



CNCA COMMENTS



A.A. Confidential -- May 2018
www.cnca06.org

California Northern Coastal Area of Alcoholics Anonymous

Chair Preview

The agenda was light at the April **Area Committee Meeting** (ACM), but we did have a presentation of new business from our Interpretation & Translation Committee:

“That CNCA amend Motion 1008-3 from ‘provide professional simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at Assemblies...’ to read ‘provide professional quality simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at Assemblies...’” If this were to pass, we would have the option of using the non-professional members we employ at the ACM at our Area Assemblies. There has been much loving discussion of the pros and cons of this distinction over the years, and now it is time for more. Please gather group consciences in your districts and sub-districts and share them with us in the coming months.

We have some exciting extra activities at our May ACM. There will be a *Comentarios* workshop at 9 am to educate members on what is involved in translating and producing the Spanish version of our Area newsletter. We need more districts and individuals to participate in this vital service and this is the perfect opportunity to learn more about it! The one-hour workshop is open to all and I hope it will be well attended.

At 11 am, there will be a joint communication meeting for members of Bridging the Gap (BTG), Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC), and the Hospitals & Institutions Committee (H&I). Members from our sister Area, CNIA 07, will be joining us. The purpose is to foster unity and continue to work together effectively to carry the message. All are welcome. I attended my first one a number of years ago despite not being involved in any of those branches of service at the time and found it very informative and inspiring.

Another note about our May ACM is that the parking lot at the Petaluma Community Center will be under construction with a significantly reduced number of spaces available. Please consider carpooling if you don't already, and keep in mind that there is ample parking at the shopping center across the street if the lot fills up.

Don't forget to invite members outside of General Service to attend the Delegate's report in your district! One of my dearest friends who is a sponsor to many always attends. And her enthusiasm, along with that of our home group GSR, helps our Delegate “make the connection between what happens at the Conference and how it helps the drunk on the corner.”

Jennifer B, Area Chair

Why is Teddy writing this? Good question. The answer is that at the time this piece was due, Joann had only just gotten back from New York and her attention is, as it should be, on how she will tell us what she saw, felt and heard there at our Post-Conference Assembly.

So, by the time you read this, you will have attended the Assembly in Vallejo: the results will be known to you and you might be wondering, "what on earth do I do with all that?"

To quote the GSR preamble, "We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A." So, the short answer is, "have at it and communicate!"

Easy, right?

Well, maybe, if we know our audience(s) and package the information accordingly.

The delegate gets 90 minutes to give her report at the Post-Conference Assembly, plus another 45 for questions. It's doubtful your group will be as generous, no matter how much pizza you tempt them with. So, consider that our conference process is never-ending and you have all the time your group will give you to parcel out the information until the time of next year's conference!

Your group may only give you 90 seconds for an announcement. Headlines grab attention and we have a variety of channels these days to pass along the information. You could use your 90 seconds to excite interest and then, later on, inform those that are interested--at your group's business meeting or, in one-on-one in conversations after the meeting or, even by sending information via email.

A word of caution though, the smorgasbord of conference information is best encountered by grazing, not gorging, and so I wish you bon appetit!

Teddy B-W
Alternate-Delegate, Panel 67

Looking for Something?

Chair's Preview, p.1	Area Financial Reports, p. 8-9
Delegate's Corner, p.2	2018 Pre-Conference Assembly Minutes, p.10-14
Area Committee Meeting Minutes ,p. 3-6	Assembly Dates Calendar, p.14
Notes from Chair, p. 6	Area Officer Job Description, p. 15
CNCA Calendars, p. 7	Area Officers and Meeting Info., p. 16
CNCA & Assembly Motions, p. 7	

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 2018

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held April 28, 2018 at the Petaluma Community Center. Jennifer B opened the meeting at 12:30, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Jane F (District 40). Laura H (District 08) read Tradition 4 and Larry V (District 12) read Concept 4. There were 6 past Delegates present: Diane O (Panel 35), Woody R (Panel 50, Area 07), Doug G (Panel 53), Sharon A (Panel 57), Ken M (Panel 61), and Raymundo L (Panel 65). Doug G serves as an appointed committee member of the Trustee's Literature committee. There were 3 GSRs present and 2 new DCMs present. The March 2018 minutes and financial report were accepted as printed in the *CNCA Comments*. Birthdays: 89/6.

Registered attendance: Voting (55) / Non-voting (38)

Officer Reports

DELEGATE – JOANN L: Joann is in New York City, where she attended the 68th General Service Conference.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – TEDDY B-W: 'The God Word' pamphlet request passed, as did the Spanish-speaking women's pamphlet. The page that we wanted to have reinserted back into *Living Sober* is going back in. And our new Pacific Region Trustee is Kathi F from Arizona. More will be revealed at the Post-Conference Assembly.

CHAIR – JENNIFER B: At the Pre-Conference Assembly, we passed the motion regarding full-face PSAs, so we now have just two items on our agenda: the motion to create literature on meditation and the motion to publish a fifth edition of the *Big Book*. It is also time to start thinking of suggestions for Summer Assembly workshops. The deadline for suggestions is June 23.

TREASURER – CHRIS H: As of today, we have \$24,600 in our checking account (used for operating expenses) and \$11,140 in our savings account (which represents our prudent reserve). We had budgeted approximately \$7300 in contributions and received \$11,900. We had budgeted \$8300 in expenses, and spent \$14,600.

REGISTRAR – LAURA W: I have completed the process of restructuring our new database. Although this has been a long process, it has allowed us to create a more effective way of organizing the information. The GSO Records department will be restructuring their database, and their new system will most likely be available by the end of this year.

RECORDING SECRETARY – ERIC L: Thirty-nine people have volunteered to help with the Motions Book transcription project, which we hope to complete by the fall.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – ERICA G: Constructive feedback on the Pre-Conference Assembly is always wel-

comed. The Post-Conference Assembly will be held May 12 at the Solano County Fairgrounds. The opportunity to host next year's Pre-Conference Assembly remains available.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – MIGUEL H: The latest *Grapevine* edition included stories from our local Bridging the Gap community. The subscription challenge is ongoing, with one prize being a special edition of the magazine featuring stories from the winning Area.

District Reports

DISTRICT 01 (MONTEREY) – SUSAN G: We allocated \$400 to one GSR who attended PRAASA for the first time, and MONYPAA reported they will host a Talent Variety Show.

DISTRICT 02 (SALINAS/SAN BENITO) – ELIYAH H: We decided not to change our prudent reserve of \$500, and we were grateful for the opportunity to have served you as co-hosts of the Pre-Conference Assembly. Several members of the District have faced some significant life and family issues; things have slowed down, but we look forward to pressing on.

DISTRICT 03 (SANTA CRUZ) – ERIC H: No report.

DISTRICT 04 (SANTA CLARA NORTH) – JACOB S: Our new Recording Secretary did a wonderful job documenting feedback from GSRs on gathering group consciences. Next month, we will discuss the proposal for a fifth edition of the *Big Book*.

DISTRICT 40 (SANTA CLARA SOUTH) – COREE H: We discussed the motion regarding creating literature about meditation and heard a presentation on the numerous translations of AA literature. We also heard reports from people who attended PRAASA.

DISTRICT 05 (SAN MATEO) – COLLEEN G: Planning has started for our Unity Day on June 30. We also heard a presentation on how to talk to groups about being self-supporting and financially supporting the GSRs. We continue discussing motions about disbursing funds and increasing our mileage reimbursement policy.

DISTRICT 06 (SAN FRANCISCO) – DENNIS H: We elected a new BTG co-chair, and we heard from GSRs about their PRAASA and Pre-Conference Assembly experiences. Our District meeting is moving from its current location to the Urban Life Center (directly across the courtyard).

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

DISTRICT 07 (ALAMEDA NORTH) – PATRICK C: We passed a motion to have a greeter at our meetings, and our Bridging the Gap liaison proposed merging our District committee with District 70's committee to form an Alameda County-wide Bridging the Gap committee.

DISTRICT 70 (ALAMEDA SOUTH) – DON Z: We have suddenly gotten a bunch of new GSRs. I think word has gotten around the Fellowship that we are having fun. In May, we will be celebrating our Delegate's Night.

DISTRICT 08 (CONTRA COSTA) – DON L: GSRs presented their group consciences on the Agenda Topics as well as on Area Assembly motions at the microphone in preparation for the Assembly. We also discussed how a District Finance committee could serve GSRs, groups and the District.

DISTRICT 09 (SOLANO SOUTH) – CLAUDIA K: Two people expressed interest in vacant Archives and Bridging the Gap positions. Our Post-Conference Assembly Planning committee held its final meeting, last minute details are being coordinated as we speak, and we are excited to welcome everyone to the Assembly next month.

DISTRICT 90 (SOLANO NORTH) – TONY W: We are basking in the glow of the super-cool Assembly. The Awesometer would have shot the needle to 11 when new GSRs from our District went to the microphone and participated in the process that keeps this Fellowship moving forward. We will be celebrating our District anniversary in September; it will be an 11 on the Awesometer.

DISTRICT 10 (MARIN) – JON H: District 10 has approved the funds to co-host a safety workshop with District 06 and the SF/Marin Intergroup. Our PI/CPC committee continues its outreach efforts, and the Marin Free Library Services has requested 10 *Big Books* for libraries throughout the county.

DISTRICT 11 (NAPA) – JEFF D: Due to our renewed emphasis on the value of General Service, we have two new prospects stepping up to become GSRs. We continue developing our Meeting in a Pocket, reviewing input from the Fellowship and targeting a distribution date in late August.

DISTRICT 12 (SONOMA) – ROBERT F: We will hold our Delegate's Barbecue on June 4. This week, we held our quarterly meeting between the Chairs of H&I, Intergroup, General Service, Access, PI/CPC and Bridging the Gap in Sonoma County.

DISTRICT 13 (LAKE) – MARY ELLEN R: Several positions are vacant, including our Alternate DCMC position. The Lakeport Fellowship move was successful, and they found the self-support packet to be immensely helpful.

DISTRICT 14 (MENDOCINO) – ROBIN T: We are planning our Unity Day for June 16 in Willits. Our local YPAA committee is starting up again with enthusiasm and interest; they held elections last Sunday and filled most positions, including a liaison to the District.

DISTRICT 15 (HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE) – DEVIN P: We held our first official business meeting in Redway (in southern Humboldt County). We discussed the motion regarding meditation literature, elected a new Recording Secretary and discussed the Regional Forum. We have arranged group rates for the Summer Assembly and are now accepting registrations for the Friday night dinner.

DISTRICT 16 (SPANISH CENTRAL) – FRANCISCO R: We continue visiting groups and encouraging participation in General Service.

DISTRICT 17 (SPANISH SOUTH) – MARIO S: We experienced good attendance and participation at our District meeting. We are now preparing to hold our anniversary celebration in June, and we decided to support the Spanish Local Forum.

DISTRICT 18 (SPANISH NORTH) – HECTOR C: Three new GSRs, including one from a previously-unrepresented group, attended our meeting. We also discussed pending motions at our Assembly business meeting.

DISTRICT 19 (SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH) – MAGDALENO O: We hosted a local conference. Our 23rd anniversary will be celebrated in June in Salinas, and, in the spirit of unity, we will be reviewing the Traditions and the Service Manual. Our Archives Chair is obtaining group histories from all 27 groups in our District to send to the Archives at GSO and in our Area.

DISTRICT 20 (SPANISH EAST) – TEODOMIRO S: We discussed the Spanish Inter-Area Forum and passed a motion to disburse \$500 for initial committee expenses for the event.

Area Sub-Committees and Sharing Sessions

ARCHIVES – RICHARD W: We received a large *Grapevine* collection from the Central Office in Oakland. At our meeting today, we discussed digital storage. We also discussed sending a member of the committee to the National AA Archives Workshop in Illinois in September. Our next workday will be on May 5. So if you like tacos, tamales, enchiladas, salsa, beans, rice and burritos... please bring them.

BRIDGING THE GAP – KELLY H: This month, your BTG committees gave 21 presentations and handled 108 requests for contact. We started considering dates and locations for this fall's BTG Forum.

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

San Quentin State Prison has invited us to give a detailed presentation on the Pre-Release Contact/Correspondence Service. Next month, we will hold a joint committee meeting with Northern Cal H&I, CNCA's and CNIA's PI/CPC committees and Bridging the Gap.

FINANCE – CLAUDIA N: We reviewed our Committee guidelines (created in 1996 and revised three times since, most recently in 2010). Next month, we will be visiting all subcommittees to distribute worksheets as we begin the budget process again.

PI/CPC – TEDDY B-W: The annual convention of the American Psychological Association is coming to San Francisco, the same weekend as the Summer Assembly. If you are not able to attend the Assembly and have some CPC experience, please consider volunteering.

WEBSITE – ROBERT E: We are using our Hot Spot, our projector and Zoom today. Progress on the new website is continuing, and members with little experience are finding it easy to navigate and use.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – MICHAEL Q: There will be ASL interpretation at the Post-Conference Assembly for the Delegate's report. A DVD recording will be available by the May ACM. We also discussed next month's *Comentarios* workshop.

CNCA COMMENTS – JOSÉ A: 864 copies of the *Comments* were sent via bulk mail, and 111 were sent first class.

COMENTARIOS DE CNCA – ERIC H (SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY): The *Comentarios* were sent to approximately 175 members of our Area. We continue to rely on volunteers from the I&T committee to translate, since District 03 has no active members currently able to translate documents.

DCM SHARING SESSION – JACQUELINE P: We heard a presentation on why the Service Manual is important. People shared about how the Manual introduces members to General Service and describes what AA does. It also serves as a protective device against the temptation to make things up as we go. Next month, the topic will be 'how to maximize the Delegate's report.'

ACCESSIBILITIES – KRIS W: We shared about linguistic communities and accessibility issues regarding language. Members shared about Chinese- and Japanese-speaking meetings in the San Jose area, the formation of the Spanish-language Districts in our Area, and the Hispanic Women's Workshop. Though we cannot solve cultural differences, we can facilitate access to AA.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – PATTY O: We shared about the Agenda Topic regarding the 12 and 12 and

12 proposal, and about what we heard regarding literature items at the Pre-Conference Assembly. Next month, we will discuss the results of the Conference.

NCCAA – ELLY G: We elected a new chair for NCCAA and are now preparing for the Summer Conference in Modesto starting on June 8.

H&I – KAREN B: Our next General Committee meeting will be held in Modesto on June 10 (during the NCCAA Conference). We are grateful for the contributions from members of our Fellowship, which make possible our mission of carrying the message to the confined alcoholic.

LA VIÑA 22ND ANNIVERSARY – JUAN MANUEL H: We are discussing the agenda for the anniversary. More than 300 people have registered so far, and more registrations are arriving daily.

TECHNOLOGY AD-HOC – SHARON A: We met for the last time, discussed our recommendations and look forward to reporting back next month.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S WORKSHOP – MARIA LUISA S AND EMMA M: We have formed a committee, opened a bank account, and now await contributions from Areas, groups and individuals. Soon, we will be requesting to use our Area's translation equipment. Preparations are ongoing for the event, which will be December 1.

2018 PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM – DOUG G: We are 132 days away from the Forum. We discussed translation equipment and food and coffee concessions. Between PRAASA, ACYPAA, NCCAA and our Pre-Conference Assembly, we have close to 400 people on the notification list.

AREA 06 SPANISH FORUM– JORGE O: The purpose of the Forum is to strengthen our familiarity with General Service and our Steps and Traditions. We expect the event to occur on October 28. We have formed a committee and have invited participation from and asked for financial support from the linguistic Districts in our Area. Our next meeting is planned for May 6. We are looking for a location, and plan to adopt guidelines and have more information soon.

Area Business

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

That CNCA amend Motion 1008-3 from “provide professional simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at Assemblies...” to read “provide professional quality simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at Assemblies...” – *presented by the Interpretation & Translation (I&T) committee*

Presentation: If this motion passed, we would no longer be required to hire outside professional interpreters to interpret at our Assemblies. Our professional quality interpreters (who currently interpret at the ACM) could also be hired. We discussed this proposal in our committee for several months. Our professional quality interpreters are capable and willing to provide this service.

Questions: Q: What is the difference between professional and professional quality? A: Professional means people who interpret professionally, who are not necessarily members of AA. Professional quality interpreters include many of the people we use at the ACM. Q: Will there be a financial impact? A: We pay our professional quality interpreters the same rate that we pay our professionals. It is possible the price could go down because our interpreters could be funded by their Districts for transportation and housing. Q: Why does this specify assemblies? A: The motion we are working with specified that we use professionals only at Assemblies. Q: Does this enlarge who can participate? A: Yes, we could continue to use professionals, or we could use the professional quality interpreters we use here.

Motion remains Area Committee Meeting Business by a show of hands. Motion will be New Business in May.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

A number of GSRs had problems standing in lines at the Pre-Conference Assembly. We make no provision for those people. I would like us to make an effort so that people with mobility problems can share comfortably at the microphones. // A past Delegate will be speaking at the El Sobrante Fellowship speaker meeting tonight. // It is disruptive to the meeting when we start passing the buckets for the Seventh Tradition during reports. // I considered voting for the motion regard-

ing interpretation to be Assembly business. As this is a service provided principally for GSRs, I look forward to hearing District consciences on this matter. // Next month, we will have a workshop regarding the *Comentarios* prior to the ACM. This is a wonderful opportunity to be in service, and to learn about this valuable service. // This past General Service Conference could have been very contentious, but it was actually quite healing and quite unifying. It was also one of the most productive Conferences in recent years. Please outreach to your groups and GSRs (and to average AA members) to come hear about it at the Post-Conference Assembly. // Thank you for keeping the interpreter motion here at the ACM. The motion we are amending was a motion that had been passed here. // We have had so much difficulty with the *Comentarios* these last few panels. Please attend the workshop next month, and talk to your Districts so that we can get information about this service out there. // A new Spanish-speaking women's meeting just started in San Francisco. Ten women came, and all of our commitment positions were filled. // We have received a lot of support from our English-speaking female peers when preparing for the Hispanic Women's Workshop. // In sobriety, I went on a cruise to Alaska. I had found AA meetings on port, and I talked about what was going on. There was a woman at one meeting who was crocheting a doily. Her name was Stella. After the meeting, she gave me a hug and gave me the doily. I did not have the presence of mind to get her contact information. I had been back to Alaska a few times, but had not been able to connect with her. At PRAASA, I met a DCM from Ketchikan who knew Stella. I asked her to thank Stella for the doily, which has been on my dresser for 15 years. When I got home, I got a call from Stella and was finally able to thank her.

The meeting was closed at 3:15 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

Submitted with Enthusiasm and a Good Mood,

Eric L

CNCA Panel 67 Recording Secretary

NOTES FROM CHAIR

Please remember to bring your FM radio to all Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies for Spanish/English interpretation and Assisted Listening for the hearing impaired.

The Interpretation and Translation Committee is always in search of more bilingual members to help with written translation.

Contact: translation.p67@cnca06.org

CNCA CALENDAR - PANEL 67 - 69

2018—Panel 67	2019—Panel 69
May	January
June	February
July	March
August	April
September	NY
October	May
November	June
December	July
	August
	September
	October
	November
	December

CNCA MOTIONS MAY 2018

CNCA Motions – May 2018

Area Committee:

Assembly Bids:

Housekeeping Motions:

Guidelines:

Presentation of New Business:

Old Business at Area Committee Meeting:

New Business at Area Committee Meeting:

“That CNCA amend Motion 1008-3 from ‘provide professional simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at Assemblies...’ to read ‘provide professional quality simultaneous Spanish/English interpretation at Assemblies...’” —*Interpretation & Translation Committee*

Discussion topics:

Area Assembly Motions:

Redistricting Requests:

Presentation of New Business at Area Assembly:

Old Business at Area Assembly:

“That literature be developed sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation.” —*District 90*

New Business at the Area Assembly:

“That the Trustees’ Literature Committee add to its agenda to consider publishing a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, with updated stories to more broadly reflect our current fellowship, as well as updates or additions to Appendices III and V.” —*District 40*

California Northern Coastal Area Statement of Financial Position

As of March 31, 2018

		Total
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Operating Funds - Checking		23,560.16
Prudent Reserve - Savings		11,140.09
Total Bank Accounts	\$	34,700.25
Other Current Assets		
Assembly Deposits		3,390.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$	3,390.00
Total Current Assets	\$	38,090.25
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	38,090.25
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities		
Equity		
Operating Funds ~ Adjusted		35,525.55
Prudent Reserve ~ Savings		10,117.90
Net Revenue		-7,553.20
Total Equity	\$	38,090.25
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	38,090.25

Expense Report March 2018

California Northern Coastal Area

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: 2018 BUDGET - FY18 P&L

January - March, 2018

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue			
002 Group Contributions	31,084.24	22,200.00	140.02 %
003 District Contributions	1,152.00	3,499.98	32.91 %
005 Tradition 7, Area Comm.	1,060.13	880.00	120.47 %
007 CNCA Subscriptions		12.00	
008 Personal/Misc Contributions	436.70	300.00	145.57 %
010 Interest Income	1.22	1.10	110.91 %
Total Revenue	\$33,734.29	\$26,893.08	125.44 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$33,734.29	\$26,893.08	125.44 %
Expenditures			
012 EXPENSE			
013 Delegate Expense	2,245.80	2,073.76	108.30 %
038 Officer Expense	6,744.71	7,233.75	93.24 %
093 Committee Expenses	7,483.65	7,340.37	101.95 %
158 General Expenses	24,813.33	5,028.99	493.41 %
Total 012 EXPENSE	41,287.49	21,676.87	190.47 %
Total Expenditures	\$41,287.49	\$21,676.87	190.47 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -7,553.20	\$5,216.21	-144.80 %
NET REVENUE	\$ -7,553.20	\$5,216.21	-144.80 %

2018 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The Pre-Conference Assembly Business meeting of CNCA was held April 7, 2018 at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose, California. Jennifer B opened the meeting at 9:15, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Catherine J (District 01). Matthew T (District 06) read the 12 Traditions in English and José L (District 17) read the 12 Traditions in Spanish. There were eight past Delegates present: Diane O (Panel 35), Woody R (Panel 50, Area 07), Doug G (Panel 53), Sharon A (Panel 57), David N (Panel 59), Jim F (Panel 59, Area 38), Ken M (Panel 61), and Raymond L (Panel 65). David N currently serves as a General Service Trustee, and Doug G serves as an appointed committee member of the Trustee's Literature committee. There were also two past trustees present: Tom M (past General Service Board Trustee) and Madeleine P (past Pacific Regional Trustee). The minutes from the 2017 Fall Inventory Assembly were accepted as printed in the *CNCA Comments*.

Registered attendance: Voting (338) / Non-voting (113)

Officer Reports

DELEGATE – JOANN L: I am still looking for sharing on how Districts or groups are carrying the message to veterans of the Armed Forces so I can share ideas at the Remote Communities Meeting prior to the Conference. I continue scheduling Delegate's reports, and I will also give my report at the NCCAA Conference on June 9 in Modesto. There are forms and folders for written group consciences available today. I have already received some group consciences by email and the work that our GSRs are doing with their groups really warms my heart.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – TEDDY B-W: Your Delegate and I meet monthly to ensure that we work effectively on your behalf. I also pray for the health of the delegate, and I invite you to join me. The Alternate Delegate must be prepared to attend the Conference if necessary and so, in addition to becoming very familiar with not just the topics but also the set up and procedures of the conference, I am also looking forward to paying great attention to all that is said at this Assembly. Our bid to host the 2030 International Convention in San Jose was unsuccessful. Please thank your groups for their support and let them know that everyone is welcome at the Pacific Regional Forum this year.

CHAIR – JENNIFER B: This morning, we will have loving discussion on our Area business matters. In the afternoon, our primary goal is to inform the Delegate before she goes to New York. But it is also important that each of you gets a chance to carry your group's conscience to the microphone. The ad hoc committee looking at the Area's technology needs is wrapping up after months of dedicated service. They will give us a report soon. And a

new ad hoc committee has been formed to look at our Area newsletters, the *Comments and Comentarios*. They will be focusing on the content, the design, and issues surrounding the distribution and translation.

TREASURER – CHRIS H: As of today, we have \$25,500 in our checking account (used for operating expenses) and \$11,140 in our savings account (representing our prudent reserve). Year to date, we received \$36,000 in contributions and spent \$41,600. Please thank your groups for their continued contributions.

REGISTRAR – LAURA W: I am grateful for all the GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs and others here today and for the service you do for Alcoholics Anonymous. Registering here today helps us know how many people attend our assemblies so that we can plan for our business meetings and events – and to make sure we have enough food for everyone. We transitioned to new software after the previous database software (that had been used for 20 years) crashed. I am excited about the potential of our new system to improve our communication.

RECORDING SECRETARY – ERIC L: At the Area Committee Meeting, we have been discussing our Area's Motions Book. This 200-page document originated in 1990 (when members started researching in the Archives repository) and became a part of our record when the Area unanimously approved it in 1993. For the past 25 years, each Recording Secretary has added to the Motions Book, but outdated software has made continuing to use the current file no longer feasible. So I am asking for help – ideally between 10 and 20 volunteers – to take sections of the Motions Book to transcribe with me. I hope to complete this task by the summer.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – ERICA G: While I am called the Assembly Coordinator, the heavy lifting has been done by our host Districts, 02 (Salinas) and 40 (Santa Clara South). I am grateful for the diligent planning and love that went into putting this on for all of us. We will have Microphone Monitors stationed at each microphone today; they may step in to help you adjust the microphone or signal to you to slow down when speaking. Our Post-Conference Assembly is next, at the Solano County Fairgrounds on May 12. And there are still six assemblies available for bidding.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – MIGUEL H: Our literature has now been translated into 98 languages, including 71 translations of our *Big Book* (including the Navajo language translation). Twenty other translations are currently pending. I have a list of all current translations for anyone who would like a copy.

2018 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

Area Standing Committees and Sub-Committees

ARCHIVES – RICHARD W: Thank you for helping obtain group histories, and please keep sending them in. There are group history forms on the Archives table for anyone who would like to participate. Your Archives committee attended PRAASA and ACYPAA. All of the guests who visited the archives at ACYPAA signed a board which is on display today. At ACYPAA, newspapers documenting the Northern California fires (which destroyed the original ACYPAA host hotel) were on display and helped tell the story of how that host committee came together to put on the event.

BRIDGING THE GAP – KELLY H: Your Area and District BTG committees have given 71 presentations and received 220 requests for help since our last Assembly. Our committee has conducted three orientations for new District Chairs and Co-Chairs. Based on discussion from our inventory, we are focusing on service literature we use to extend the hand of AA, including the literature we use for the Pre-Release Contact program.

FINANCE – CLAUDIA N: The proposed 2018 budget passed in March, we met with the ad hoc committee to brainstorm how the Finance committee could benefit from technology, and we adjusted our prudent reserve. We also discussed how we pass the Seventh Tradition baskets and reviewed how to make contributing to the Area electronically easier. I also want to inform the Area on what the actual cost of Assemblies is. If I took the total cost of today's assembly and divided it by expected attendance, to be fully self-supporting, it would cost \$20.45 per member.

PI/CPC – TEDDY B-W: CPC Chairs in California now have a system in place to ensure that AA will have a presence at conventions of statewide professional organizations for groups like psychologists, school counselors and probation officers. We also staff the AA presence at national conventions in our Area, and I would like to thank everyone who showed up and volunteered at the Aging in America Conference last week. One visitor to the booth informed us that he was an alcoholic, but not ready, and that he would see us in a few years.

WEBSITE – ROBERT E: We presented the progress on the new Drupal website to Area Officers, demonstrated the new projector and screen, purchased Zoom training software, and recruited volunteers for our Drupal ad hoc committee. We will also be implementing our Hot Spot device.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – MICHAEL Q: Today, we are broadcasting interpretation (provided by Mateo and Molly) on FM radio frequency channel 93.1. We also provide Assisted Listening on channel 103.7.

Please do not interrupt the interpreters; see me if there are problems with the FM signal. We have a limited supply of radios available to loan for those who need them, but remember to return them at the end of the day so that they are available tomorrow. Also remember to speak clearly and slowly so that our interpreters may hear correctly and keep pace with their interpretation.

2018 PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM– DOUG G: Regional Forums originated in 1975 and were designed to help the General Service Board, AAWS, the *Grapevine* board and staff and GSO staff stay in touch with AA members, trusted servants and newcomers. There is no registration fee, and all AA members are encouraged to attend. We will be hosting the next Pacific Regional Forum in San Jose. Online registration starts July 9.

Area Business

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

That the Trustees' Literature Committee add to its agenda to consider publishing a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, with updated stories to more broadly reflect our current fellowship, as well as updates or additions to Appendices III and V. – *presented by District 40*

Presentation: This motion was proposed by the We Have Arrived group in San Jose. The group concluded that the Fellowship is ready for a new edition of the *Big Book*. In the course of their discussion, they decided that they had no desire to change the first 164 pages of the book – but would like to see new stories added into the story section. They also decided that they wanted updates and/or additions to Appendix III (The Medical View on AA) and Appendix V (The Religious View on AA). This motion was discussed at group level for three months, and unanimously passed. After that, it spent two months in the Sub-district, and also unanimously passed. Throughout the course of our District discussion, there were several perspectives from our GSRs, and we had four months worth of loving discussion. The final vote was 26 in favor, 0 opposed, and five abstentions.

Questions: Q: Have you given any thoughts to which stories would be dropped from a Fifth Edition? A: That would be up to the Trustees' Literature committee. Q: Are specific changes to the appendices a part of the motion? A: No, it is additional information. Q: When was the Fourth Edition published? A: It was published 2001. The average length of time between editions has been 16 years.

Motion moved to New Business at the 2018 Post-Conference Assembly.

2018 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

OLD BUSINESS:

That the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous approve the development of a new public service announcement in video format that utilizes full-face actors (not members of A.A.). – *presented by the CNCA PI/CPC Committee*

Discussion: Faces are more real to people. We should also be using more women and young people in videos to attract all who suffer from alcoholism. // There are many PSAs already available, and we do not need full faces in videos. // Another PSA has already been approved, and we should wait to see what that video is like before passing this particular motion. // There is no issue with actors portraying alcoholics. Our Eighth Tradition states we may employ special workers, which actors would be. Many future AAs are referred by medical professionals and counselors who are not members of AA. // The PSA in development will be animated. // PSAs currently being used are sufficient. But these videos could help with Public Information work. // It could become problematic if one of the actors we hired became famous and became the 'face of AA.' // Nothing can explain the pain and suffering of an alcoholic more than a facial expression. // It could worry alcoholic viewers if faces were shown in videos because it could suggest that anonymity could be broken. // The point of making these videos is to attract people who might be afraid or do not know much about being an alcoholic. // One thing that keeps people away from AA is the stigma of alcoholism. By not showing full faces, we add to that shame. // Many treatment centers already make advertisements with full faces. Not showing faces in PSAs makes us different. // I had originally been opposed to this motion. But we discussed this and I watched the PSAs made in Australia. They are so powerful. The Traditions were not violated, and it was compelling to see the impact that those videos had. // I do not see how showing full faces makes our message more compelling. We are not in competition with treatment centers. // Facial expressions help deaf people identify. // AA works because of identification. After watching the videos produced in Australia, I could identify with those actors. Those videos were not 'selling AA.' // It is important that professionals (and the general public) understand the spiritual significance of anonymity. // Our message is most effective when one alcoholic carries the message to another alcoholic, not when someone pretends to be an alcoholic.

The Assembly was asked if they were ready to vote, and members were ready to vote. Substantial unanimity (2/3) was required for the motion to pass.

Vote: Yes (190) / No (56) / Abstained (3). Motion passes.

Minority Opinion: My first thought was that I liked full faces in PSAs. When I saw the Australian videos, I was so impressed. But I watched our animated videos, and I thought we do not need any new videos. // For-profit groups (like treatment centers) make commercials with full faces, and we are not competing with them. // The process of identification, for me, came from coming to the Fellowship. // I do not want AA to make PSAs that manipulate emotions. When alcoholics are ready to recover, they will find the rooms. // There is a fine line between attraction and promotion, and full faces veers into promotion. People know about AA already, and they know how to find us. // Whatever the merits of full-faces, this proposal violates the Americans with Disabilities Act by preventing alcoholics from obtaining employment.

Motion to reconsider; seconded.

Motion to reconsider fails. // **Motion passes.**

NEW BUSINESS:

That literature be developed sharing experience, strength and hope on meditation. – *presented by District 90*

Discussion:

There is too much literature in the first place, and there is a lot of literature already available about meditation from non-AA sources. // Some people want information about meditation and how it is linked to recovery. // We requested this literature because the Eleventh Step asks us to meditate. In the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, it describes meditation as something that helps with emotional balance. But there is so little information available on something so important. // There is already a substantial amount of information about meditation in our literature. // Meditation is mentioned frequently in the *Big Book*, but there are many different interpretations of what meditation actually is. // There is extensive information about and even some suggested prayers in the *Big Book*, but there is little information and very few suggestions about meditation. // Many people worried as newcomers that they were not doing the Eleventh Step the 'right way,' though there probably is no actual right way. // If a *Grapevine* book about this topic is published, would this motion still be necessary? // Any literature that helps newcomers is necessary. Too much literature is always preferable to none. // I love meditation, but a pamphlet would not be helpful. There is no wrong way to meditate, though. // It may be more appropriate to share experience with meditation person to person, rather than through our literature. // I have always thought that our literature views meditation as contemplation. A pamphlet could make that clear. // A pamphlet that provides concrete examples could be helpful.

2018 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

. // While I generally support giving information to people, I just do not see how literature regarding meditation could be concise. There are so many different ways to meditate that I just cannot imagine it being condensed into one piece of literature. // I do not want to be told how to meditate. I meditate while cleaning my chainsaw, and I do not want to be told that I should not do it that way. // People do not know how to meditate. This could help a great deal. // Why was prayer not included? // This motion is redundant. // Are we creating pamphlets just to create pamphlets? I have not seen a pamphlet on prayer, and I would be offended if someone told me how to pray. I believe meditation is similar. // I hope literature on meditation refers people to the pages in the *Big Book* that provide information on meditation. // Literature should counter the misguided belief that there are 'wrong ways' to meditate. // I have been trying to learn how to meditate, and any reading that brings me closer to God has my support. // We need instructions. I had to learn how to meditate from YouTube. // I have seen this topic discussed in the *Grapevine* and a book compiling different experiences with meditation could be helpful. Our literature is not intended to tell people how to do things, but to share suggestions. // I am a product of the hippy-dippy 1970s, and I knew all about meditation. But perhaps a pamphlet – not telling people how to meditate, but rather describing how people form connections to their Higher Power – could demystify meditation, so that people do not feel the need to sit in the Lotus Position to meditate properly. // I have struggled with meditation. When I started meditating, I would just think about my grocery list. So I appreciate the possibility that I will be able to read the experience, strength and hope of people who have practiced meditation. // There is a meditation deficiency in AA. If literature were available, it could address this need. // Our *Big Book* tells us the main problem with the alcoholic centers in the mind. Once Bill learned to meditate more, he came out of his depression. What helped me learn to meditate was reading Bill's experience with meditation. This literature would do something similar for others, because it would share personal experiences so that people can quiet the mind. // I have been a seeker my entire life, and I have met many people who do not know how to quiet their minds or how to get centered. Our program is based on sharing our stories, and if this can help, if this can clarify that there are ways to seek and be centered, we are all the better for it. // Even though I came from a religious background, I was not sure I was praying properly. I wanted to do it right. *Came to Believe* was very helpful to me. A similar book focused on meditation could be helpful too. // I had a lot of shame that I did not know how to meditate, and I feared that I would not experience the presence of God. // I have not seen anyone walk on water yet, but I do know we are striving to do well. // Pam-

phlets are helpful because they are accessible. They are easier to get because they are free and books cost money. // I started attending a meditation meeting, and it got easier for me over time. No one told me how to do it, or how not to do it. I learned slowly. // This could be a special edition of the *Grapevine* or *La Viña*. // I heard that the 1939 dictionary definition of meditation was more about planning your day than the present-day understanding of 'reaching for enlightenment.' // I attend a Sunday morning meditation meeting, and there is something powerful about sitting in silence for half an hour with alcoholics. // There is a lot of literature about meditation, but none of it is AA literature. I want the hand of AA to be there.

Motion moved to Old Business at the 2018 Post-Conference Assembly.

The meeting was closed at 11:55 am with the Responsibility Statement.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? (SATURDAY SESSION)

There is no need to remove people from the Board. The ownership of the manuscript will never come into question again. Action had to be taken, and the lawsuit was filed to establish a negotiation position. When we realized the negotiation would go nowhere, the lawsuit was withdrawn. // There is nothing wrong with having many pamphlets. // I request that we make a motion regarding changing the venue requirements for the International Convention. // The Area will be hosting a *Comentarios* workshop to introduce people to this service opportunity. // Many atheists and agnostics do not feel included by our current literature. Waiting for someone to have such a terrible life that they are willing to forgo their spiritual beliefs is cruel. // This was my second year as a GSR. My group members were engaged with the process this year. It was rewarding. It does get better! // The Twelve Steps were written after people had started working the Steps. The Twelve Traditions were written after groups had already formed. The Concepts were written after the Conference had already begun. In Al-Anon, all three legacies are included in one book. // We implore the Delegate to please carry the voice of the Spanish-speaking women to the Conference. We want to be a part of AA. // I was happy to learn that there is a procedure in place if there ever were a need censure the Board. I love the structure of AA. // People in Al-Anon were not confused by a book combining the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts. It would be interesting to have a layman's reflections on the Concepts. // The Hispanic Women's Workshop will be held in San Francisco on December 1. // Pamphlets are not just for the group described by the title. They are for everyone, so that we can carry the message to everyone. // AA has its own prayers; we do not need to use the Lord's Prayer.

2018 PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? (SUNDAY SESSION)

We need to consider when developing pamphlets if they help everyone – not just people in our groups or are communities. // Thank you to all who helped with the Pre-Conference Assembly. If you want to be of service, please help clean up. // At one time our Area considered splitting into two or three to make it more convenient. I am grateful that we didn't because I get to experience Monterey, Salinas, and Eureka, which gives me greater perspective on AA. I am especially looking forward to our Summer Assembly in District 15. // I want to thank the Officers for the Agenda Topics Summaries. // Being a GSR was a wonderful experience. I have never been to the General Service Office, and I am looking forward to the Forum in San Jose in September. // I have heard people talk about slippery slopes this weekend. And I want to tell you a story. Bill and Bob met, and the Fellowship slowly grew in Akron and New York. Three years in, there were 40 sober members, and Bill proposed the *Big Book*. The Akron Group was fearful. They worried it was a slippery slope. Who would pay for it? Was it necessary? Why not leave well-enough alone? Bill convinced them to take a chance. We have to take a chance also. // I need more information earlier. I am an active member of my group and I want to be a GSR. // Thank you for creating a safe space to share. // We are afraid of change. I worry about the people for whom what we have done does not work. 'Talk it over with your sponsor' is not always helpful advice if there is no one in your community who is sober or has worked the Steps. // I love Assemblies because I see old friends and make new ones. // When I came to AA, I did not have the gift of desperation. But I was welcomed. Any-

thing that can be done to make everyone feel welcomed is our responsibility. Thank God I did not have to be miserable to get AA. // Our attendance today included 142 voting members and 76 non-voting members. // We invite you all to the Post-Conference Assembly in Vallejo on May 12. // English-speaking women are invited to the Hispanic Women's Workshop. I also want to note that Spanish-speaking men involved in General Service have been so supportive of the Spanish-speaking women in our Area. // I love rules. So I was surprised with my group and their relaxed thoughts about anonymity on social media. I was reminded not to give people lists of rules. // I am seeking more information on how to handle restraining orders between members of AA. // A-weema-weh, a-weema-weh, a-weema-weh, a-weema-weh...

Submitted with Gratitude and Enthusiasm,

Eric L

CNCA Panel 67 Recording Secretary

PANEL 69 ASSEMBLY DATES CALENDAR

2019 Pre-Conference Assembly

April 13-14

2019 Post-Conference Assembly

May 18, Ulatis Community Center, Vacaville
(Hosted by District 90)

2019 Summer Assembly

August 10

2019 Fall Inventory Assembly

November 2, St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco
(Hosted by District 06)

2020 Pre-Conference Assembly

April 4-5

2020 Post-Conference Assembly

May 16

2020 Summer Assembly

August 8

2020 Fall Election Assembly

November 14

Bids have been accepted for all Panel 67 assemblies; see CNCA Calendar for dates and locations. If your District is considering making a bid for a Panel 69 Assembly, please contact the Assembly Coordinator Erica G at assemblycoordinator.p67@cnca06.org

Assembly Coordinator

- * Attend Area Committee Meetings. Arrive by 9am to set-up sound equipment and post signs outside of meeting rooms. Monitor sound during business meeting.
- *Facilitate DCM Sharing Session at 10am.
- *Attend Area Officers meeting following ACM.
- *Motivate districts to bid for assemblies. Help prepare and review bids. Visit potential assembly sites for review and approval.
- *Attend 1-2 planning meetings for each assembly. Support host committees, be available to them as needed, and be their biggest fan.
- *Attend 4 assemblies per year. Attend set-up, usually the day before. Transport and set-up sound equipment. Arrive at assemblies at 7am, monitor sound,

- be available to troubleshoot throughout the day.
- *Set future assembly dates with input from other Officers.
- *Create assembly flyers.
- *Update guidelines, bid forms, and other assembly documents as needed.
- *Liaison to Petaluma Community Center. Book ACM dates.
- *Visit average of 3 districts per month.
- *Work on Agenda Topic Summaries with other Officers.
- *Storage space: 3.5ft x 4ft(width) x 5.5ft(height)

Erica G
CNCA Panel 67 Assembly Coordinator

AA Grapevine / La Viña Subscription Information

AA Grapevine US Rate

1 Year: Printed \$28.97 1
 Year: Digital \$34.97
 1 Year Digital and Print \$49.97 Make check
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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

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CNCA Comments Advisor

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CNCA Comentarios Editor

To contact Eric H visit the "contact us" tab on the www.cnca06.org website

CNCA Comentarios Advisor

To contact Miguel H. visit the "contact us" tab on the www.cnca06.org website

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Panel 67 Area Officers & Area Meeting Information

Feel free to contact the Area officers by using the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org

Delegate
Joann L

Alternate Delegate
Teddy B-W

Chair
Jennifer B

Treasurer
Chris H

Registrar
Laura W

Recording Secretary
Eric L

Assembly Coordinator
Erica G

Literature/Grapevine Chair
Miguel H

Pacific Regional Trustee
Joel C

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H&I
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 Richard W by visiting the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org website. The Archives mailing address is 185 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2065.

Bridging the Gap meets at 11:00 am. For Information contact Kelly H by visiting the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org website.

Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Teddy B-W by visiting the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org website.

Interpretation & Translation Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Michael Q by visiting the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org website.

Web Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Robert E by visiting the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org website.

DCMs & DCMCs Sharing Sessions meet at 10 am

Literature/Grapevine/La Vina Sharing Session meets at 10 am. www.aagrapevine.org

Accessibilities Sharing session meets at 10 am. For information visit the “contact us” tab on the www.cnca06.org website

