

**CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA
ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES FOR
2018 SUMMER ASSEMBLY**

The Summer Assembly Business meeting of CNCA was held August 11, 2018 at the Fortuna River Lodge in Fortuna, California. Jennifer B. opened the meeting at 9:45, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Matt E. (District 40). Kerstin C. (District 90) read the 12 Traditions in English and Antonio V. (District 16) read the 12 Traditions in Spanish. There were six past Delegates present: Bob D. (Panel 36, Area 28), Woody R. (Panel 50, Area 07), Doug G. (Panel 53), David N. (Panel 59), Ken M. (Panel 61), and Raymundo L. (Panel 65). David N. currently serves as a General Service Trustee, and Doug G. currently serves as an appointed committee member of the Trustee's Literature committee. Tom M. (a past General Service Board Trustee) was also present. The minutes from the 2018 Post-Conference Assembly were accepted as printed in the *CNCA Comments*.

Registered attendance: Voting (171) / Non-voting (99)

Officer Reports

DELEGATE – JOANN L.: Pacific Regional Delegates had a conference call with our new Pacific Regional Trustee, Kathi F., and discussed the date change for the 2019 General Service Conference (now held May 19-25). We also heard that only one story has been submitted for the Hispanic Woman's pamphlet, and only three have been submitted for the Third Legacy pamphlet. Stories are due by November 19. Conference Reports should be available soon; we do not have a date for delivery just yet.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – TEDDY B-W.: The workshop on Legal, Tax and Insurance Considerations for AA Groups has a great panel. Oliver G. and Tom V., both attorneys, Arlene M., a CPA, and Brian J., from the Nonprofits Insurance Alliance of California, will all be presenting good information through the AA lens, and there will be time for questions.

CHAIR – JENNIFER B.: At our monthly ACM, we have been hearing job descriptions for Area Officers each month at the DCM sharing session. We also heard presentations regarding our Area newsletters. The 'lick and stick' is a fun commitment for a District to take on; please consider bidding to do this vital service. This is our last Assembly business meeting for Panel 67; we do not do any business other than elections at our Fall Assembly in even numbered years.

TREASURER – CHRIS H.: We have \$32,600 in our checking account (used for operating expenses) and \$11,140 in our savings account (representing our prudent reserve). Year to date, we received \$74,600 in contributions and spent \$74,800. Please thank your groups for their continued contributions.

REGISTRAR – LAURA W.: We completed the transition of our Area Database to new software, and we are now able to provide those in service with the information they need to better serve the Area. I have also been able to remove more than 6000 inaccurate or duplicate records.

RECORDING SECRETARY – ERIC L.: The Motions Book is a 200-page document that includes every motion we have ever discussed and a history of significant discussions and events in CNCA. Fifty-one people volunteered to help transcribe this

book, and, once the last few pages are submitted, I will compile everything into a new, error-free document so that information about our history can be more accessible.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – ERICA G.: Next year's General Service Conference was moved to late May, so we have pushed the Post-Conference Assembly back to June 15, 2019. We will keep the same facility, the current bid and the host committee in place. Our Pre-Conference Assembly dates have not changed.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – MIGUEL H.: Design for the book *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970* is close to completion. French and Spanish translation and indexing has begun, with an estimated availability in early 2019. Translation projects are currently underway in Brazil, Bali, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Morocco, Poland and Ukraine.

Area Standing Committees and Sub-Committees

ARCHIVES – RICHARD W.: The contributions and participation from your groups make actively preserving our history possible. We continue working on several projects in the repository in Walnut Creek, and we could use help. We will provide training in October at our workday, and will hold our biennial open house in December.

BRIDGING THE GAP – KELLY H.: We are looking forward to this month's joint meeting with NorCal H&I and PI/CPC and BTG committees from CNCA and CNIA. We will end this panel with our 13th annual BTG Forum, hosted by District 10, and a final decision on a motion to conclude the pilot Pre-Release Contact service program and support the service on an ongoing basis.

FINANCE – CLAUDIA N.: The Finance committee is currently working on our guidelines and new verbiage on the CNCA website regarding the scope of our committee. We are hoping to have this completed before the end of this panel. Budget worksheets are due today. We need these so that we can start the process of creating the budget for next year.

PI/CPC – TEDDY B-W.: We get to staff the AA presence at national conventions of professionals in our Area, and, as we meet here, 10,000 psychologists are meeting in San Francisco and volunteers from CNCA are staffing the booth and interacting with them. Our committee also approved a template letter for AA members to use in opening the door for PI/CPC work with their healthcare professional. This template will be made available via your local PI/CPC committee and DCMC.

WEBSITE – ROBERT E.: Plans for a new Drupal website are moving along, and we are using all of our new technology, including the hot spot, the projector and Zoom. Members are able to join the network remotely, which has been great for training. We do have one vacancy on the committee and another vacancy on a Website Build ad hoc, which would require experience with CSS, theming, and possibly JavaScript or JQuery.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – MICHAEL Q.: We welcome our interpreters, Mateo and Molly. English to Spanish and Spanish to English interpretation is available on FM channel 105.7. We also provide Assisted Listening on channel 92.1. We have a limited supply of radios available to loan for those who need them. Please return any radios you borrow. All afternoon workshops will all have interpretation.

2018 PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM— DOUG G.: More than 400 people have already registered to attend the Regional Forum. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to any member of the Welcoming committee. The chair of the General Service Board, the trustees, directors and GSO staff have all been very impressed by the enthusiasm from CNCA in welcoming this event to our Area and look forward to meeting everyone.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S WORKSHOP – MARIA LUISA S.: The objective of this workshop is to support Spanish-speaking women who want to achieve or maintain sobriety. Spanish-speaking women in AA experience many challenges in obtaining sobriety, in part because of cultural issues. So this workshop is intended to support those women, especially women who have not yet found sobriety and women in their first years of sobriety. It will be held December 1 in San Francisco.

Area Business

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

That CNCA establish a standing committee on Technology. – *presented by Dennis H.; seconded at the ACM*

Presentation: This motion arises from the findings from the Technology Ad-Hoc committee, a nine-month effort to review the technology needs of the Area and to recommend a path forward. This motion aims to set up a standing committee on technology, which could make improvements in our technology, make recommendations, and make financial plans. I am not asking for approval of the Technology Ad-Hoc committee report, but for the formation of a Technology committee, which could be a vehicle for making some of those recommendations.

Questions: Q: Would the Technology committee be separate from the Web committee? And why? A: The Technology and Web committees would be separate committees. The Web committee would continue to work on the website and our online presence, while the Technology committee would focus on the Area's technology needs. Q: What would determine who serves on that committee? A: Area Officers would appoint members of the committee, as they do with all standing committees. Q: Would the committee focus on helping people find online meetings? A: No. This would be focused on the needs of the Area. Q: Would this require a new Area Officer position? A: No. This would only form a committee. Q: The process to vote on motions takes time; is there an urgent need for this committee to be formed sooner? A: This is not an emergency. Rather than speed something up, we should have as much discussion as possible. Q: What is the financial impact? A: It would depend on the recommendations of the committee. Q: What do other Areas do? A: We did not investigate what other Areas do.

Motion moved to New Business at the 2019 Pre-Conference Assembly.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Discussion: There is not enough guidance in the *Big Book* or the *Twelve and Twelve* regarding meditation. // We already have too much literature. // This proposal is too restrictive. Meditation is a personal thing, and we would prefer a pamphlet sharing experience rather than one that is AA Confidential

instructive or tells people how to meditate. // In light of the *Grapevine* Conference Committee decision that a book on prayer and meditation be published within the next year, we were not sure what to do. We should wait and see how that turns out before making a decision. // An introduction to meditation would be useful, especially to newcomers. // Even in light of the upcoming *Grapevine* book, we believe that more is better, and additional literature would be helpful. // While this sounds like a good idea, we should consider the cost. // Meditation is helpful, and having literature available to guide people in early sobriety is beneficial. // The pamphlet could be perceived as instructive, and this would drive people out of AA. // Information about meditation is already available in numerous *Grapevine* articles and via outside resources. Additional literature is being developed by the *Grapevine*. // This literature would share experience, strength and hope. It would not be instructive. AA is not about instructing people, but about sharing with one another. That is how we survive. // Being in AA has allowed us to develop a practice of meditation. This literature could inspire us to continue to carry the message. // I struggle with the meditation part of the program, and guidance would be helpful. // Often, we skip through the Eleventh Step because meditation is difficult and confusing. Literature could help by providing us insight into other people's experiences. // In California, we all know about meditation, but other parts of the country could use more information about meditation. // Meditation is very personal, and there is no need for this literature. // This is divisive and separates the Eleventh Step from the other steps. // Personal stories about meditation might be helpful. But we must avoid being too instructive or affiliating with certain practices rather than others. // This would be a resource for new members or people who struggle with meditation and want to read about other people's experiences. // Literature about meditation already exists, including *Came to Believe* and numerous *Grapevine* articles. // Including too much information in one pamphlet may overwhelm people. // Developing literature on meditation would highlight the importance of meditation rather than suggest it is something we need to do. // The more literature available, the better. // Creating a pamphlet on meditation would remind people that meditation is as important as prayer. // We would prefer literature on Step 11, rather than literature focused on meditation. // Meditation is a personal thing, and we want to avoid literature that suggests that there are Conference-approved methods of meditation. // The motion does not say guidelines or instruction. In AA, we share our experience, strength and hope. // If we create pamphlets on one step, would we create pamphlets on each step? // Rather than create a pamphlet on meditation, we should encourage subscriptions to the *Grapevine* and support for the *Grapevine*. This is what the *Grapevine* is for. // There are more than 1200 references to meditation in the *Grapevine*. It is overwhelming. A pamphlet or small book would be more helpful and less overwhelming. // I have never benefited from reading about meditation, but I have benefited from silence. // I would like us to have literature that broadens our horizons. // We should wait to see what the *Grapevine* does with their book before making a decision.

Motion remains Old Business at the 2019 Pre-Conference Assembly.

OLD 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*

Discussion: The current edition is fine, and this would be unnecessarily expensive. // We would like to start this process now. If possible, we would also like updates to the gendered language in the first 164 pages. // Not much has changed in the last 20 years, and changing things just because we can seems unnecessary. We should focus on translating our literature so that people in countries with no access to literature in their language can find our program. // Stories from LGBT people, Asians, Hispanics and other cultures are not currently represented. We would also like to see stories representing the dually-addicted and from people with mental health issues. // While we were in favor, there was hesitation regarding updates to the appendices. // Our message has not changed, but our society has. But this process is a spiritual experience, and we are due to experience it. // We would like to see stories from people from non-Abrahamic religions, from nihilists, from veterans and from hippies. // The *Big Book* should not become a popularity contest, and this could just lead to people choosing the version that they most identify with. // Things change fast in society, and our literature should include stories reflecting the current fellowship to help with identification. // Over the course of our discussion, one member who had been adamantly opposed changed his mind. // If we plan to make changes to the *Big Book*, there are more important ones to make than the stories. // Previous editions are available for people who want them, but update the book to keep things relevant and reflective of our times. // It might be too soon for a new edition. // A lot has changed. We need to freshen up the *Big Book*; it is sad, and alcoholics are looking for the next shiny thing. Let's bring sexy back to the *Big Book*. // We should not fix what is already working. // Skepticism focused on changes to the appendices. // We want stories regarding cross-addiction, including with food and drugs. We want more modern stories from diverse perspectives, including transgender people, young people, and from people who did not think they were alcoholics. We want stories from people who came to AA against their will (through court order or on probation). // Since previously retired stories have shown up in *Experience, Strength and Hope*, we hope that retired stories from the Fourth Edition would be published there as well.

Motion remains Old Business at the 2019 Pre-Conference Assembly.

The morning business meeting was closed at 11:58 am with the Responsibility Statement.

Signing Off,

Eric L.

CNCA Panel 67 Recording Secretary