A.A. Confidential -- January 2016 www.cnca06.org

California Northern Coastal Area of Alcoholics Anonymous

Preview of the Area Committee Meeting January 2016

Is this really the last business meeting of 2015? Are we really half way through Panel 65? I have to tell you, I feel amazed. And yet I am still excited about what is yet to come with the next year's General Service Conference.

Our December Area Committee meeting met early on December 19 instead of our usual fourth Saturday. A lighter agenda was very much welcomed. The 2016 Budget that was presented last month by the finance committee passed without an objection. We continued to discuss the updates for the financial guidelines. That will be old business next month. The Web committee withdrew their motion: "That the website committee replace the current, static event list on the CNCA website with an event calendar that has been tested on the committee test site."

There was a save the date announcement from the Chair of the 2018 Pacific Regional Forum. The date is September 7-9, 2018 and the place will be the Double Tree Hotel in San Jose. This is a great opportunity to encourage the local fellowship to attend and discover for themselves what General Service is all about.

Lots of us are already making our plans for PRAASA 2016 in Spokane, Washington on March 4, 5 and 6th. Agenda topics are expected as usual to arrive the week of February 15 and the Area Officers already have plans to create the Agenda Topics Summaries as soon as the information is available.

We had a lot of time to discuss the topic "How do we do business at the assemblies?" This seemed to be a subject of great concern to all who were at the Area Committee meeting. Lots of great suggestions came out of the discussion. We will continue this discussion topic next month.

Thanks to all of you for serving Alcoholics Anonymous in 2015. I am looking forward to the New Year with excitement and joy. Can't wait to see what is next!

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!

DELEGATE'S CORNER

Happy New Year dear fellows of CNCA,

As we go into the New Year I would like to invite you all to participate in all of the events that we are going to be having throughout 2016. I am very excited about some of the possible agenda topics that we'll probably have for our 66th General Service Conference. By the way I have received a request by the GSB to vote on the following proposal, which I am in favor of, if any of you would like more information it would be a pleasure to send you a copy of the letter:

The General Service Board Proposes to all members of the General Service Conference, that the 2016 General Service Conference workshop topic "Anonymity- The Spiritual Foundation" be deferred to the 2017 General Service Conference so that the 2016 Conference can discuss and respond to the GSB request for sharing on the Feasibility Study.

Also I would like to let you know that we have the advantage of the dashboard, thanks to technology, I will send you the preliminary agenda topics as soon as they are up on dashboard and possibly by February 13th have the final agenda. Then, we the area officers will meet to work on the summaries hopefully to be ready by February's ACM.

I was very pleased to see that many of my fellow members from area 06 will be attending PRAASA. I encourage you to make arrangements for the event ASAP if you haven't done so already. If you need more information please visit the website at www.PRAASA.org. For reservations: 1- 509- 455-9600, \$115.00 dls +tax approx. 128.00 per night, Code: **PRA**

NCCAA 69th annual spring conference March 18 – 20 in San Ramon, is allowing us to participate with the workshops for GV/LV and women's Spanish meetings. Please contact me if your district would be interested in taking part in the event.

20th National AA Archives Workshop "The Road of Happy Destiny" Sept. 8-11 Concord, more to be revealed...

I received an email from Steve S. Regional Forums Coordinator with information about our event; we are pleased to inform you that we now have a contract with the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel to host the 2018 Pacific Regional Forum the weekend of September 7-9, 2018 in San Jose, California. I called to thank him for his Service, and he suggested that it would be a good idea to attend the 2016 Pacific Regional Forum in Hawaii Sept. 30th to Oct. 2. It would give us and all of our new members the opportunity to participate. The way the time is running these days nine months can go by without notice, I encourage you to plan in advance to save money on your travels, and it would be an incredible experience for all of us so please plan accordingly.

"General Service Conference the authority for giving shape – through the labors of its chosen Delegates, Trustees, and service workers – to the destiny that we trust God in His wisdom is holding in store for all of us." Pg. 7 "Twelve Concepts for World Service"

With Spirit of Love in Service Raymundo L. CNCA 06 Panel 65 Delegate

Looking for Something?

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AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2015

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held December 19, 2015 at the Petaluma Community Center. Joann L. opened the meeting at 12:30, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Ramon of District 20. Audrey of District 10 read Tradition 12 and Jeff of District 3 read Concept 12. There were 2 past delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35) and Doug G. (Panel 53) and current committee member of GSO Literature Committee. There were 4 new GSRs present and 3 new DCM's were present, 0 new DCMCs present. The November minutes and financial report were accepted as printed in CNCA Comments. Birthdays: 146/9.

Registered attendance: Voting= 55, Non-voting= 45.

Officer Reports

DELEGATE Raymundo L.: I would like to thank you all for your participation with the 67th conference in 2017. We sent 22 themes in and I have received a confirmation from Mary Clare L. the conference coordinator thanks us for our participation. The AA GSC Inventory Compendium 2013-2015 arrived but is only available in English and French. The Spanish version will be available in April. In the meantime you can read the Spanish translation in our last three Conference Reports. How many of you are going to PRAASA in Spokane Washington, March 4-6? I received a registration form in English and Spanish or you can also register online at PRAASA.org. I attended the 14th Spanish Local Forum Area 07 on Sunday December 13 and participated in one of the round tables. The Pacific Regional Forum 2018 will be held in San Jose California September 7th - 9th, 2018 at the Double Tree Hotel.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE Phil B.: I had the opportunity to facilitate the PI/CPC workshop for District 19 Spanish South South Tuesday night. I gave a 45-minute PowerPoint presentation and had a Spanish speaking man and Spanish speaking woman do a mock PI presentation. At the end an older Spanish speaking gentlemen approached me with an Interpreter. He had in his hand what appeared to be a presentation document on PI/CPC in Spanish. I was able to follow with the interpreter's help; they were similar to my presentation. We were both from different countries, culture and different language, but we realized we had gotten our information from our approved AA literature! We experienced together the importance our literature being uniform throughout the world. "One Alcoholic Talking to Another" no matter what language, country or circumstance. Thank you District 19.

AREA CHAIR *Joann L.:* We only have two items in the lost and found. Please claim if they belong to you. TREASURER *Teddy BW:* We received \$4,732.64 in revenue this month. I have written checks so far for \$4,296.69 which leaves us with \$9,340.70 in the bank, plus our prudent reserve of \$9,194.39. If you have any expenses related to 2015 and have yet to request a check please see me before the break. It is important that we pay all our 2015 expenses before the end of the year. I will be implementing the accounting software switch on December 31. That way we will not have a split year using two different systems. Q. Do we or when will we forward any of our bank balance to NY?

A. We have no financial guidelines to cover this. REGISTRAR *Ray W.:* We are doing well with the registration process. Please be sure to get all your information to me 2 weeks before your District meeting, so I can provide you a current sign in sheet. If you have GSR's that are rotating out be sure to correct with the new GSR or show vacant. It would be good to keep our records up to date. Be sure to include the suite or apartment number so the Comments and mail can be delivered.

RECORDING SECRETARY Barbara S.: The I & T Committee and Area Officers have decided to move the translation of the motions book out of the Committee and will be looking for volunteers next month with help of translating the prior panels. Most of the motions have been translated and we should be able to translate the remainder of the book by the end of the panel. This would help future committees with only having to translate one panel per committee. If you would like to help, we will be collecting names next month. Please ask your districts for volunteers.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR Michael Q.: I want to thank

everyone for a wonderful year and your attendance here and at the assemblies. I am blessed to have worked with all the Assembly Committees and it was a unique and spiritual experience. Our Pre-Conference Assembly in April is next up. The Marin Assembly Committee has been meeting regularly for more than a year and this promises to be a Panel defining experience. The previous Marin Pre-Conference held in San Rafael set both day 1 and 2 all-time attendance records that still hold today. Our GSR's deserve a safe and friendly environment at which they can deliver their group consciousness and many are working hard to make that happen. This job of Assembly Coordinator might just be the best job in all of AA, it certainly has been for me. LITERATURE/GV/LV Agustin L.: Free shipping with GV is still available to Dec. 31. Soon we will be able to receive and subscribe through an app for GV. All apps will be free, 1 year subscriptions, save issues on the go. Existing GV online subscribers will receive 6 months free and more will be revealed. I have received a warm greeting from Edwin P. the LV editorial assistant along with an invitation to read our magazine by participation, subscribing, renewing and gift organizers. To register & receive information about GV/LV and register as a rep of your district, send a text to 50555 with all your information. The GV/LV challenge ends tomorrow.

2018 FORUM *Doug G.*: As you all remember, we have been chosen to host the 2018 forum. We received a call from NY and GSO has chosen September 7-9 2018 -- Doubletree hotel in San Jose. Close to airport and hotels. NY have worked out discounts for the 5 hotels that will be available. The forum is not till 2018 and when I go to NY I will talk about the format. We will do a save the date flyer and after that, we will start to form the committees.

District Reports

01 MONTEREY Susan G.: We continued our discussion on taking an inventory with the help of our visiting officer. We hope to start the process at our next meeting. A new GSR volunteered to be the new PI/CPC coordinator.

02 SALINAS/SAN BENITO *Eliyah H.:* We had a productive meeting this month. We had hoped to formulate inventory questions as well as vote on whether or not to change our meeting venue. We didn't get to the inventory questions, but the vote to move was overwhelmingly passed. It was interesting to see the underlying issue emerge that had nothing to do with the reasons initially cited when the motion was presented. It became abundantly clear that the move will greatly benefit both the GSR's and IGR's meetings. We experienced a deeper relationship with IG characterized by loving cooperation and support.

03 SANTA CRUZ Jeff W.: We had our annual potluck and our archives chair did a presentation and screening of "Markings on a Journey." We passed a motion that the website committee build a website for the district. 04 SANTA CLARA NORTH Marianne G.: We had no business in December. One of our DCM's Brian K passed away this month. We appreciate his service. We had a few new GSR's.

40 SANTA CLARA SOUTH *Miguel H.:* We had no business or reports in December. We played a game, AA Jeopardy. We then had a wonderful speaker. We also did our first District officers inventory. We are working hard at implementing ideas from the discussion at our District meeting about starting a GSR sharing session. 05 SAN MATEO *Erica S.:* We had no business this month and had a potluck with speaker. We had some bad news about a group in San Mateo called "San Mateo Group #1, which started in 1946 and is the oldest meeting in our county. They will be shutting their doors permanently at the end of the year.

06 SAN FRANCISCO *Rhys G.:* There was a discussion about November's inventory. There was a motion to send the excess funds of the district to CNCA at the end of the year. Next month we will select a member to go to PRAASA.

07 ALAMEDA NORTH *Thomas V.:* The District celebrated the end of the year with a traditional potluck, at which we had several speakers, including the Chair of our neighbor District.

70 ALAMEDA SOUTH Kathleen L.: We will have our District meeting on the 21st. Potluck & Business meeting where we will be discussing the output from Nov.'s District Inventory and have a presentation on our District Handbook. 08 CONTRA COSTA Laura W.: We had a potluck followed by an inventory. In January we will continue the inventory and will be presenting a motion to send someone to

09 SOLANO SOUTH *Dave W.*: We will be hosting the 10th annual Inter-District GS workshop with Districts 09, 11, 13 and 90 on January 20th in Vallejo. We are working on a District webpage linked to our Central Office webpage. We are sending 2 newbies to PRAASA.

90 SOLANO NORTH *Evelyn O.:* We are trying to make follow up calls to confirm GSR's. We are asking groups for stronger contributions. While speaking to AA members about group contributions, feedback given is: less assemblies, less committee meeting, move to carpooling, less flyers, more

potlucks, less unity days, less printed handouts, shorter unity days, shorter assemblies, closer assemblies.

10 MARIN *Chris H.:* We had a solid meeting. We passed two motions to pay for the Dinner Assembly place and hotel expenses of the guest speaker. We have chosen a district officer to receive \$500 funding to attend PRAASA in March. After doing a re-cap of the district inventory with all the GSR's, we discovered, according to them, that it would be appreciated if we could significantly reduce time of officer, standing committee, and liaison reports, in order to save as much time as possible for the Visiting Officer to present and for GSR roundtable discussions. We will be talking about that at our next officers meeting. The finance committee also presented our 2016 budget and we will be discussing in January.

11 NAPA Mary S.: We completed all the reports for the assembly and returned the excess funds to the area. We started the panel financially strapped, but we have ended the year in a sound financial status. We have talked to our local intergroup regarding communication guidelines during emergencies and information the district may post on the Napa Valley AA website.

12 SONOMA *Jennifer B.*: We are continuing discussions regarding the inventory. We have formed a few ad-hoc committees to look at action process. Sub-Districts all have DCM's at this minute. Mental Health and Agenda Topic workshop in February.

13 LAKE Mary Ellen R.: We had a potluck this month, with low attendance. We had a presentation from a past area officer on GS. I have drafted a flyer about GS and why do we need a conference. I am hoping this will make people step up. We will be electing an alternate DCMC to replace my position and we have a vacant DCM position in January. 14 MENDOCINO Tim D.: Our meeting is tomorrow. We will be working on the Budget for 2016. We had a successful Secretary's Workshop in Ft. Bragg earlier this month and will have one in Ukiah February 5.

15 HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE Candida W.: We had good attendance at our potluck and meeting. A Yurok tribal member gave a heartfelt presentation on Tradition 12. We look forward to tackling the Concepts next year. AA.org lists our local meetings incorrectly, so we will be working on fixing that with NY.

16 SPANISH CENTRAL *Reynaldo M.:* We talked about PRAASA. We will do our inventory January 5. We have our budget for 2016 done.

17 SPANISH SOUTH *Benito C.:* We have had sub-district meetings and continue to visit groups. We also participated in the Spanish forum in Sacramento. At our District meeting we approved the date for the Inter-district on March 20, 2016

18 SPANISH NORTH *Ramiro A.:* We did our inventory and had 7 questions. We completed all questions. 20 people were in attendance. We are making reservations for PRAASA. We are trying to have it on our agenda to visit each group in our District twice a year. We have a new woman's group that is meeting twice a week.

19 SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH *Fermin M.:* We are

participating at the forum in Sacramento. We completed our inventory and touched 10 questions. We also had time to talk about topics for 2017. We did a presentation on GS and secretary's. It was very well attended and lots of questions. We will be doing another one soon.

20 SPANISH EAST *Enrique E.*: We had our inventory workshop. The GSR's had a question and answer session after the inventory. We are still having a loving discussion about moving our District meeting place.

Area Sub-Committees

ARCHIVES Sheri W.: We passed two motions. One was to change the address listed in the Comments. The other was to create a motions book of Archives Committee motions. We also voted on our Inventory Questions, and will be holding our inventory next month. We discussed the highlights of the mini workshop event. Please make sure that a copy of your District meetings are getting to us if you don't have a District Archivist. They can be sent to me at the contact information in the Comments.

BRIDGING THE GAP *Bill B.:* We did a presentation on the new pilot program, and it was attended by AA members along with committee members and area officers. 3 requests for the program were received this month and volunteers were assigned to write to them. There is a link to the documents used for the orientation on Box, which I will forward to Joann for further distribution. If you are interested in doing a district orientation for this program, let me know. [The link to the correspondence pilot program information is listed in the print version of the Comments.]

FINANCE COMMITTEE Russ A.: We listened to Teddy's report and then we ate. We are grateful to be of service to CNCA through this panel.

PI/CPC Phil B.: The letter to the GSO regarding the panel 61 PI/CPC advisory action has been forwarded to the trustee's committee on PI for discussion at their 1/30/16 meeting. Raymundo will be contacted after that meeting to let him know the outcome of deliberations. Our committee enjoyed a wonderful report back from last month's topic "Mechanics you go through for a presentation," then had our annual Potluck.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE Cheryl G.: We heard a security update from Murias. We will have an inventory follow-up meeting in January. We are withdrawing the motion about the Events Calendar. The old calendar will now have English and Spanish links in the side panel.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION COMMITTEE Claudia N.: We had a great meeting today and we are grateful for all the work that was complete. We translated 8 documents this month, so that tells me that we are growing. One member has put together an English to Spanish terms used consistently in AA and is working with others to build on this to help interpreters. We will have radios for sale and loan at our pre-conference assembly coming up. We will be doing our inventory next month and are looking forward to seeing what we do well and where we can improve. CNCA COMMENTS Robin T.: We mailed 934 bulk and 42 first class mail. We are talking about a one-time increase to 20 pages for January to get all the assembly and Inventory

notes published. The cost will be about \$74.00 additional. I've been told we should be okay on the budget. COMENTARIOS DE ACNC *Manuel R*.: 190 sent out as hard copies and were sent out on time.

DCM SHARING SESSION *Linda T.*: We had a presentation for the Pro and Con discussion on the current motion about expanding area officer eligibility. Next month will have a presentation on DCMs visiting groups.

GRAPEVINE/LA VINA Agustin L.: We had a presentation on the "Gift of Service." Next month: "The Process of the Agenda Topics."

NCCAA Diane O.: The Spring Conference will be in San Ramon, March 18,19 and 20. There are flyers on the table. H&I Diane O.: We are still doing a little fine-tuning of the Pink Pamphlet. We have steering committee next month in Sacramento on January 9th. The Back from the Edge AA group in Central Yard of CTF Soledad State Prison is hosting a three-day conference on January 8-10 with outside speakers and guests being cleared. It is a first in California. YPAA REPORT: No Report

LA VINA ANNIVERSARY *Joshua H.:* I went to the pass it on with the new steering committee in December. We shared our experience with the new committee. We received 200 registrations and 100 voluntary contributions. The registration cost will be \$15.00. \$12.00 for the subscription to LV and \$3.00 to support the event. If you know anywhere that we can do a drawing, please let me know.

Housekeeping Motions: None

Guidelines: Updates for the Financial Guidelines Questions: None.

District consciences: None

Personal consciences: I need someone that is being affected by this change in the guidelines, I would like to hear from them. // The finance committee would also like to hear also.// About the only case I can think of for a third night is with the assembly coordinator on a pre-conference assembly. They would have to be there Friday night to set up, and then Saturday at the assembly and Sunday to tear down. If it was far from their home, it would be unsafe to drive home that day. I have had it happen, where I have driven home from an assembly when it was unsafe for me to drive home because it was not in the guidelines. There is also times on a district visit where travel was unsafe because of fog or some other weather condition. // At the Ferndale assembly the assembly ended at 12:00. On the way home I got a call from an officer that was still at the assembly at 4:30; that is a much longer day then the other members.// From my house to get to Monterey it is 7 hours. I leave on Friday night and get there and the first day is covered by CNCA. I am at the district meeting till 9:00 or so, and then it is 7 hours' home that night. The officers have shown how prudent they are with the area's funds, so this is a safety issue only. We are responsible when we are out of town; this does not happen often, it is a rare thing.// The reason we want this in the guidelines so it is not up to the treasurer or the officer. If it is needed it is there to work. The officer would still have to get this approval.// Guidelines are

suggestions, not final. As for safety I would have to agree that this is necessary. I am not so naive to think that someone might take advantage of this and turn in on an expense report.// I can't speak for any other past officer or treasurer, but when I think about guidelines and right of decision is what kind of guidelines are enough, the way they are written they are pretty wide. The first time I read them I am reminded of Concept 4 and the Easter bonnets.// What are we asking for?// A. Under the current guidelines it shows if an assembly is more than 125 miles it would cover the one night for a one-day assembly, 2 nights for a 2-day assembly. Q. Should this not be a motion?// A. By developing the guidelines we will have a written guideline as to whether to reimburse for the additional night. // I know that past area officers had spent their own monies to stay in hotels for safety that has not been covered. I believe we need to be self-supporting and pay the officers for expenses they have incurred.// After I run a meeting as a DCMC, there is a high that happens to me and I stay up. What comes with that is the crash just as hard, halfway home from an assembly it hits. I support this, is a safety issue and the officers are traveling by themselves most of the time. // I started thinking about my daily commute to work, and how long it takes me to get home. I think of future officers, and making it attractive and not too expensive. We are number 2 in the nation for traffic.// I hope we will consider the travel commitment that we put on our area officers and I hope we will reconsider all the travel we ask of them.// We are quick to go for the purse. A solution would be to take someone with me, maybe we have hospitality at hosting district, maybe we need alternates, maybe we need additional officers. I think we need to discuss this.// I lived far away when I was an officer. Officers are frequently late at night when people just like the way we were are out there driving.// Thank you for your honesty. I don't know how much this would cost. I don't want to see someone get hurt that is trying to be of service.// The finance committee has done some models of the cost involved with this, and we estimate that we are committing between \$700-1100 each year. I would expect that we would always be on the low end of this. If we had 4 officers that were far out of the general area, it would be about \$1800.00. Looking at the history and where our officers have come from in the past, we are really looking at the low end.// How much is someone's life worth.// The amount 700/1100 does not seem that much, is there a means for local members of the assembly to open their homes to officers?// There are times officers will stay in homes with local members.// Moved to Old Business next month.

2016 Area Budget: The 2016 Budget passed without an objection.

Area Business: None

Discussion Topic: "How do we handle business at assemblies?" We do a lot of business here, the GSR's get frustrated that they have done all the prep work and then at the assembly we don't have time. They then have to go to the group again for a refresher for the next assembly. We need to find time to focus on the business at hand, maybe we don't need to give all the reports.// I wonder maybe there

is way we could advise the GSR's about which motions are going to be talked about and advise that we will not get past a certain part of the agenda.// We also are discussing 2/3 majority, maybe we could make the orientations and breaks shorter, maybe also shorten the time at the mic.// At the last Area inventory assembly we didn't get to the old business on our agenda. Maybe we can start with old business and then go to new business.// Maybe we need to have a broader discussion. The business meeting is 2 hours and most of that is reports. Are folks bringing district and group consciences and no personal opinions, maybe we need to look at our handling of assemblies. Maybe we need to look at what other areas do, maybe an ad-hoc committee to see what other areas do and bring us back information that we could discuss.// I was looking at the agenda and thinking we need to get this done, but general service is about the discussion and not getting things done. We are about the discussions and conversations and not getting things done.// My sub-district talked about this. We thought the business at the assembly was not handled correctly. One GSR has made great progress with his group in participation with group conscience. I come here and we only talk about one or two. He was disappointed that we did not get to all of them. Maybe we can extend the time of the business meeting, maybe old business before new business.// The reports at the assembly take time. I wonder if we could have officers' and committee chairs' reports written and not given at the mic.// I like the orientation in the morning. Maybe the breaks could only be 5 minutes. I like the idea of a 3-day assembly. I like that maybe they could start on Friday night. The GSR's need to be heard and not the group consciences put in the basket.// We have a lot of time to talk today, maybe we can look at the agenda of the assemblies and bring them back to ACM. If we did that, we could let the GSR's do what they do best.// I always was troubled about the orientation. We used to do the orientation here and let the DCMC's take the orientation back to the districts; there seem to be a lot of talking during the orientation.// Maybe the reports could be put on the web.// I agree that we take too many things to the area that could be handled by the ACM. Many of the GSR's need to hear what is being said about the motions so they can make an informed decision. We need to look at how much time we are taking at the assembly and keep some of it here at the ACM.// Many people are doing other things during the orientation; maybe the area officers when visiting the district can do the orientations. If we have 3-day assemblies, it will increase the officers' cost at the hotels and will increase the amount of funds we spend. Maybe we could save time with the orientation and have the business meeting 3 hours from 9 – 12.// I have reviewed our area's history and sometimes we have doubled our attendance at the assemblies. As far as 2-3 days' assemblies, CNIA charges registration. We do old business before new business, it is just that we do presentation of new business before old business. We are going to have to evolve with the increase of participation.// I was just told that once something goes to the assembly it cannot come back here. I think we need to look at the assembly agenda before we make a decision to send to the assembly.// There should

not be any changes to the agenda. The officers should be told in advance. When someone presents a major policy shift without notice, it gives others the impression they can also do that.// Some assemblies were handled better than others, how did we do that? The idea about orientation and preparation for the assemblies needs to be talked about at district level. The GSRs need to be given a true timeline and when it will come up for a vote. We seem to do some things really well.// We have 8 assemblies during the panel. I hate when the chair states that if you already heard something, put it in the box; my stuff always went to the box. Maybe we need to keep the pre-conference assemblies just about agenda topics and no business meetings.// The last assembly was frustrating and the GSRs were disappointed. I think this was an extreme assembly that a lot of things were on the agenda and there was so much to talk about. We talk about increasing to a 2-3 day assembly. This is going to increase the amount of cost to the GSR and the attendance will go way down. We need to think about the use of our time and not more time.// We need the groups' input on things that will affect groups, which will take a long time. The voting members at the assembly is the GSR. Concept One is about the group being on top. The ACM does not decide what the groups will do. That process takes a while. We need to have the patience to deal with that. We can reduce the process of the orientation and we don't need the break. Maybe we could start 1/2 hour earlier and shorten the orientation and breaks, we gain some time.// At my first assembly I was told if it has already been said don't repeat it, add something new. I asked what is orientation and was told, you don't have to do that, get there in time for the business meeting. I was shocked that we were encouraging distraction with the coloring at the tables, so we end up with 20 people sharing the same thing, and 30 people's ideas go unsaid.// Maybe we have outgrown ourselves, maybe we are trying to serve 2 areas as one. We have had assemblies that not heard everyone's voice, what happens next? The assemblies are very important. The GSR's have the communication with their groups. I always tell them to get there early. They need to be there for the entire assembly. Everything that is said is important.// My experience with dividing the area is that it ends in Ukiah. The distractions on the table are for members that cannot stay without the distractions. We hear what we can handle. So much of the assembly is for the newcomer. Many have not even been to a district meeting. Making it pleasant is part of the experience. I would like to see the districts take on more responsibility to orientation of the GSRs for assemblies.// My experience at early assemblies is that the reports from the officers and committees were important. I learned a lot about what was going on. I got lost in the business part of the assembly.

"What's On Your Mind?"

I am concerned that AA is not growing. We have heard this from a couple of sources at GSO. Our costs are going up at GSO, Area and District. Our income stream is not going up with the inflation. I don't know what the solution is to any of

this, but we need to think about this. We have gone 80 years so far with growth but not now.// Everything this year has been wonderful, I got to go to the International Convention, the Conference took its inventory. In Archives we look back so we can look ahead. All these inventories that have been taking place. What do we do with all this information? Our Conference took its inventory. Our Delegates did a lot of work on this inventory.// I was excited to read the conference report. I met with an alcoholic and read the keynote address and put the book down. The opportunities we now have and are having have been twittering in my head, we are going to look at the plain language Big Book at the conference. Also I forgot to mention that The General Service Board proposes to all members of the General Service Conference, that the 2016 General Service Conference workshop topic "Anonymity - The Spiritual Foundation" be deferred to the 2017 General Service Conference so that the 2016 Conference can discuss and respond to the GSB request for sharing on the Feasibility Study.// Discussion topic suggestion: Lack of technology as a barrier to being of service.// Based on the discussion we have had, how would an ad hoc committee come about?// A motion would have to come from the committee. The motion would have to pass and the committee would be formed by volunteers.// I am concerned about the topic at the DCM sharing session. I don't think a discussion about a current motion at a sharing session was appropriate, instead of a discussion on how to do their jobs or a portion of their jobs.// I thought that discussion was to educate about the motion and not the pros and cons. The DCM's were given information to help them share with their GSR's.// I am the hospitality chair for the pre-conference. We are lining up people that need help. Let me know if you need some help with accommodations. We want everyone to come and not worry about financial costs.// There will be a non-trustee director position available.// There is a motion to postpone.//

The meeting was closed at 2:40 pm with the Responsibility Statement

Submitted with Love and Gratitude, Barbara S. CNCA Panel 65 Recording Secretary



CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY INVENTORY MINUTES

Fall Assembly-CNCA 06 Inventory November 14, 2015, Napa County Fairgrounds

1. What more can the Area do to encourage a safe and inclusive environment? Recommend that we put something in ASL explaining how to request interpretation for the post-conference assembly. / Should avoid applauding for things that we agree with at business meetings because it can sway the body. We need to stay open to both sides of the arguments. / Help people find places to sit at the DCM meeting and Area Committee. Move the crowded DCM meeting to another room? Sitting by District creates territories and smaller districts don't feel welcome. / Don't forget radios at meeting so we can hear our members who don't speak my language. I keep several extra radios in my car. / There appears to be a tendency for people to dress a certain way depending on their job in AA. Does dressing a certain way make us a part of or separating us from others? / From a rural district, appreciate having an Area Officer at our meetings monthly. / People need to feel safe to say what is truly on their mind at these meetings. / When we give reports in Spanish, there are many who don't bring radios, and that gives the impression that the English members aren't interested in the Spanish members. / I have a red-tag on—"a non-voting member", at Assemblies we need greeters to help the new GSRs when they arrive. The room design can be overwhelming too. Greeters could help them find their way. / Everyone has always been so helpful, and all questions have always been answered quickly. Thank you! / I would like to see the area have a role for some of the past non-voting members. We like having them here, but they only sit in the back of the room. / A set of ground rules and process—perhaps a single page—that would tell us how we do things at the area or assembly would be most helpful.

2. Do we understand the spiritual principals underlying the right of participation? Participation is a right and duty. Groups are not fully represented. Sometimes it takes extra work to get a group conscience. It's scary to voice in the minority. We decide what items are to be brought to the groups. Some items have been not brought to the groups. If it affects policy or significant money, the groups should better participate in these decisions. / Some groups chairman will ask "if there are people who cannot hear or see well, please speak up." Follow up with individuals to see if they are getting help. Full participation is not available for the deaf or hard-of-hearing. We have been remiss in carrying the message to them, and not allowing their leadership here. / I was excited I had a vote here at my first assembly. Interesting that the Alt. DCMC didn't get a vote. Allowing more people to have a vote enables us to be more inclusive. / Participation is the key to harmony. The more voices can be heard, the more unity we can have. From "12 Concepts Illustrated" it talks that there are no superiors or inferiors. No members are second class. We have staff members who participate in the committees and conference at GSO; their opinion is very valuable. All voices are important and we need to hear it. / I love the history of the Concepts. I imaging being in NY, next to a staff member or trustee, we all have the ability to participate. Bill tells the story about a treasurer who was "in charge", and this

concepts reminds us of the concern about having too much authority. / There is a difference between rights to vote versus right to have a voice. Everyone in AA has a right to voice their opinion, but when it comes to voting, having restrictions is always how it has been done. We need to encourage people not to be afraid to come to the mike, even if it might upset some. This is not government, all messages are important. We keep an open mind here. / I'm always happier in front of a mic. I should only speak once, and not repeat what others have said. It prevents others from sharing, and keeps me humble. / When many of us come to General Service for the first time, there are fears and doubts in participation. Although this is my first year, I have support from the Area and District and can be fully participating. I have a right to be here. Sometimes we don't know if we are supposed to be observers only. We need to lose our fears. / Regarding Right of Participation, people in certain positions should not express their opinions on everything. I have to even watch my facial expressions. By keeping some things to myself, people can express their own thoughts. Sometimes area officers and past delegates should keep their opinions to themselves. / Encourage the ones who are afraid to find their voice. / By not participating, are we taking something away from the full voice of the area? By not turning in group history forms, it is keeping us from knowing our history. / Getting an "informed" group conscience is key. Something that was appealing to me early on was that people were interested in what I thought, and allowed me to participate. / I am responsible to ensure all members participate in the group conscience. Then, I have a right to participate in the assembly too in order to bring their conscience here. / Some members can't participate because of the distance. I want the business meeting to be impactful. It can be discouraging to a remote district if a business meeting doesn't address an issue key to them, and having it carry over prevents them to come back again. / The key is understanding the spiritual concept. When people come up with new ideas, we should encourage them to try things out and see if they work. Results might be reflected at the area level. / Although most here have the right to participate, we have a duty, not just a right. We must put ourselves forward and stand up for our beliefs. Take on that right as their duty and show up. / We courage in participating in our assemblies, but finding background on motions in our CNCA Comments is difficult. Would like to see a summary of CNCA Comments available at our assemblies so I can take that back to help my groups. / Unity underlies participation. One thing that negatively affected me was seeing people rolling their eyes when they were disagreeing. I need to be more conscience of how my actions can affect others. / From Concept IV—there is another good reason for participation, it deals with our spiritual needs. / We can encourage more participation in business meetings and voting, but when I was a new GSR, my participation needed to go far beyond just that. Having an informed view is important. Last panel, I didn't have a vote in spite of being active in the Area and District. Participation can still exist even if we don't have a vote. / Great to be allowed to participate. The spiritual principle is that we are all on equal ground. There are some with more or different experiences. I used to get resentful at past dele-

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY INVENTORY MINUTES (Cont.)

gates. The fact we all get to participate is spiritual in itself. / This is all about listening, and asking questions. I have to make an effort to participate, and it is not you're responsible to inform me. / Every person who is a member of a group have a right to participate as a member of AA. / I want to thank everyone. Group has many questions. Everyone is always so helpful. Informed groups usually have more influence. Having access to background information is very important. / Yes, we are all equal, but there is a huge disconnect for GSRs. They hear the words, but don't know if they know how things work—like how does their input connect to change in AA? / Lack of knowledge and education and communication about the flow of a motion works has keep me from participating. I often am the deer in the headlights. More education please.

3. As an Area do we cultivate and encourage responsible leadership? Are we strongly encouraging service sponsorship? That has had a profound effect on me, both as a sponsee and a service sponsor. I teach my service sponsees and show them how to make announcements. We go over the Concepts with them too. I've gotten so much from my service sponsors. Going through the Service Manual like I did the Big Book. / Service has cultivated leadership. I had a recovery sponsor, but one day he told me I needed a service sponsor. He invited me to the district and area. He said would live leadership. I still need to continue doing this. Educate...educate...educate. We have cultivated it, but it's also my responsibility. / I reflect on our leaders, and I think we select our officers well. They demonstrate leadership. They are a living example of a leader. / I was working with a deaf group and asked them to see the Concepts in ASL streamed from the website. It wasn't in a form of ASL that is nationally recognized. I videotaped an interpreter of a past trustees' talk on the Concepts, and want to share that with other deaf members. I hope we can see deaf leadership. / My DCMC asked me to help encourage GSRs. Looking up the officers and others for help has been hard, but always rewarding. My service sponsor is here, so I see his opinions too. Our Area Officers work hard, and are we giving them too much work load? Maybe we need to share more of that responsibility. / We do encourage it. We have many great sharing sessions that have taught me so much. By the time I became a DCM, I knew what the job entailed. I hope that education gets passed on to the members of the districts from the sharing sessions or subcommittee meetings. We can do a better job about encouraging service sponsorship; districts talk about it. but we as an area need to talk about it more. There is a trove of information amongst the past delegates; they always were encouraging and helpful. I've always been encouraged. / I have a service sponsor and use him. I didn't know how to stay sober, and people taught me how to. A man told me to get in his car, and we ended up at an election assembly and I have been here ever since. It's our job to encourage others, especially our young people. I have a grandson who will need us soon. / At meetings we hear go to meetings, take the steps, and get a commitment. We need to have more job descriptions, concepts studies, and other workshops. / I've been to 5-6 assemblies, but always felt an exuberant message of what is being presented, but also to those of us representing

our groups what our role is. We need to prepare for these meetings better, know what items of business are going to be voted on, etc. We do a good job at all levels. / A leader is a person of great service. We look to them and cultivate by being an example. I had to give a report at the district that required lots of research. I called a bunch of past delegates, area officers. Most got right back to me. That was a big example that encouraged my leadership. / Our Area has a unique that we send an Area Officer to all district meetings every month. We can do that because you contribute to enable that. There are benefits to the area, district, and even the officers. We take notes when we go there. We identify those of you with the bright eyes, enthusiasm, and then we talk about you. We try to pick those bright-eyed folks to do presentations, run workshops, and write arguments on motions. I know this works. All the past officers have experienced this. / I always did things because people told me to do it. That's how most of my positions came about. I always was too shy or felt incapable. I need to only ask whether I'm available or not. In thinking on what I need to do to improve to be like those I see around me, and I think we need to ask for a show of hands of those available to be service sponsors. / At six months, I was trying to fix everything in my group. I think I knew what was best. I became an alternate for every job. Eventually I got to serve in General Service, and have been blessed with many able leaders. Area 06 has that. Whenever I ask for help, whether they are a past delegate or area officers, they are there for me. I compare Areas. When I hear other members from other areas, and compare with Area 06, I'm glad I come from here. / I went to my first assembly when I had 6 months. I was scared, didn't know what was going on, but I was taught by example to bring people along. We don't even tell them what we are going to do, but then the AA magic happens. Change happens when I'm willing to approach the mic. Don't overcomplicate it. / Even at group level, when a steering committee is announced that "all are welcome." that's where we see able leadership, and realize it doesn't have to be big-shot attorneys. We are ALL welcome, and that takes the inferiority away. When a GSR position opened up, I was willing, and even if I may not know what's going on, I'm welcomed and I grow from it. / It's my personal sobriety and how much I want it. General Service made a difference for me. Got a Service Sponsor, but now he's moving, and I have another in the wings. General Service keeps me sober. / Hearing all that others have said helps me understand my role. Stories of leadership in AA inspire me. Want to see more collections that we can read will further allow me to inspire future leaders. / Page 37 from the Service Manual about effect leadership. It's been so helpful to have the DCM Sharing Sessions. We come together in unity. It's about inclusive participation. / I'm listening to the fear from the GSRs, but that fear can be faulted for creating that fear. We aren't worried enough about the new people. / One thing that was a substantial help to me, when we did the elections last year, we were told we were welcome to attend the meetings even if we weren't the head of PI/CPC in our district. I almost missed this, and I've been sober a very long time. When people told me I was welcome to attend, I started attending the DMC and PI/CPC meetings. I've learned so much be attending them, and am so grateful. When I tried to figure out how to do my

Balance Sheet November 2015

California Northern Coastal Area

Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of November 30, 2015

ASSETS	Nov 30, 15	Nov 30, 14	\$ Change	% Change
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
B of A Checking	10,122.43	10,823.08	-700.65	(6.47%)
B of A Savings	9,194.86	8,705.16	489.70	5.63%
Total Checking/Savings	19,317.29	19,528.24	-210.95	(1.08%)
Other Current Assets				
Assembly Deposits	3,615.00	-1,652.34	5,267.34	(318.78%)
BTG		124.00	-124.00	(100.0%)
CNCA Comments		427.98	-427.98	(100.0%)
1499 - Undeposited Funds	<u>-1,131.46</u>		-1,131.46	(100.0%)
Total Other Current Assets	2,483.54	-1,100.36	3,583.90	(325.7%)
Total Current Assets	21,800.83	18,427.88	3,372.95	18.3%
TOTAL ASSETS	21,800.83	18,427.88	3,372.95	18.3%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Equity				
3900 - Operating Funds - Adjusted	14,883.98	18,634.13	-3,750.15	(20.13%)
Prudent Reserve	9,194.86	9,485.16	-290.30	(3.06%)
Net Income	-2,278.01	-9,691.41	7,413.40	(76.5%)
Total Equity	21,800.83	18,427.88	3,372.95	18.3%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	21,800.83	18,427.88	3,372.95	18.3%

Expense Report November 2015

California Northern Coastal Area

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through November 2015

	Jan - Nov 15	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Assembly Contributions	7,807.90	8,000.00	-192.10	97.6%
Group Contributions	75,960.55	74,000.00	1,960.55	102.65%
District Contributions	12,394.86	6,500.00	5,894.86	190.69%
Tradition 7, Area Committee	3,110.00	2,950.00	160.00	105.42%
H & I Archives Rent	500.00	450.00	50.00	111.11%
CNCA Comments Subscription	ns 48.00	30.00	18.00	160.0%
Personal/Misc. Contributions	1,398.66	1,100.00	298.66	127.15%
Interest Income/Prudent Reser	ve <u>3.92</u>	6.20	-2.28	63.23%
Total Income	101,223.89	93,036.20	8,187.69	108.8%
Gross Profit	101,223.89	93,036.20	8,187.69	108.8%
Expense				
Delegate Expense	7,085.35	5,776.50	1,308.85	122.66%
Officer Expense	33,234.02	25,940.26	7,293.76	128.12%
Committee Expense	25,802.01	26,897.83	-1,095.82	95.93%
General Expense	<u>37,750.10</u>	44,737.33	-6,987.23	84.38%
Total Expense	103,871.48	103,351.92	519.56	100.5%
Net Ordinary Income	-2,647.59	-10,315.72	7,668.13	25.67%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income	260.50			
Refunds/Rebates Total Other Income	369.58 369.58			
Total Other Income				
Net Other Income	369.58			
Net Income	-2,278.01	-10,315.72	8,037.71	22.08%

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY INVENTORY MINUTES (Cont.)

first group conscience, but the Area Officer gave me his number and I must have called him five times. / Learning to be a GSR—there is no shortage of help. Any issues I come up with have nothing to with help, but rather it's up to me to seek out that help. My DCMC and DCM are all 100% helpful. Thank you for all of that.

4. Does the Area communicate the spiritual value of selfsupport? I believe that this issue is inaccurately communicated in this area because of the inference that this area has been breaking the 7th Tradition by relying on literature sales. In the future, books will no longer be bought, therefore we need to increase contributions. We need to communicate not from a place of fear and trying to raise money from a place of fear. There is never a shortage of money in AA, but only a shortage of communication. / Every deaf person knows about the 7th Tradition, and they think they will not be getting an interpreter. We are responsible to carry the message to those who suffer. / Lead by example. This past year, we obtained more property, and assembly expenses increased. A new motion coming up could increase our expenses. We don't send the full delegate expenses. We need to review our funds and see to our covering those full costs. / There is sufficient communication. At the area meeting recently, there was a great presentation at the Area discussing money and spirituality. He gave me a visual report showing the value of the dollar over time. / When I came to AA, they told me that we are self-sufficient, avoiding outside money. I once called GSO to give my contribution to them. I tell newcomers to do the same, and motivate groups to send their contributions to the district, area, and GSO. We need to talk about it at all levels. When you send your contribution to GSO, they send you a thank you note. / It's not just about finances, but about participation. / The groups wants to contribute when they have funds with no expressed purpose. The Area should be the same. We are all in this together; when we have excess, we need to discuss where it goes. / I think we do a good job talking about this. We keep it to the facts. I appreciate hearing about the actual figures and trends. I agree self-support goes beyond finances. We hear about what the GSB would require from each member to be self-supporting. It goes just beyond the GSB, but all services in AA. / When we encourage selfsupport, we need to give comfort that we are spending the group's monies wisely and that funds are not being wasted. / There is an underlying issue around self-support. When I got sober, we had elections to see who would clean the ashtrays, but now it's hard to get people to participate. Money in the basket is less and less every year. We want AA to change for us, not us changing for AA. For AA to keep growing it's up to us. Service is not an act of charity, it's an act of community. I use to freeload, but I'm responsible now to pay my own way. / I heard a good point at our last district meeting, it was said that when we approach groups for money, we don't brow-beat them, or tell them they are not part of AA. What works more is letting them know what services are provided, how new literature is published, etc. It generates a much better response.

5. Does the Area reach all important decision by adequate discussion, vote and whenever possible substantial unanimity? Yes. / Sometimes we take a long time,

especially at election assemblies. In this area we don't rush things. / Who decides what is "important"? Are we supposed to talk until no one has nothing to say, and we tend to over talk things? We micromanage and over analyze all expenses that come from committees; if a committee needs something, and the finance committee says we have the money, that should be the end of discussion. We don't need to keep repeating what others have already said, and we discuss things too much. / I've seen a tendency to use housekeeping motions made on things that should have been formal motions. That is concerning. / We didn't spend adequate time on old business today. We had four motions of old business today, and got nothing done. We ask GSRs to get group consciences and bring them here, but then don't vote on them, we are not encourage participation. / For all important decisions, we vote on whether we are ready to vote, so yes, we take the time. I tend to be listening to other's thoughts, it expands my peripheral vision. / One of my favorite things about General Service is how we can talk things to death. Sometimes it takes time for God's conscience to be expressed here. It reminds me of a past BTG motion. Our structure is set up to accommodate that. / Our district and area process works for me. It teaches me that all voices can be heard, and see those benefits. When a vote is taken, I feel the majority of the group because the minority was adequately heard. / In the past three years, I've learned from other's examples, there is no timeline on when a decision needs to be made. Even if I think we are ready to decide, I need to be patient. The process is more important; nothing is going to make or break AA. Everyone needs to have the opportunity to express their voice, hearing the minority opinion, and we come together. / The best part about our motion process is the minority opinion. Over the past 10 years, I've observed that after we take a vote, there are no hard feelings because of the time we take to hear the minority. / We do a good job of this. I've learned and been shown that I've acquired listening skills in various positions I've held. People have the need to be heard. Sometimes it sounds like people are repeating others, but there can be some very small nugget in there that can change my mind. It may look like we never accomplish anything, but there is huge spiritual value in our process. It creates our unity. We don't care if we get through the agenda. / As a General Service liaison to YPAA committee, we look up to General Service for how we do OUR business. We don't rush to a decision, we hear the minority opinion is heard and respected. Members of GS helped us out at our business meetings and the Third Legacy procedure. We handle things much better now because of it. / We have adequate discussion on each item, but I'm concerned that some decisions we make should really be left up to our leaders. Not everything needs substantial discussions, and we need to leave more things over to leadership. / The discussions about a motion or presentation enables me to hear all opinions and form an idea on how I might vote. One of our past delegates said we sometimes make decisions by simple majority when we really shouldn't. Taking time, and voting by two-thirds would be more helpful. / We over talk things, too much discussion, and should cover more things. However, we understand the importance of listening and go over and over

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY INVENTORY MINUTES (Cont.)

things. People outside GS in our groups don't understand this, and don't have the tolerance for how we talk things to death, and our voting process is very long. It's not conducive to all members. All important decisions need to be discussed, so we need to understand better what decisions are truly important. / I appreciate the hard work of the interpreters and the I &T Committee. They make communication possible. / When people come to the mic, people need to do their research. If we are asking too many questions back, that's a sign. Big ticket decisions should always be made using substantial unanimity. / We have a wonderful process. What we vote on at the assembly, we have to ask why we vote on some things by simple majority. I'm glad the Chair took the right of decision today. We need to more carefully those items that we need GSR input on. Recently, we took a vote on two assembly bids that had a \$2,000 difference between the two, and decided by one vote. We should have discussed further to get more unanimity. / I would like to get a sense of the room on whether we could start our business meeting 30 minutes earlier, by starting the business meeting at 9:30am giving us an extra 30 minutes. [General sense of the room was in favor of starting earlier.]

6. Are we open minded to new ideas as an Area? We just saw an example that we are indeed open to new ideas. / Gut reaction is "no". As members, we say we are, but as an Area I don't think we are. Don't like the wording of the question. I don't see the Area is open, based on some of the past motions. / Initial reaction was "no", but my experience has been different. I was taught that things that make me uncomfortable show me I'm growing. We sometimes make decisions on fear, and not on what's best for the fellowship. / Yes, we are open minded. Part of this is shown through the long discussions we have. Some topics have been around a long time, and both sides are heard. / As human beings, we only try to be or strive to be open, but aren't by nature. By going through our minority process, we become open, and are willing to drop our old ideas. I've seen things change that take years. / I like to think we are open-minded. We are taking on new ideas that came up, but this is a very personal thing. I'm I open to participate in different aspects of the program? / We are fond of our habits. The ways people communicate has radically changed, but a new thing to consider is how we could communicate better through our CNCA Comments. / As an Area, we are open minded, but our Traditions keep us grounded in fundamentals and where we are. / Being open-minded requires being able to listen to everyone. We talk things through until we get a consensus, but not to death. All members are equal, so we need to listen to them all. That requires tolerance. As long as we keep doing that, it allows for new ideas. If we shut off discuss with people still in line, we would be cutting off all new ideas. / There are two motions that demonstrate "new ideas", regarding who is eligible, and the other is on how we vote.

7. What more can the Area do to address special needs/ accessibility issues?

Discussion: This topic is vital to the area. What are the barriers to being of service? Would the area consider a special needs/accessibility committee to address these issues? / There is a trend in General Service moving away from using

the term "Special Needs". The needs are not special, but are regarding access. In the Access Committee in my district, we define what many of the barriers to being of service are. The goal of the committee is to raise awareness and find ways to solve and break down those barriers and educate the fellowship. / The question is about making things accessible to all. One friend can't attend meetings because she has kids, and the kids are not welcome at meetings. I grew up in meetings. Every meeting in my town had childcare at them. It's mean to tell a mother something about her kids and make her not welcome. Another friend is hard of hearing, and she can't go to meetings. Most meetings don't have interpreters, and she doesn't know sign language anyway. / My district has six ASL meetings. A group sponsors the interpreter, and another is sponsored by Central Office. The need for ASL meetings has been expressed. We used to have interpreters at all assemblies, and cut back. We should have interpreters here to help encourage participation. Some can't hear, others can't talk. / We need to expand our definition of special needs, and I like the name access. People with mental illness, old folks, vehicle problems, gender issues, etc. / I know people with many compulsive behaviors, and even if we could find ways to others and introduce them to the Steps, more could be done here. They are people who might end up with substance abuse. / Some prior discussions separate having provisions for access vs welcoming in our tone. / This matter is very moving. The Area should continue discussing it. I don't know what will happen to me and I might need help in the future. These people who require assistance can be helped by our committee. We help by bringing people to groups who can't get there on their own. As members of the group, we support this and ensure folks are transported back and forth to the group. / I have special needs. There is nothing wrong with this word. There is no stigma. We need to do more, but I can't say what. / There was a day when I couldn't drive and needed rides everywhere, but it didn't deter me from getting involved in General Service. We always ensure there is enough handicapped parking at assemblies, we have ASL interpreters at the post conference assembly by request, and assistive listening. We need to continue to hear what the needs are, but we already do lots. / I have special needs and sit in a special chair. At a woman's meeting, the secretary asked me to call in advance to reserve a space for my chair. Some people try to kick me out of meetings because I have a service dog. My dog is well trained. / I have a special need. I like to hear without interruption. There was a member I used to hate to listen to, but he gave me a special nugget. We sometimes think this is a business. One guy tried calling 25 guys for a 12th step call, but no one called back. We need to be available. When someone needs a ride to a meeting, we need to help them. I have to give it away or it will be taken away. When the phone rings, get off your ass and go pick them up!! / I want to thank all those who submitted stories for the mental health pamphlet. We always try to have wheelchair accessible. I listened to a man who was sober, in a car accident with a drunk driver, and only has a thumb left on his hand. Yet, he can still cook, and do many things. We need to continue to accommodate the needs, we can help it.

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held Nov. 14, 2015 at Napa County Fairgrounds, Calistoga, CA. Joann L. opened the meeting at 9:30 A.M., followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Tonja of District 11. The Traditions were read by Michael of District 11. The Traditions in Spanish were read by Emma of District 16. There were 6 past delegates present: Doug G. (Panel 53), David N. (Panel 59), and current non-trustee Director of AAWS Board, Ken M. (Panel 61), and a Visitor from Japan, Hiro M., Kochi City, Shikoky (Chushikoku Area). The Summer Assembly minutes were accepted as printed in *CNCA Comments*.

Registered attendance: Voting= 239, Non-voting= 105.

Officer Reports

DELEGATE Raymundo L.: The highlights of the GSB weekend have been received from our Regional Trustee. The Committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference committee on CPC a suggestion to retire the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." Final audited results of the International Conv. aren't in but it looks like a loss in the rage of \$220,000. This is due to the additional transportation costs from the record-breaking numbers in attendance. 220 stories were received for the e-literature projects initiated by the 2015 Conference. The subcommittees are working on these projects. The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference committee a proposal for the development of a plain language version of the BB. The PSA "Doors" is doing very well. CNN Airport Network is playing in at least 9 major airports. They also passed around a copy of the BB to be signed for the warden of the facility that houses Jason, an inmate who was allowed to share his story at the convention under guard. Jason was celebrating his 4 year anniversary on the day he spoke.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE *Phil B*. Thank you District 11 for the assembly. I would like to remind new GSR's that they may have the opportunity to vote on assembly business. "Taking our area inventory today" Our growth as individuals has depended upon this healthy process of trial and error. So will our growth as a fellowship. Let us always remember that any society of men and women that cannot freely correct its own faults must surely fall into decay if not into collapse." (From AA Comes of Age Page 231).
AREA CHAIR *Joann L.*: All the lost and found after today will be donated. We have 4 motions of Old Business which will all be voted on by substantial unanimity because they will affect CNCA policy.

TREASURER Teddy BW: The state of the CNCA Treasury is sound. As of today we have \$14,245.07 in the bank and a prudent reserve of \$9,914.86. Our budget for Assembly Contributions is \$8,000 spread over 4 assemblies. It is not my job to tell anyone what they should put in or not put in the bucket. My job is to provide information so you can make an informed decision. The cost of today's assembly is about \$18 per person based on anticipated attendance. Plus a food cost of \$4.50.

REGISTRAR *Ray W*.: Be sure to register for the assembly. This is used to determine the food prepared. Voting members are GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs and Area officers, or

their alternates.

RECORDING SECRETARY *Barbara S.:* Thank you today for being here. Be sure to speak clearly and slowly into the microphone today so I will be able to record all your comments and questions.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR *Michael Q.:* Thank you Calistoga and District 11 (Napa). We normally set up for the assembly the day before. Today we started at 6 AM. There were many people here to help when I arrived. See you in April in Marin.

LİTERATURE/GV/LV Agustin L.: We still have 35 days for the GV/LV challenge. The last day is 12/20/15. If you have not subscribed there is still time. GV circulation averages 72,495. For the first 9 months of 2015, 2307 more subscriptions than budgeted, and 1759 lower than 2014. 220 stories were submitted to the Literature Committee to update and create the pamphlets from AA members. 20 stories were in Spanish.

Area Sub-Committees- third quarter reports 2015

ARCHIVES Sheri W.: We have a table today; please stop by and visit during the assembly today. Monthly workdays allow for access to the archives. Our archives is making some adjustments to our archives system. We are creating a great workstation with the new desk. We are having a Miniworkshop for some on hands training. Next year we will be hosting the NAW in Walnut Creek.

BRIDĞING THE GAP *Bill B*.: As compared to the Fall Inventory Assembly of 2013, the BTG committee has handled 1795 contacts versus 1326. There is a training session for anyone interested in the pilot short-term correspondence program for inmates approaching release. This is intended to match members on the inside with sober members on the outside to correspond about AA recovery while they await release. The training will be on 12/19/15 at 11 A.M, prior to the ACM in Petaluma. To date, 4 letters have been sent to inmates, 3 wrote back and 2 are actively corresponding. One has informed us that the Governor decided to block their release.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Russ A.: We are still in the process of working on the 2016 Budget. It will be presented at the ACM in December. We have updated the finance guidelines on reimbursement to the officers and will be presented for your approval in January. Contributions continue to improve and our financial condition remains sound. The Finance Committee on behalf of the Area extends our gratitude to all groups and individuals who have continued to provide generous support for CNCA to help us carry the message. PI/CPC: Phil B.: We purchased a new TV/DVD combo for display. It is working great and is available for loan along with the Area's display. In November we staffed the CPC booth in SF. GSO funded the booth. The event was for the Association for Education & Mass Communication. We had the opportunity for many volunteers to participate. We attended the BTG Forum in October and gave 2 presentations. This is the 3rd large event this year that the committee has had the opportunity to participate in. WEBSITE COMMITTEE Cheryl G.: In the past quarter we have worked on the forms page on the test site. The main sight has been fixed and all information is up to date.

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION COMMITTEE Claudia N.: I would like to thank our interpretation committee today. The 3rd quarter started off a little slower than it's been this panel. We acquired another DVD of the Delegate's Report for the Deaf Community to borrow. We had a member step down from our committee and Rocio stepped up; he has experience in the field and enthusiasm to boot. We are purchasing radios and look forward to being of service. We provide interpreters at 5 committee meetings on a rotating basis and the ACM monthly. We also receive regular requests from many committees to translate documents into Spanish. The translation of the Motions Book is coming along with monthly updates. We have also received requests for equipment lately, from the Williams mostly, & some wireless microphone equipment.

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

<u>Presentation of New Business:</u> <u>Motion:</u>

"That all business in CNCA be decided by substantial unanimity, usually 2/3." Presented by Jennifer B., DCMC. The intention of this motion is to incorporate the spiritual principal of substantial unanimity in more of our decisionmaking and to promote unity. It would be pretty straightforward at the assembly level. If this motion were to pass, we would simply eliminate the exercise of voting on how to vote and would always vote by 2/3 substantial unanimity. The changes in our process is at the ACM. Our monthly ACM acts, among other things as a steering committee for the assemblies. When new business is presented, the first thing we do is decide whether to handle that business ourselves at the ACM or to send to the assembly where GSRs can also discuss and vote. We make that decision by simple majority, with no discussion. This motion would require 2/3 to either stay at the ACM or go to the assembly. Another vote we do by simple majority is assembly bids. When we have 2 bids, we only require a simple majority to choose between the 2. Assemblies are one of the largest expenses in our budget. They are a wonderful opportunity for districts who get to host to have fun and stimulate interest in GS. If this motion passes, we would make that decision by substantial unanimity. When we discuss and vote on motions at the ACM, we first have a vote to decide how we are going to vote. When we vote on how to vote by simple majority, and then vote by simple majority, it seems to me that we are in danger of politicking or railroading things through. If something is truly for the best, it should be able to pass with substantial unanimity. Substantial unanimity is the best way to be confident we are making informed decisions about what is best for our area, or ideas we want to suggest to AA as a whole. While substantial unanimity is usually defined as being a 2/3 majority, the language of the motion leaves it a little bit open. Concept XII Warranty Four explains the beauty of this practical principle, and also what situations might arise when we would need to consider another option. We have been elected to make decisions for our groups, and I think we could do better for letting this spiritual principle guide our progress. The intent of the motion is to promote unity. It will be pretty straightforward at the assembly. If this motion was to pass we would see a

change at the ACM. When new business is presented. Questions: Q. Does any other area do this? A. I have not found any area that votes on how to vote. Q. Are the districts impacted? A. This would be just the ACM and the Assembly (just CNCA). Q. Has this ever been presented before? A. Yes in 1990 and some have asked for Ad Hoc committees. For me I think we are wasting time to decide how to vote, and for me I think substantial unanimity is the way to vote. Q. By the way this is worded it could include sub committees and district. Will you accept to add the word "Area" before business? A. Yes I would accept the change to "Area CNCA." <<This will now become new business at the Pre-Conference Assembly. >>

Motion:

"That CNCA moves to reintroduce the following section (From page 6 of the AA Member – Medications & Other Drugs, Revised 2011 and also from the 1998 edition of Living Sober page 89) in "Appendix*" in Living Sober (2012 edition). Placement of the below text will follow the current section **Note to medical professionals** (page 90)":

"Some alcoholics require medication.

We recognize that alcoholics are not immune to other diseases. Some of us have had to cope with depressions that can be suicidal; schizophrenia that sometimes requires hospitalization; bipolar disorder, and other mental and biological illnesses. Also among us are diabetics, epileptics, members with heart trouble, cancer, allergies, hypertension, and many other serious physical conditions.

Because of the difficulties that many alcoholics have with drugs, some members have taken the position that no one in A.A. should take any medication. While this position has undoubtedly prevented relapses for some it has meant disaster for others.

A.A. members and many of their physicians have described situations in which depressed patients have been told by A.A.s to throw away the pills, only to have depression return with all its difficulties, sometimes resulting in suicide. We have heard, too, from members with other conditions including schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, epilepsy and others requiring medication, that well-meaning A.A. friends discourage them from taking any prescribed medication. Unfortunately, by following a layperson's advice, the sufferers find that their conditions can return with all their previous intensity. On top of that, they feel guilty because they are convinced that "A.A. is against pills." It becomes clear that just as it is wrong to enable or support any alcoholic to become readdicted to any drug, it's equally wrong to deprive any alcoholic of medication, which can alleviate or control other disabling physical and/or emotional

problems." -- Presented by District 07.

We are suggesting that CNCA request that the passage from the old version (1998) of the Living Sober book be put back into the new version of the Living Sober book for future printings. No part of the language should be removed from the 2012 version or changed. It is just to replace the 1998 passage.

Questions: Q. Why was it taken out? A. We have asked GS office and I have not received an answer. Q. The language has been removed from the 2012 edition. A. I don't know if it

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

is in every version of past printings. Q. If this text is not the same as the older version. Can we add the word "restore and/or motived". A. The motion is on the back of the agenda. That is the heading the Chair is using. The motion is very specific to reintroduce specific text. Q. Your intent is to reintroduce the language. If the GS made minor edits, that would be ok? A. No, minor edits are not ok. We are asking to add this language back into future printings as it was originally written.

<<This will now become new business at the Pre-Conference Assembly. >>

Motion:

"That the following paragraph be added to the section "How Decisions Affecting A.A. Are Made" in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet at the conclusion of the following sentence: Annually, groups from the U.S. and Canada elect delegates (serving two-year terms) from their areas to the yearly meeting of the Conference in New York -- to hear the reports of the board's committees, G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, and to recommend future directions, mainly in the form of Advisory Actions.

"Prior to the annual General Service Conference a list of important issues to be discussed during the Conference is published and made available to each and every Group in the U.S. and Canada. Because these issues make up a part of the entire General Service Conference Agenda, they are referred to as Agenda Topics. Every Group in the U.S. and Canada has the opportunity to review, discuss, and develop an informed Group Conscience on these Agenda Topics. The Group's GSR then carries the Group's Conscience on Conference Agenda Topics to the Area's Delegate, usually at an Area Assembly prior to the General Service Conference.

The Area Delegate then represents the collective conscience of the Groups in the Area at the General Service Conference on these matters vital to A.A. as a whole."
-- Presented by District 11.

A member came to our District meeting with a concern about the process in which District 11 participates in the GS Conference. At the inventory of the GS Conference first year (2013) there were comments that follow: "We could do better with the information to our groups." We asked ourselves how our District learned about the GS Conference. We concluded that we learned by CNCA documents and local documents. We asked ourselves what the literature says and we found very little. We never found the term Agenda Topics at all. In the service manual they are only mentioned once. So how could we do better to reach out to the entire fellowship about the conference process?

Q. Do all areas follow this exact process? A. All areas are different. Q. "The Area Delegate represents the collective conscience of the Groups in the Area." This is different than the service manual. Will you consider the represents with the word presents? A. The Delegate has the right of decision. So no, we will not. A. No. Q. Would you consider the amendment, "That language similar" A. No. Q. You are asking to add the paragraph. There are 2 more sentences after the sentence. Are they to be removed? A. No they would be after this insertion.

<<This will now become new business at the Pre-Conference Assembly. >>

New Business: NONE

Old Business Motion:

That the General Service Conference reconsider the Panel 61 Public Information Advisory Action regarding A.A. videos containing full faces." Presented by CNCA PI/CPC Committee.

Discussion: Our sub-district was not in favor. We need to be careful not to promote AA. The current policy follows Traditions 11 and 12.// Our group wants to be sure that everyone knows that our Deaf members need to have facial expressions to understand. ASL is a visual language and they need every clue to understand.// We would like to have the 2nd review. We believe that this is good for the process.// The group would like it changed back to the way it was.// Our District thought the motion was too confusing.// My group was in favor of this motion. Anything that helps someone relate would be helpful. The minority was concerned that some would think the actors were members of AA.// We were in favor of this and the additional step was not cost effective.// The second review is unnecessary. If we have a committee that has created the video all issues have been addressed.// We should trust our trusted servants and keep it the way it is.// Leave it as it is with guidelines.// As long as it is actors, leave it alone.// We should only use AA members.// The actors present things different then we do. We should use members.// Anonymity is very important; we should use actors being sure to follow the traditions.// We should have faces as long as they are actors.// My group was concerned about people missing the message that the people were actors. Would new members think this is AA?// Traditions 11 and 12 state we don't endorse anything or anyone. What if the member gets drunk? We should not show the faces, just the message. // Hollywood already promotes AA, we don't have to.//

>>Chair asked for a sense of the meeting. Assembly was ready to vote, with substantial unanimity required to pass.

Vote: Yes=126 No= 54 Abstain= 21 MOTION [PASSES]

Minority Opinion: This has nothing to do with full faces. This motion was confusing. We were trying to modify the process/ policy of how the videos were approved.// I think we can get the message across without the full face, side views or back views.// The current policy is well in line with Traditions 11 and 12.// It is important to transmit the message, especially for special needs members.// This policy has only been in place 4 years. I'm not sure it has been in place long enough to see if it works.

Motion to reconsider was made and seconded By simple majority, Motion to reconsider failed.

What's on your Mind: I am continually inspired by what we do here. The energy we show by showing up is tremendous.// Thank you District 11 for hosting this assembly.// We still have some conference reports available if you need some for your groups.// A new GSR came to this assembly, that brought a newcomer with only 4 days sober.//

CNCA CALENDAR

September

December

2016—Panel 65

May

January 23—Area Committee Mtg
February 27—Area Committee Mtg
March 3-6—PRAASA Spokane, Wash.

26—Area Committee Mtg

April 9, 10—Pre Conference Assembly

Marin Civic Center Exhibit Hall, San Rafael (Hosted By District 10) 23—Area Committee Mtg

14—Post Conference Assembly Machinist Hall, Burlingame

(Hosted by Districts 04 and 05) 28—Area Committee Mtg 25—Area Committee Mtg

June 25—Area Committee Mtg July 23—Area Committee Mtg August 6—Summer Assembly

Santa Cruz Fairgrounds, Santa Cruz (Hosted by Districts 03 and 40) 27—Area Committee Mtg

8-11 20th National AA Archives Workshop in Walnut Creek

24—Area Committee Mtg 30 - Oct. 2—Pacific Regional Forum

in Waikola, Hawaii

October 22—Area Committee Mtg November 5—Election Assembly

Scottish Rite Center, San Jose (Hosted by District 17)

26—Area Committee Mtg 17—Area Committee Mtg

ASSEMBLY DATES CALENDAR

PANEL 65 ASSEMBLY DATES

2016 Pre-Conference Assembly

April 9-10; Marin Civic Center Exhibit Hall 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael, CA 94903

(Hosted by District 10)

2016 Post-conference Assembly

May 14; Machinist Hall, Burlingame (Hosted by Districts 04 and 05)

2016 Summer Assembly

August 6; Santa Cruz Fairgrounds, Santa Cruz

(Hosted by Districts 03 and 40) **2016 Fall Election Assembly**

November 5, 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, Lake County Fairgrounds, Lakeport

(Hosted by District 13) **2017 Summer Assembly**

August 5 or <u>August 12</u>
2017 Fall Inventory Assembly

November 11

2018 Pre-conference Assembly

April 7-8

2018 Post-conference Assembly

May 12 or <u>May 19</u>

2018 Summer Assembly August 4 or <u>August 11</u>

2018 Fall Election Assembly

November 10

(Underline dates preferred)

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 website.

CNCA FALL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (Cont.)

Does anyone know what is the average attendance of people with special needs that attend assemblies on a national level?// I would I like to see members of the area helping provide translation.// The National Archives Workshop will have a lot of service positions available. Please let the archives committee know you are available.// For a number of the inventory questions were talking about being inclusive. Technology has a lot to offer. Maybe we could look at some ways this could help to be inclusive.// We are having a GV/LV workshop in Marin tomorrow.// Pamphlets are at the GV display.// Thanks to the interpreters for today. When you come to the assembly, bring a radio or two.// Maybe we could start a discussion with ourselves to

increase our membership?// Thank you for your contributions today. We collected \$1,707.// About our spiritual value of self-support, I would like to mention that we are only reimbursing our area officers at 50% of mileage rates. I'm not sure this is in the spirit of self-support.// I would like to invite you to the pre-conference assembly in Marin.

The meeting was closed at 11:37 pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

Submitted with Love and Service,

Barbara S.

CNCA Panel 65 Recording Secretary

CNCA AREA AND ASSEMBLY MOTIONS JANUARY 2016

Area Committee:

Assembly Bids:

Housekeeping Motions:

Guidelines:

Presentation of New Business:

Old Business at Area Committee Meeting:

Updates to the Financial Guidelines

New Business at Area Committee Meeting:

Discussion Topic:

· How do we do business at Assemblies?

Area Assembly Motions

Housekeeping Motions:

Presentation of New Business at Area Assembly: Old Business at Area Assembly:

- "District 16 Spanish Central is requesting that CNCA 06 restructure District 16 by removing sub-district 02 from District 16."
- "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."
- "That the General Service Conference develop a pamphlet sharing experience, strength and hope on group safety."

New Business at Area Assembly:

- "That all Area business in CNCA be decided by substantial unanimity, usually 2/3."
- "That CNCA moves to reintroduce the following section (From page 6 of the AA Member Medications & Other Drugs, Revised 2011 and also from the 1998 edition of Living Sober page 89) in "Appendix*" in Living Sober (2012 edition). Placement of the below text will follow the current section **Note to medical professionals** (page 90)":
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• "That the following paragraph be added to the section "How Decisions Affecting A.A. Are Made" in "The A.A. Group" pamphlet at the conclusion of the following sentence: Annually, groups from the U.S. and Canada elect delegates (serving two-year terms) from their areas to the yearly meeting of the Conference in New York -- to hear the reports of the board's committees, G.S.O. and Grapevine staffs, and to recommend future directions, mainly in the form of Advisory Actions.

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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 website.

DelegateRaymundo L.

Alternate Delegate Phil B.

. – .

Chair Joann L.

Treasurer Teddy BW Registrar Ray W.

Recording Secretary Barbara S.

Assembly Coordinator Michael Q.

Literature/Grapevine/La Viña Chair Agustin L.

Pacific Regional Trustee

Joel C.

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H&I

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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

<u>Archives</u> Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Sheri W. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the 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 website.

<u>Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community</u> (PI/CPC) meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Phil B. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the 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 website.

<u>Web</u> Committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Cheryl G. by visiting the "contact us" tab on the www.cnca06.org website.

DCMs & DCMCs Sharing Sessions meet at 10 am.

<u>Grapevine/La Vina/Lit.</u> Sharing Session meets at 10 am. www.aagrapevine.org

