

**CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA  
SUMMER ASSEMBLY MINUTES FOR  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**

The Summer Assembly of CNCA was held September 14, 2019 at the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building. Eric L. opened the meeting at 9:00am, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Orientation was led by Francisco A. The AA Preamble was read by Irene B. (District 05). Teresa J. (District 01) read the Twelve Traditions in English, The Twelve Traditions in Spanish were read by Pedro L. (District 20) There were 9 past Delegates: Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (Panel 36, Maine), Doug G. (Panel 53), Francisco A. (Panel 55), Sharon A. (Panel 57), Jim F. (Panel 59, Eastern Missouri), Raymundo L. (Panel 65), Joann L. (Panel 67), and Robert H. (Panel 67, Hawaii) David N. currently serves as a General Service Trustee. Past Area Officers: Martha B., Margarete v.A., Michael Q., Ray W., Chris H. Approval of the 2019 Post-Conference business meeting minutes and financial report were accepted as printed in the *CNCA Comments/Comentarios*. Voting members: 292, Non-voting members: 121.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**DELEGATE – Teddy B.-W.:** First, news of the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, July 2-5. Only three Conference Reports remaining for our Area. The electronic version of the final conference report is available. Registration for PRAASA 2020 in Tucson, AZ March 6-8, opens no later than September 15th. Meeting Guide 3.0 is now with us—a mobile app focused on helping people find A.A. meetings and resources near them. Meeting Guide is available for iOS and Android smartphones. You can download it for free on the App Store or on Google Play. The pamphlet ‘A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late’ is being updated and we’re seeking stories from a broad cross section of older A.A. members to make the pamphlet more representative of the Fellowship.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Jennifer B.:** I went to the Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend in Sacramento. We got to meet Diana L., our General Service Office staff member on the Treatment and CPC desk assignments and I was so inspired by all the dedicated Bridging the Gap people from all over who came together for a weekend of sharing. I highly recommend going to things you’ve never been to before.

**CHAIR – Eric L.:** We will reconvene again as an Area in November for our Fall Inventory Assembly; suggested questions are due by the September ACM.

**TREASURER – Laura W.:** Submitted her resignation effective October 1.

**REGISTRAR – Erica G.:** I’ve received some exciting questions like why people are not getting our newsletter or getting it inconsistently, why have some people not received a packet from GSO or why did they receive it a year late?. I’ll write up a question and answer sheet to address common concerns and distribute it to all registrars and DCMCs. I’m really excited that registration is getting back to normal.

**RECORDING SECRETARY – Miguel H.:** Thank you all for providing me with email and hard copies of your reports. Thank you Chelsea W., for helping on the editing of the minutes. Please remember to use the mic. and speak clearly, and try not to rush.

**ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – Corey H.:** Wow, it’s really great to be in Petaluma at the Summer Assembly. I have to mention that our next assembly is in San Francisco on November 2nd. I’m looking forward to this assembly a lot, because the inventory assembly of 2013 in SF was my first ever assembly, so things have really come full circle.

**LITERATURE/GRapevine/LA Viña – Magdalena O.:** The revisions of the *Big Book*, *Twelve and Twelve*, and *Living Sober* are already finished / approved. The audiobook archives in French are in the editorial review phase. Twelve Concepts for World Service audio project, the English, Spanish and French versions are approved and are in the post-production phase for publication at

aa.org. Youth Videos (DV-10) is now titled "Young and Sober in AA" has been approved and should be in stores in 4-6 weeks. New GV/LV "mini catalog" is available. This month's special section is on "Young and Sober".

ELECTION OF THE AREA TREASURER:  
Dennis H. was elected

STANDING AND SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS:

ARCHIVES – Denise G.: National Archive workshop was in Detroit and I was able to attend along with 6 other members from CNCA; you'll be hearing more details at our next ACM. We are going to be hosting an open house on Saturday December 14th in Walnut Creek.

BRIDGING THE GAP – Larry B.: 14th Annual Forum October 12 in Napa, we are going to be learning more about the Archives of the Bridging the Gap Committee. We are going to begin the process to provide the tolls to our members to serve better.

FINANCE – Don L.: If members are awaiting reimbursement checks, please let us know. Electronic contributions available with square. The committee is currently compiling the 2020 budget.

PI/CPC – Jennifer B.: The Area's PI/CPC Committee meets monthly at 11 am prior to the Area Committee Meeting in Petaluma and anyone is welcome. A couple times a year we like to get together with Area 07, the Hospital and Institution Committee (H&I) and Bridging the Gap for a joint committee meeting. We had one of those last month. We aim to be friendly with our friends—meaning the professionals who work with alcoholics outside the fellowship.

WEBSITE – Drew B.: Hopefully you noticed our website looks much nicer, we are continuing to modernize the look of it. We are also cooperating with people from archives committee to set up a sub-site, we are looking forward to work with the treasurer and collecting 7th tradition contributions on the website.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – James B.: This month we did lot of documents translations and we are helping to translate sections of the website into Spanish. Thank you Molly and Mateo for providing English-Spanish, Spanish-English simultaneous Interpretation.

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

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

Q: Would this be just the warranties or an explanation of what they are? A: A summary explanation / we would like to have a written presentation of them / ultimately it would be up to the conference what will be there. Q: this is something that will be on the website? A: probably both website and print out. Item will be New Business at Fall Assembly

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Discussion: Our group feels pretty much in favor of changing the stories, minority only in favor if the 164 stays the same / in favor of updating the stories as well as the chapter To Employers / our group is in favor of stories to being updated / all in favor changing stories, we would like to know more about the appendices changes though / we are grateful to have so much diversity / majority in favor, not comfortable about changing the appendices / all in favor of it, we need a fifth edition, focus on young people / we need more changes, rather than just the stories and the two appendices / divided opinion, stories and appendices for reference and younger people stories / needs more reflection of LBTGQ / anonymously in favor on getting more stories / split

conscience, minority like to see other parts of the big book updated / in favor of what would be changed through this motion and also voiced that most of the book should be changed as well / majority in favor, need to make a whole new book to reflect our fellowship and update the language / yes we should change stories, in 80 years from now we are going to need to update the doctors opinion/ the big book was made when the fellowship was basically all the same religiously, also not all ethnicities are reflected in the stories / group in favor of all the additions and changes, believe that editing the book will make it more accessible / in favor unanimously, specifically the wives chapter / voted in favor, add more stories from other races and members with variety of socio-economic backgrounds / we are in favor, please include stories in the back reflecting mental health issues / most in favor, there's fear to be the last print of the big book / in favor, want to see stories covering mental health issues and young people stories / we are in favor for adding stories but also eliminating irrelevant stories / more trans stories, updates on medical transition process / more representation on current sobriety, as far as references in the appendices, might help make the program more able to help a broader range of people if on experience from courts and other professionals and not limit to religious entities / in favor in changing the back of the book but also change the front / stories in the back with a need for more stories of Hispanic members / we are in favor on changing those subjects / more new stories from members with deferent backgrounds could be beneficial / all in favor for modernizing the stories but we are against the revision of the 164 pages / lots of members have problems with how the appendices look, in favor of change / most members don't like the idea of a 5th edition / in favor / all in favor, making the personal stories more gender inclusive / wants religions represented other than Christian and have better language throughout the big book / generally in favor of change and modernization, especially chapter to the wives / a question about whether producing a 5th edition will cost money or will generate money? / Stories need to be more relevant, groups need to know more about how the 5th edition would look before they decide yes or no / in favor members feel and think all appendices need to be updated. Will continue at Fall Assembly.

- “That CNCA establish a standing committee on Technology”. – presented by Dennis H. Discussion: How would this committee be utilized? and there's concerns on how much work it will be for the committee members / in favor of the idea, but won't the web committee do all these jobs? / There's lots of confusion what the committee will do. But we are in favor / disagree on why the tech committee is needed / cons: web committee all ready exist / the rotation on the committee could be helpful, to serve better / in favor but please give us more information how exactly it will work and what it will do / need more info on how this will serve / tech is beyond website, feels like can't work together, we feel we don't need more people on the committee / unclear we don't have the whole idea of how the technology committee will function and we think the area is doing well as it is / we are against, will be too big and need to define the scope and function of this committee / we need more information, we don't see an actual need for this, motion is not clear / we are in favor, AA needs to keep up with tech / The word technology could be extensive, not clear what is going to be responsible for and also if is going to be any cost ? / what is going to be responsible for? / we are confused in the responsibility and handling, licensing, usefulness / if we have a need go for it / group is against, we have a committee, we should just update and have more members on the web committee instead of having a whole new committee / my group wonders what is this for and had lots questions about anonymity, an example is that there are a lot of on-line forms nowadays and data mining could be an issue, motion is not clear / we need more information on this / we need to define what the committee will be and see if there is a need for this, are we sure we have a tech need? / we need to see what we have and what we do not have, then discuss more once all members understand, then we should have a special worker guiding us and help explain. Will continue at Fall 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

Will continue at Fall Assembly

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

Will continue at Fall Assembly

## WORKSHOPS

### 1. TRUST, GROWTH, AND UNITY AS A FELLOWSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Presented by Tatiyana S., District 09. Open the door to more by developing a social media platform / to trust the Alcoholics Anonymous Board of Trustees and Conference with how to work in the digital world / reinforce service work within the digital age / reinforce the reaching out using social media and technology by teaching the Traditions to keep our program intact/ using technology appropriately could be a good guide to future generations and a way to be more inclusive / we have to trust AA will survive this digital world, more than reaching out, we need to be there.

### 2. ARE WE INCLUSIVE? WHO’S MISSING FROM OUR MEETINGS?

Presented by Marisol A., District 03. Experience as a person of multiple minority status / shared some examples of situations that limit accessibility and inclusivity, such as, circumstances limiting ability to attend / expectations about behavior and expression of gender; sexuality; race/color of skin; mental illness; ability; and language / these are issues and conversations that are being discussed widely; Questions about this topic are very much spiritual questions, designed to raise our level of consciousness / Diversity itself is a useless word itself without inclusion. It takes work to be inclusive, and the way we achieve it is to participate / A member reminded us that the alcoholic who still suffers is just the one that isn’t in the room. Feeling different from others is what keeps us suffering / A member shared how bringing up discussions of inclusivity and accessibility and how to combat it leads some members to be weary, that this borders on promotion / Several shared their experiences of being judged and feeling unaccepted due to their mental illness / A member shared her observation of a lack of newcomers in her homegroup, a “dinosaur meeting,” consisting mostly of old-timers / suggestions on going to meetings where you feel uncomfortable (e.g., straight people going to LGBT groups), because that’s what makes us grow.

### 3. OUR 12 TRADITIONS AND LOCAL CUSTOMS

Presented by Alma L., District 18. 1957 convention presented the traditions to protect ourselves from prestige and money / some members don’t like the religious accent of our program and some groups do – either way it still works/ Hispanic speaking group formats could hurt members for profanity and sexual behavior, some members talk and use the AA language with poor motives, cross talking almost always happens in Spanish speaking groups / traditions are suggestions just like AA suggest that we should stop drinking / only listening and translate everything to the best use, everything can change depending on the way we practice our program / groups vary in the way we use the 7th tradition, I learned that today / we can do better in the way we act toward all AA members, not just newcomers / there’s a stigma in Hispanic mix meetings about females / at my group we don’t talk about great sponsorship we talk about great sponsors / the members split the cost for the events we organized, all the money and all the cost and expenses, are all these celebrations necessary?

### 4. WHAT COMES AFTER THE GROUP INVENTORY?

Presented by Chase C., District 70. Conduct group inventory as our group can tell us about our personal inventory / speaking about fall assembly and what to expect and implementation at my homegroup/ group inventory can seem not personal, but can we say ‘it is not our job’? / where do we focus as a group for the solution, and for our primary purpose / how to work with the results of a group inventory and take them into action items if indicated / lots of discussion, not much

action / group inventory is not personal, the group decides, we just give the tools, how we could stay focused on our primary purpose?

5. IS AA STILL RECEPTIVE TO BOLD NEW IDEAS?

Presented by David S., District 40. AA is not what used to be / today it may seem that AA does not welcome new ideas / there are things like technology motions and other ideas that suggests that AA is open to new ideas based on the content of the motions / new ideas will materialize over time with new needs / there's more sources in the AA literature that reflect lots of bold ideas / AA should not change in welcoming new bold ideas, we have helped so many people as it is / GS could make a motion and everyone is welcome to participate, so in many ways we are open to bold ideas / AA is what it is already for welcoming all those ideas.

6. MY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Presented by Justo T., District 18. Share about contribution plan, physical, mental and financial contribution / 38 people attended / as a newcomer's sponsor educated them and gave them an envelope for the yearly contributions and avoid unnecessary expenses / once the basket pass around and if it doesn't hurt when you put the money in the basket put more than 5 dollars in the basket until it hurts / making a group conscience in our group on how money is expended at GSO.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Please return radios and bring radios at next fall assembly / 2020 international registration is open at aa.org / letter of support for a play update, we spoke to the executive editor of the international convention and a was approved / I'm scared about where AA is going, also nowadays traditions seem like we using them with a question mark, should we do them? / We always had a printed big book with all the stories we need / I just want to thank you all for your support and next month will be lots to report, I've already heard of concerns for us on the finance committee, officers thank you for your support / thank you for the best assembly ever, I attended the multiple workshops and it was really great / fall assembly coming up Nov. 2, dinner will take place on Nov. 1/ co-chair summer assembly thank you for all your help and the assembly committee / thank you Francisco A. for coming all the way from México / please help with your own garbage, thank you all, you're the result of all we have done this time and district 18 for helping and being a part of this wonderful experience / sorry for being late, I see here that the spirit hasn't change, your spirit coming with me now to help the AA members in Tokyo, we are sponsoring members in Japan they're celebrating their 45 years / Mahalo for everything you do, thank you for letting be me part of this assembly.

Closed with the Responsibility Statement.

- Submitted by Miguel H., CNCA Panel 69 Recording Secretary