions:**

#### **Guidelines:**

#### **Presentation of New Business:**

#### **Old Business at Area Committee Meeting:**

"That the BTG Committee implement a pilot program offering short term correspondence with certain prison inmates, similar to the GSO program for long term correction correspondence, using the BTG P.O. Box to facilitate inmate volunteer communication. The pilot program is to be evaluated by the committee after an initial six month trial period. The results of the pilot program will be shared with ACM before consideration as a permanent program." Presented by the BTG Committee.

#### **New Business at Area Committee Meeting:**

#### **Discussion Topics:**

- Should CNCA have substantial unanimity on all Area Motions?
- Self Support

### Area Assembly Motions

#### **Housekeeping Motions:**

#### **Presentation of New Business at Area Assembly:**

#### **Old Business at Area Assembly:**

- "That the General Service Conference reconsider the Panel 61 Public Information Advisory Action regarding A.A. videos containing full faces."
- "That CNCA 06 expand the area officer eligibility to include Alternate District Committee Member Chairs and current members and chairs of Area standing committees and sub-committees who have served as a DCM and/or DCMC."
- "District 16 Spanish Central is requesting that CNCA 06 restructure District 16 by removing sub-district 02 from District 16."
- "That the General Service Conference develop a pamphlet sharing experience, strength and hope on group safety."

#### **New Business at Area Assembly:**

## CNCA SUMMER ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

ALTERNATE DELEGATE *Phil B.*: Welcome, and thank you District 12 for the assembly and your service.

AREA CHAIR *Joann L.*: I have some lost & found items.

TREASURER *Teddy BW*: State of the Treasury is sound. As of today we have 8,747.86 in the bank, plus prudent reserve of \$9,192.67. Financial reports are published in the CNCA Comments each month. It is not my job to tell anyone what to put in the basket at an assembly; my job is to provide the information so that you can make an informed decision. If the total cost of today's Assembly is divided by total anticipated attendance – that would be \$11. The food cost is \$4.50 per member. Some areas like CNIA have registration fees for assemblies. We don't. On one end of spectrum is that AA member whose opinion is that s/he should put \$11 in the bucket plus another \$11 for the person who can't afford to. On the other end is the AA member whose opinion is that the group contributions should pay for 100% of the business of the Area and will not participate in the Assembly 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition. And then, there is everything in between. All I know is that there is never a shortage of money in AA, only a shortage of good information, and I hope that I have added to its store today.

REGISTRAR *Ray W.*: 325 people have registered at this

time. If there is anyone that has not registered yet, please go sign up as soon as you can. These numbers are used for voting purpose and also for the lunch count. I am looking forward to having a great summer assembly.

RECORDING SECRETARY *Barbara S.*: Please speak clearly today at the mic so I can record your voices. If you are to secretary any of the workshops today, you will be asked to provide a written report to be recorded in the Comments. Please see me for contact information.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR *Michael Q.*: When we were 6 weeks into the Panel there was no date or bid for this summer assembly; I begged District 12 and 18, my home district to put together this assembly, and I am very happy with the results. Next Assembly is in Calistoga for the Inventory Assembly.

LITERATURE/GV/LV *Agustin L.*: 2015 Literature committee in NY made a decision to create a pamphlet on mental illness and to update two pamphlets, AA for the Woman and AA for Gay and Lesbian Alcoholics. Deadlines for stories is October 15. You can send to literature committee in NY, at [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org). In July the GV is dedicated to the Prison issue. It is full of stories from people behind the walls. The Literature table has many of the Big Books in different languages, along with Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions.

**CNCA SUMMER ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
~ TO BE CONTINUED ~  
IN THE OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE OF CNCA COMMENTS**

## CNCA CALENDAR

### 2015—Panel 65

**September 26—Area Committee Mtg**  
**October 3—Bridging the Gap Forum**  
 Presbyterian Church, Vacaville  
**24—Area Committee Mtg**  
**November 14—Fall Inventory Assembly**  
 Calistoga Fairgrounds  
 (Hosted by District 11)  
**28—Area Committee Mtg**  
**December 19—Area Committee Mtg**

### 2016—Panel 65

**January 23—Area Committee Mtg**  
**February 27—Area Committee Mtg**  
**March 3-6—PRAASA**  
 Spokane, Washington  
**26—Area Committee Mtg**  
**April 9, 10—Pre Conference Assembly**  
 Marin Center Exhibit Hall  
 (Hosted By District 10)  
**23—Area Committee Mtg**

**May 14—Post Conference Assembly**  
 Machinist Hall, Burlingame  
 (Hosted by Districts 04 and 05)  
**28—Area Committee Mtg**  
**25—Area Committee Mtg**  
**23—Area Committee Mtg**  
**6—Summer Assembly**  
 Santa Cruz Fairgrounds  
 (Hosted by Districts 03 and 40)  
**27—Area Committee Mtg**  
**8-11 20<sup>th</sup> National AA Archives**  
**Workshop in Walnut Creek**  
**24—Area Committee Mtg**  
**28 - Oct. 2—Pacific Regional**  
**Forum in Waikola, Hawaii**  
**22—Area Committee Mtg**  
**November 12—Election Assembly**  
 Scottish Rite Center, San Jose  
 (Hosted by District 17)  
**26—Area Committee Mtg**  
**December 17—Area Committee Mtg**

## ASSEMBLY DATES CALENDAR

### PANEL 65 ASSEMBLY DATES

**2015 Summer Assembly**  
 August 1; Petaluma Veterans Hall  
 1094 Petaluma Boulevard South, Petaluma, CA  
 Hosted by Districts 12 and 18  
**2015 Fall Inventory Assembly**  
 November 14; Calistoga Fairgrounds  
 1435 North Oak Street, Calistoga, CA 94515  
 Hosted by District 11  
**2016 Pre-Conference Assembly**  
 April 9-10; Marin Center Exhibit Hall  
 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903  
 Hosted by District 10  
**2016 Post-conference Assembly**  
 May 1; Machinist Hall, Burlingame  
 (Hosted by Districts 04 and 05)  
**2016 Summer Assembly**  
 August 6; Santa Cruz Fairgrounds  
 (Hosted by Districts 03 and 40)  
**2016 Fall Election Assembly**  
 November 12, Scottish Rite Center, San Jose  
 (Hosted by District 17)

### PANEL 67 ASSEMBLY DATES

**2017 Pre-conference Assembly**  
 April 8-9  
**2017 Post-conference Assembly**  
 May 13  
**2017 Summer Assembly**  
 August 5 or August 12  
**2017 Fall Inventory Assembly**  
 November 11  
**2018 Pre-conference Assembly**  
 April 7-8  
**2018 Post-conference Assembly**  
 May 12 or May 19  
**2018 Summer Assembly**  
 August 4 or August 11  
**2018 Fall Election Assembly**  
November 10  
 If your District is considering making a bid for an  
 Assembly, please contact the Assembly  
 Coordinator Michael Q. by visiting the "contact us"  
 tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website.  
**Underline dates preferred**

## Panel 65 Area Officers & Area Meeting Information

**Feel free to contact the Area Officers by using the "Contact us" tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website.**

**Delegate**  
Raymundo L.

**Alternate Delegate**  
Phil B.

**Chair**  
Joann L.

**Treasurer**  
Teddy BW

**Registrar**  
Ray W.

**Recording Secretary**  
Barbara S.

**Assembly Coordinator**  
Michael Q.

**Literature/Grapevine Chair**  
Agustin L.

**Pacific Regional Trustee**  
Joel C.

**General Service Office**  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
212-870-3400  
[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**CNCA**  
P.O. Box 884222  
San Francisco, CA 94188-4222  
[www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org)

**H&I**  
[www.handinorcal.org](http://www.handinorcal.org)

### CNCA Standing Committee & Sharing Session Meetings

are the 4th Saturday every month. Sharing Sessions - 10 am  
Standing Committee Meetings - 11 am  
Area Business Meeting 12:30 - 3:30 pm

**Archives** Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Sheri W. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website. The CNCA Archives are located at 193 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2065

**Bridging the Gap** meets at 11:00 am. For Information contact Bill B. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website.

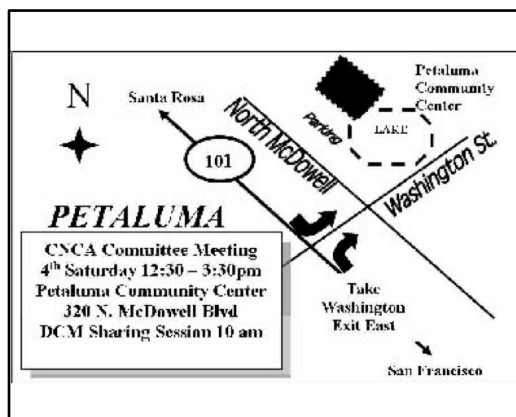
**Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC)** meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Phil B. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website.

**Interpretation & Translation** Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Claudia N. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website.

**Web** Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Cheryl G. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website.

**DCMs & DCMCs** Sharing Sessions meet at 10 am.

**Grapevine/La Vina/Lit.** Sharing Session meets at 10 am.  
[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)



## AA Grapevine / La Viña Subscription Information

### Grapevine/La Viña Subscription Form

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ *Grapevine/La Viña*  
copies for \_\_\_\_\_ years

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Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail this form & check or money order  
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*The Grapevine*

P.O. Box 16867

North Hollywood, CA 91615-6867

*La Viña*

P.O. Box 15635

North Hollywood, CA 91615-5635

### AA Grapevine US Rate

1 Year: Printed \$28.97

1 Year: Digital \$34.97

1 Year Digital and Print \$49.97

Make check or money order payable to:

***The Grapevine***

### La Viña -- Spanish Magazine

1 Year (6 issues)

Within US Printed \$11.97

2 Years (12 issues)

Within US Printed \$22.00

Make check or money order payable to:

***La Viña***

## CNCA Comments/Comentarios de ACNC Subscription Information

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To contact Robin T. visit the "contact us" tab on the  
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### CNCA Comments Advisor

To contact Joann L. visit the "contact us" tab on the  
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### CNCA Comentarios Editor

To contact Manuel R. visit the "contact us" tab on the  
[www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website

### CNCA Comentarios Advisor

To contact Agustin L. visit the "contact us" tab on the  
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