

## CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA Fall Assembly Minutes, November 24, 2019

The Fall Inventory Assembly of CNCA was held November 24, 2019 at the Cathedral of St. Mary, San Francisco. Eric L. opened the Meeting at 9:00am, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Orientation was given by Chris H.; the AA Preamble was read by Tim J. (District 04); Judy G. (District 01) read the Twelve Traditions in English; the Twelve Traditions in Spanish were read by Jose L. (District 17). There were 4 past Delegates: Bob D. (Panel 36, Area 28 - Maine), David N. (Panel 59), Ken M. (Panel 61), Vicky R. (Panel 66, CNIA), David N. currently serves as a General Service Trustee. Visitor: Mathew L. (Alternate Chair CNIA). Two Past Area Officers were also present: Michael Q. and Chris H. Approval of the 2019 Summer Assembly Business Meeting Minutes and financial report were accepted as printed in the *CNCA Comments*. Voting members: 177 Non- voting: 80 Total: 257.

### OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE – Teddy B.-W.: Registration for the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, July 2-5 is now open, priced at \$115, \$140 after April 14, 2020. I took part in the planning call for the Pacific Region Hospitality Room at the Convention and will be serving as Treasurer for that inter-area activity. The deadline for new stories to be considered for the updated pamphlet A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late has been extended to January 15, 2020. Email your story to: [access@aa.org](mailto:access@aa.org) and put "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic" in the subject line of the message. Registration for PRAASA 2020 in Tucson, AZ March 6-8 is now open at [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org). Finally, the motion we sent to the Conference to produce literature on meditation is under consideration and we will know in early February if it is one of the agenda topics. Stay tuned!

ALTERNATE DELEGATE -Jennifer B.: Very exciting! The static company page describing Alcoholics Anonymous is intended to be a tool to aid local C.P.C. committee work in the United States and Canada to inform professionals about A.A. We are being asked by the C.P.C. desk for

feedback on whether we think there is a need for an annual Cooperation with the Professional Community Conference, or Workshop, for the U.S. and Canada. (Similar to what we currently have for Archives, Bridging the Gap, and Corrections.) If you have any thoughts on that, please let me know.

CHAIR – Eric L.: Please check the CNCA website and the *Comments* for up-to-date information regarding ACM meetings in December and January. Several officers attended CNIA to help count votes for their new delegate. Minutes from today's inventory will be distributed as soon as they are available. And there is a vacancy on the I&T committee.

TREASURER – Dennis H.: We currently have \$14,042 in our account in QuickBooks. I am expecting to write about \$13,791 in checks by November 25th leaving a balance of \$250 before accounting for Assembly 7th Tradition contributions. I would expect that with the donations I will not need to take additional money from the Prudent reserve.

REGISTRAR – Erica G.: We had a great team helping with registration. Our registration information has been moved into a new database we have been working on for a while and we have received positive updates. If you have not received your new GSR package please contact your district registrar. GSO also continues to move the registration database to new system. This makes the information move a little slowly.

RECORDING SECRETARY – Miguel H.: Many thanks to the members that are always available to help with the editing of the monthly minutes. Area Motions Book is currently updated. Please write or send your report to be submitted in our monthly newsletter.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – Coree H.: For clarification, our Area Committee Meeting last month was canceled at 11am the day of. The previous day, the Petaluma Community Center contacted us to say that the ACM may need to be canceled, but as of 6am the day of they had told us that everything was okay. Sending everyone home that day was

far from ideal, but based on our communication with the center, things should have been fine. Unfortunately, the Kincade Fire was unpredictable and was a tragedy for so many alcoholics and non-alcoholics alike, and we absolutely should be holding all those affected in our hearts.

LITERATURE/*GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA* – Magdaleno O. : The Twelve Concepts are now available in audio on English, Spanish and French first a first time. We are reaching the hand of AA out to our deaf fellows with an updated ASL translation. The special edition for November is “Pass the Gravy”. You can now subscribe to our You Tube Channel, also you can add your events to our calendar online at [www.aagrapevine.org/share](http://www.aagrapevine.org/share). The current *La Viña* issue is “Nuestra sobriedad durante las fiestas,” and we are inaugurating a *La Viña* store as an easier way to place orders completely in Spanish.

#### STANDING AND SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

ARCHIVES – Denise G.: Our current projects include the digitalization of archival materials and setting up our archives web site with our CNCA Web committee. We had very busy days at the depository and was well attended. We completed the first part of the Spanish display board. We are looking forward to having our open house and all of you are welcome to come, on Saturday December 14 at the depository in Walnut Creek from 11:00am-3:00pm.

BRIDGING THE GAP – Larry B.: Thank you district 11 for hosting our annual BTG Forum. We had about 25 presentations from around our area. We received about 40 requests within our area this past month.

FINANCE – Don L.: The committee has completed the 2020 budget and will be presented to the Area at the December Area Committee meeting. This delay is due to the transition of the Area Treasurer. The DCMCs, Standing Committee Chairs, and Sub-Committee Chairs will be emailed the proposed budget the first week of December. A review of the current budget versus actuals through October of this year, shows total income is at 80% of budget. Missing Area mail has caused this shortfall. Total expenses are at 89% of the budgeted amount. Net revenue is below

budget by \$8,804. There may be some groups or individuals that may have contribution checks that have not cleared their bank. If this is the case, they can help by re-sending any contributions that have not been processed or deposited.

PI/CPC – Jennifer B.: Back in June, our Area passed a housekeeping motion to help fund a booth rental at the California Probation, Parole and Corrections Conference which was held August 27-30 in South Lake Tahoe. The booth was staffed by our friends in Area 07. It's exciting when our areas can work together. The event had approximately 500 participants and there was great appreciation for Alcoholics Anonymous being present. The conference also offered a raffle entry to those visiting all the vendor tables, and getting signatures. Tom said "You should have seen the awkwardness of those holding drinks and approaching our AA table; we did our best not to judge."

WEBSITE – Michael Q.: We continue to work on making the user experience easier - thank you to the editors who make this possible. I'd like to encourage everyone to visit [cnca06.org](http://cnca06.org) and give us some feedback. I am proud to say that our website is completely bilingual - available in English and now also available in Spanish; thanks to the I & T committee for all their work. In our plan for 2020 we will be considering a Tech ad hoc recommendation of software for some of our own services.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – James B.: We have an opening for the equipment tech and for an additional translator. Thank you Molly and Manuel for being available and changing their schedule several times and being here today. Last month we completed the translation of 21 pages for our Web Committee.

#### HOUSEKEEPING MOTION

- "That CNCA contribute \$200 to the Annual Hispanic Women's Workshop, this year to be held December 7, 2019, in Mid-Southern California (Area 09)." – presented by Sandra G. and Ana V. Voting members are DCMs, DCMCs, Area Officers (this motion was

presented at the Fall Assembly due to the cancelation of the October's ACM) No objections <<<Approved>>>

#### PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

- “That CNCA requests that a pamphlet entitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: AA for the Spanish-speaking LGBTQ Alcoholic" be produced. – *presented by* District 40

Q: Is this pamphlet intended for Spanish speaking members written by Spanish speaking members? Is there a LGBTQ pamphlet that's translated in to Spanish that is similar to what this motion is requesting?

A: Yes, we passed around the current pamphlet to members from the LBTGQ Spanish speaking community and some of the experiences are not too relatable; it will be up to the conference how to work on this project if it passes. This will become Old Business at the 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

Group in favor / majority are against on investing money in this and instead we should have a plain language version of big book / group had lots of abstentions; majority were against. Vote: Simple Majority Yes:79 No: 33 Abstentions: 8; Minority opinion was heard, Motion to reconsider was made. Vote: Yes 52 / No: 55 <<<Motion Passed>>>

- “That CNCA establish a standing committee on Technology.” – presented by Dennis H.

I was at the tech workshop, I was able to understand what kind of tech we have and what we can do with it / I still believe that we should listen to the first recommendation on creating a committee / we should be adding one more member to the web committee / the intention was to have all this organized and have guidelines, whatever goes to the

treasurer and to figure out what happened in the past, we need to have more resources and add one person to the committee / we use tech for all things, the way we use tech in our community, I also agree that we should add a whole committee not just one person / Q: Will there be guaranties in anonymity protection? / we are in favor, we participated in the 24th anniversary of *La Viña*, and technology makes it a lot easier to share information, we can give information to other countries and implement what works at our area, it could help us with sharing our experience / create a plan and present to area; like, is what we are doing more productive and helpful overall, and at the same time can we protect peoples information, and will we be able to help people who have no experience using tech? / I don't believe a tech committee is the solution, look at us to decide what a committee is, each panel trusted servants don't have to have any special skills to participate and serve, but with a tech committee we will need people with special experience, maybe the people with the necessary experience and skills aren't available, if we have tasks that need some specific skill then we need to hire special workers / it is important to have it, we need to be more up to date and have the information available to us to stay informed, we need to reorganize / Dist 04 has an application to share information ask questions and share thoughts, people don't have to wait to the monthly District meeting, also increases the interest to attend General Service activities / we need the pros and cons available to share with our groups / I'm against this, currently our finances are not in good condition and it is not appropriate to add another expense to the Area / it would be good to have options, even if this motion doesn't pass, maybe we can trust the area to create something to solve our needs, then we can consider our options / we had this discussion at the Area, at the September ACM at the literature discussion Teddy shared the committee and sub-committee job descriptions - that can help us understand the difference between a committee Vs a sub-committee / if you can forward this to catch our attention, this should stop us from doing this / working with people who have experience and who can show us or help us understand what's available, I think the groups or districts have different

technology needs compared to the Area, we have also to think about archives or accessibility. Will continue at Pre-Conference Assembly.

- “That CNCA continue the work of the Accessibilities Sharing Session by creating an Accessibilities Sub-Committee. The main purpose is to continue the sharing session and support accessibilities work at the district level.” – *presented by the Accessibilities Sharing Session*

This has a clearer idea of how we can help the alcoholic who still suffers, can help with many things - including things like language barriers, offer more ways to be prepared for when folks walk into meetings and have more experience to share / the area is too big there's lots of differences in needs from place to place / member against this, the accessibility sharing session had lots of information / our group is in favor / we second this, several meetings are in favor, it could be great to have a sub-committee at the area to help in rural areas with big geographic areas / we can have lots of benefits from this, as a committee we can bring our needs and questions to help members, in San Jose we found that hard of hearing members in our group never participated and the lack of participation was caused by hearing barriers, with a committee we can gather experiences in one place and put the solutions to use to anyone who asks for help, then we can see the real use / we need to have a committee, we need a strong statement, we need to help our community, we need to be accessible, creating the committee also supports those in remote communities. Vote: majority no: 6 abstentions: 0; Minority was heard, Motion to reconsider: 0 <<<Motion Passed>>>

- “That CNCA requests that a pamphlet entitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: AA for the Transgender Alcoholic" be produced.” – *presented by District 07*

Two groups in my district are in favor / we should help members to have more discussion and have a clear idea on what it includes, this community could feel more included with this material / we were very divided / majority said this is an outside issues / we can save lives with this material, it could open doors everywhere / love and tolerance / this

will help people identify / district is in favor, this is considered a remote community, we expend lots of money to save lives / this can help members by making the introduction to AA easier, this could help other areas too and other countries, let's make these members feel welcome / minority believe that this is an outside issues and articles on GV can be more helpful / reason against it is that this topic can be addressed in other literature / this can reach those in need / no, we are not ready to vote / all in favor as a group / sure it can help, but we have lots of questions, lots of people come to AA and identify as different but don't have a pamphlet / voted in favor of this / we read from a current pamphlet and we feel that we understand, we need to read what we already have / we should have a sharing session on this, and it is an opportunity to hear about this topic and hear more about the needs of this community including discrimination and other issues inside AA / one of our district inventory questions was about safety, lots of the members that are alcoholics don't feel safe based on how they dress, this is very important / long discussion and majority are in favor for this pamphlet, inclusion is the main purpose, members like the idea / if we can create something to reach these members, it could be great, also our Spanish speaking community is very different and having this material translated in to Spanish could be helpful / make them feel comfortable with this pamphlet on the literature table could be great, and help this group of people, this is an amazing thing, it is nice to have something to use as a reference / we decided to vote in favor, this has nothing to do with politics, this is to help people like us, who are transgender, to get sober / we would like to see this pass, and could have the opportunity to help people in other areas where folks are not as familiar with such topics/ it is not for me to say, it is more up to those members to talk about it / pamphlets should always transmit experience strengths and hope / having a workshop could be more helpful to become informed and then vote, people are not getting the message / we are in favor, we need to reach out the alcoholic that still suffers / I'm learning to help and identify / this is an outside issue, when I look on the purpose I can see the need of this community / anything we can do to make members feel welcome is good, we changed our name to make our group more inclusive, family is important to have an extra push and have this



inclusivity / we discussed, we have lots of questions but we remember our responsibility statement, no matter age, color, identification - it is our responsibility that the solution is available to everyone/ what this motion means is we can have the opportunity to have voice and share it with the Conference in New York / if we work to help understand the primary purpose and focus on the sobriety more than our differences, this helps, in meetings I no longer interested in been different / I'm in favor, as Hispanic we are very closed minded, years ago at the women's workshop we experienced that lesbians are not welcome at AA meetings and having a pamphlet with their experience helped them to feel more accepted, we need to have lots of information, and remember that no matter how spiritual we are- we need to have open minds / I call it an invitation- that's what pamphlets are, if an invitation can help someone gain access to AA, it's like inviting the transgender alcoholics to a meeting, also I don't identify that way but if I read it then I can understand and learn to help future sponsees with any challenges with this topic, help them to get sober no matter our circumstances, like everything in my life/ peoples choices are not our problem but if those members are alcoholics then it is our issue, we should let the flow of AA work, not do their job / my purpose is to help alcoholics, the identification is not important, let's make those people feel welcome / this came to my heart, on sharing our experience, it is our job to make them feel they are not alone, we have to show love and compassion, we need to transmit the language of the heart that Bill expressed in that book / so many pamphlets are being created and so many we can't display all of them, this creates confusion on what we should use / personal opinion, the majority of AAs shared how they feel different when they get to AA, this is my perception, if we create a pamphlet every time a person feels different- we will have millions of pamphlets, we have steps, we have the program, we have to use it / several pamphlets mentioning stories on different aspects, AA for the women, for the older alcoholic, for the alcoholic inmates, for the Native Americans, for the armed forces, if we are creating material for the alcoholic that still suffers I'm for it, and I'm in favor for this motion. Will Continue at Pre-Conference Assembly.

## NEW BUSINESS

- “That AAWS publish a one-page summary of the six warranties”. –  
*presented by District 08*

I don't know what the guaranties are / not in favor, concept 12 has what we need / not necessary / we have a whole chapter and maybe having it available in a summary could be helpful / having it in hand could be helpful for new GSRs, spiritual purpose for the guaranties are in the service manual. Will continue at Pre-Conference Assembly

## WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Please return radios and thank you to Manuel and Molly for the interpretation / archives open house at the depository in Walnut Creek, hope to see you all / sober and free conference January 25 in San Jose, you're all welcome / thank you to all the members that volunteered and helped keeping it all in order today / thank you for this assembly, for me sometimes hearing the minority is important / 3rd legacy workshop everyone is welcome / take a flyer to NCCAA coming to San Jose, we need some support / thank you everyone who has been of service at this assembly / District 07 thank you San Francisco for being flexible with dates, and thank you to the officers, and thank you members from Area 07 for helping facilitating / 2020 International Convention, our area passed a motion to write a letter of support / tradition one is about unity more than anything, and we need it thank you.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement, 5:00 p.m.