



CNCA COMMENTS



A.A. Confidential—April 2020
www.cnca06.org

California Northern Coastal Area of Alcoholics Anonymous

Chair's Preview

In 1935, Bill W. – desperate for human connection so that he could preserve his five months of sobriety – called random church ministers from a payphone of a hotel lobby, just steps away from a bar, until he found a man... who knew a woman... who knew the man that would cofound Alcoholics Anonymous.

We have always been a fellowship of one alcoholic helping another. And for 85 years, we have, for the most part, met together in churches fellowship halls, storefronts, backyards, beaches, campgrounds, and living rooms. When the Coronavirus pandemic started and social distancing became a part of our daily vocabulary, I was nervous about what it would mean to my recovery. For me, the human connection Bill craved in 1935 forms the basis of my Higher Power. The space between you and me is where my Higher Power resides, and he expresses himself to me through our connection. To lose that connection would mean to lose my connection to God as I understand God – and it was terrifying.

I once again underestimated the magic that happens in these rooms. Within days, online meetings sprung up around the world. I found myself going to multiple meetings a day, participating more, and having new opportunities for Twelfth Step work. Despite the uncertainty of the past month – and it only has been a month – AA continues to thrive.

Newcomers continue to attend our meetings. We continue to have a primary purpose of helping anyone wanting to get sober, and despite the numerous new obstacles we encounter (disruptions from “zoom-bombers”, people who don't mute themselves, mistyped Meeting ID numbers), we are still here and we are still able to be helpful. Our hope and our recovery remains intact, and we have been given a new opportunity to share our message with the world. Part of our responsibility in General Service is to ensure that everything we do in AA reflects the group conscience, because that is how our many Higher Powers communicate to us. So we continue to make progress.

At the onset of the pandemic, the Area Officers appointed an ad hoc committee to prepare our virtual presence. We moved the Pre-Conference Assembly to a digital platform. We held our first-ever virtual Area Committee meeting at the end of March; minutes from that ACM are in this issue of the Comments. And we started planning a virtual Pre-Conference Assembly, which will be held May 2 and 3. At this Assembly, multiple opportunities for training will be provided, and we will be sharing group consciences with our Delegate, who will attend the Conference later in the month.

Please remember that sharing at the virtual microphone will be limited to 75 seconds (a warning will be given at 60 seconds). Planning for the Post-Conference Assembly – postponed to a yet-to-be-determined date – continues. And our next virtual Area Committee meeting will be this month, where more information will be provided.

I am profoundly grateful to be a member of AA in the midst of all of this. Loneliness was killing me before I got sober, and social distancing – at least for someone like me – can be lonely. AA gave me my life back, a fellowship grew up around me, and, while I can't see you face-to-face right now, you are still with me. I look forward to seeing everyone together again soon.

Eric L.
CNCA Chair Panel 69

Virtually A.A.

virtually: *adverb* - For the most part; almost wholly; just about

A.A. has made a quantum leap into the 21st century. Humbly driven by circumstance, we find ourselves in a new reality for online meetings. The speed and fervor with which we have, as a fellowship, accepted this challenge is inspiring to me and evidence that A.A. is capable of rapid change. Who'd have thought?

But the truth is that online meetings are not new and for many remote communities the online meeting has been their recovery lifeline. It's humbling to reflect on that. I know it's taken my gratitude for the luxury of in-person meetings to a different level. Hopefully, we can learn from our remote communities in these unsettling times and draw inspiration from their experience strength and hope.

Recognizing all that is going on, I ask you to do the best job you can to inform me as to the feelings, wishes, attitudes, and ideas of your group with respect to the agenda topics. I understand that to be a heavier than usual lift this year. Getting the attention of your group and then facilitating a sharing session online or by conference call is going to be a new experience for almost everyone. Thankfully, we have more time and the deadline for you to get me your group's conscience is now May 6.

But it is our great responsibility to ensure that A.A. continue. We know, better than most, that isolation kills people. What is important at this time is responsiveness, resilience, and continuity. I will share with you that your General Service Board is inspired by the spirit of A.A. in the moment, which truly shines brightly. That's why we will have a virtual Conference this year as an expression of courage, continuity, and hope.

For the most part, the Conference will continue to do this year, what it was set up to do. In the words of Bill W. in Concept 1: "Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship."

Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, let's do this.

Teddy B.-W.
CNCA Panel 69 Delegate

Looking for Something?

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AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—MARCH 28, 2020

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 28, 2020

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held virtually on March 28, 2020. Eric L. opened the meeting at 12:30, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Alex B (District 40) read de AA Preamble, Tradition 3 was read by Gabrielle J (District 10), Veronica C (District 40) read Concept 3. Introductions: 4 GSRs, 2 DCMs. Six Past Delegates: Barbara M (Panel 41), Jim M (Panel 45), Doug G (Panel 53), David N (Panel 59), Ken M (Panel 61), Padee M (Panel 63) Birthdays: 75 years. Approval of the February Area Committee Minutes. 97 in attendance.

AREA OFFICER REPORT

DELEGATE – Teddy B.-W.: The 2020 International Convention has been canceled. Bad news, but we are glad they made the decision now and did not wait any longer. Here's what they write, "It is with heavy hearts that we announce the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, July 2-5. We know that this is a disappointment to our Fellowship, as every five years we look forward to celebrating sobriety, the Alcoholics Anonymous program of hope and recovery, and meeting dear friends, old and new, from around the world. For many weeks, the General Service Board, directors, management team and planning partners for the International Convention have been monitoring the public health announcements in real time as daily life continues to change for every citizen of across the globe."- Michele Grinberg. Chair, General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. // Q: my understanding is that the accommodations made through convention option will refund automatically, but travel needs to be handled personally./ A: yes anything related to AA yes will refund it in 6 weeks.

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

- That CNCA postpone the Pre-Conference Assembly to May 16 and 17, 2020.

The General Service Conference has been postponed to June. This will give us more time to get more group consciences.// Q: How can we keep the day for the Post conference if we voted to postponed today. A: we will have to hold the Pre-Conference on May 16, we had that date booked for post conference assembly. // Comment: Livermore room its not big enough for the pre conference // I did get group conscience and yes we need more time we are in favor / our sub district in favor to postpone / large number of groups and a sub districts agreed to postpone / if we do this virtual assembly, we need to get a pro-zoom account / 8 groups emailed teddy group consciences and agreed on doing there zoom meeting // Q: what will that mean if we postpone it ? A: we don't know yet, we will work that out and make it possible once we vote / GSRs agreed to postpone we need more time / our whole district is in favor on postponing, lots of groups keep shutting down.

Voted: Substantial unanimity: Yes 68/ No 1/ abstentions 2. Minority opinion: I think the best alternative to have the virtual meeting is on April 4-5 as we schedule originally. No Motion to reconsider. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Virtual Assembly

I realized the interpretation is amazing and works great on this platform/ GSC is setting a precedent, we need to have faith and we need to trust our higher power to help an other alcoholic / we are remote at District 14 and I like seeing so much participation I appreciate this / this is a really good thing, thank you to all the members helping with all this / this account will

AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—MARCH 28, 2020, Cont'd.

give us up to 500 people / thank you all the team, we are suggesting its to have more people using this / about the translation, I missed a little bit of what people say, maybe setting up the person translating to interact with Spanish speaking members could make it easier / I'm in favor to go virtual, quality of the interpretation is great / thank you for time and energy, grateful for being able to participate thanks to technology / Q: moving forward with this form of technology, how are we handling the security and how do we handle zoom bombing? A: what we hear is, don't do audio or video recording, zoom bombing can be minimized if the host has the meeting set to restricting settings and they have co-hosts / one of my concerns is people downloading conversations etc. from the chat because that can impact everyone / you can set up a safety account and in the setting add an access password / I request that Eric have a better quality microphone for the audio at the assembly because I can barely hear him, other than that I absolutely love this format / some GSRs mentioned that we should have dinner at home and listen to the speaker, also having more time to review the agenda topics with groups will help us a lot / when I saw this I thought it wasn't necessary, but all the country is using it now, we have opportunities to see what other areas do / thank you officers for putting this together, I always have concerns, I wonder how all of this is going to increase participation among some demographics but reduce among others / I hope we can have something to view and print with instructions / making a tutorial and post it in our website could help, this is very comfortable since I was here at the beginning for the tutorial / this is so great how this works / thank you for all the work, we have been doing lots of zoom meetings and seen numbers increasing a lot, if we are doing our assembly virtually we will need to upgrade the account / people seem to be very good at adapting to this and I have faith

that area will succeed using this method / you are doing a great job encouraging members to become comfortable at using zoom / Q: what personal data from members does zoom keep? A: We can go deeper into the fine print but in the US it's pretty clear what companies are allowed and not allowed to collect and pass on to third parties, that's more common in other countries / What about an illegal immigrant participating this way? My concern that the platform gets to keep personal data and could even do facial recognition / can we get something to print before the assembly? / thank you, it was so easy to log in and access this meeting / at the business meeting, one sub-dist member asked if we can send a personal chat? / lots of communication is going on between areas and groups, this as been a unifying experience for all of us, we are getting lots of experience, strength and hope on this moment in history / we can do a virtual assembly and it will be great I been able to participate in an assembly in Canada from home, it was great / we are getting lots of publicity about how AA is dealing with this issue and how well we are acting in response to this pandemic, this could be our century's equivalent to the Jack Alexander Article in terms of a whole new wave of suffering alcoholics coming to AA with new hope it can work for them / instructions are being published on intergroups and help us be safe and keep anonymity, all of us here are pretty much on board / after hearing the comments at the district, and from DCMCs, we noticed this is very helpful, this is the best way to have everyone connected and more important how to share the group conscience / I'm new in technology, it's a great way to communicate / can the officers get other areas experiences to share information? / people are asking for help, to every group in their own community, remind people that this already existed, online meetings have been well established, just not on a massive scale, and also can be

AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—MARCH 28, 2020, Cont'd.

extended.

- Post-Conference Assembly

So far we are planning to have an in-person post-conference assembly / any opportunity we have scheduled, we should keep the safest option / I think we should choose whether to have a virtual assembly rather than wait and see if we can meeting for an in-person assembly but then have to go to just virtual, waiting too long would mean duplicating effort / I was moved to hear our delegate talk about how hard it was for the board to make the decision to cancel the convention, I'll be in favor of not having an in-person post-conference assembly / if we have a virtual pre-conference assembly it could be good to continue with a virtual Post Conference Report / I don't know if a virtual post-conference assembly is in the boundaries of our traditions concerning anonymity / if it is the pre-conference assembly the one we are looking to cancel, we can have conference reports at unity days / Q: do we know if we will be able to host a summer assembly in-person? A: we all have the same questions about what's coming, but it's premature to answer definitively because we still have no idea how things are going to turn out / if it is possible to have something in-person, it will be good, I miss being there with you all but technology is helping great.

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Response

People being connected to meetings from hospitals, they are in solitary confinement, sick with the virus, but they are able to get on their smart phone and join an online meeting / our district has been busy doing remote meetings and publishing our meetings on our website, also we can go to meetings internationally / we have always accessed facilities to educate people in there on how reach members and that method of 12 step is struggling / we

had a virtual district meeting and had good results/ it's exciting to attend meetings through zoom, I've been seeing tons of newcomers, also members from remote areas / I had my concerns but after heard David mention something, about NY Times publishing the results and work of AA and seeing meetings moving online just fine, I am thinking this is better than I previously thought / I started hearing about anonymity brakes, but also people are listening that AA has been doing good work online / This publicity as been reaching more people, AA was born in the great depression, this moment in history is similar and we may very well have a new era of AA on our hands, it is a new kind of pioneering period / about zoom bombing, I guess it's the price that we pay to help all those people who need us, not ideal, but having to deal with trolls is worth it / early comers were scared but we should expect lots of more people coming in to AA / I want to talk about grapevine, and that has been a source to read and facilitate meetings, it's fun, and GV was offering lots of issues for free at aagrapevine.org for us to explore / we should have a little tutorial how to access all the resources from GV / the zoom meetings helps feel like we're together, seeing each other helps the intimacy of the members, we can feel comfortable being alone at home and attending an AA meeting, I like having so many ways to stay connected with you all / personal reaction was shocking, I know AA virtual communication has increased participation by 30 percent, we will be having district meetings virtually, we are having a concept meeting in our county / we are still having 3 face to face meetings with 10 people following social distancing guides, and we had a newcomer and 6 of us were there / legal risk it's minimum and we are willing to take that / just want thank everyone for doing this, out reach as been tremendous, my sobriety as being growing / 90 percent of GSO staff are working from home, and are dealing with virtual conference, now with the International Convention canceled, corre-

CNCA 2020 BUDGET VS. ACTUAL EXPENSES THROUGH FEBRUARY 2020

California Northern Coastal Area Budget vs. Actuals: 2020 Budget - FY20 P&L February 2020

	Actual	Total Budget	% of Budget
Revenue			
002 Group Contributions	23,752.47	23,872.00	99.50%
003 District Contributions	1,962.04	2,037.00	96.32%
004 Assembly Contributions		0	
005 Tradition 7, Area Comm.	716.38	669.00	107.08%
006 H & I Archives Rent		0	
007 CNCA Subscriptions		6.00	
008 Personal/Misc Contributions	291.07	226.00	128.79%
010 Interest Income	0.39	0.85	45.88%
Unapplied Cash Payment Revenue			
Total Revenue	\$ 26,722.35	\$ 26,810.85	99.67%
Gross Profit	\$ 26,722.35	\$ 26,810.85	99.67%
Expenditures			
012 EXPENSE			
Total 013 Delegate Expense	546.03	544.79	100.23%
Total 038 Officer Expense	2,715.21	3,098.93	87.62%
Total 093 Committee Expenses	3,820.57	5,195.48	73.54%
Total 158 General Expenses	15,805.07	18,054.48	87.54%
Total 012 EXPENSE	22,886.88	26,893.68	85.10%
2019 Fall Assembly	-4500.84	-4,500.00	100.02%
Pacific Region Hospitality Room	-1325.00	-925.00	143.24%
Total Expenditures	\$ 17,061.04	\$ 21,468.68	79.47%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 9,661.31	\$ 5,342.17	180.85%
Net Revenue	\$ 9,661.31	\$ 5,342.17	180.85%

CNCA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION — FEBRUARY 2020

California Northern Coastal Area Statement of Financial Position As of February 29, 2020

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Operating Funds - Checking	7,549.22
Prudent Reserve - Savings	16,841.69
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 24,390.91
Other Current Assets	
Assembly Deposits	1,500.00
Undeposited Funds	
Total Other Current Assets	1,500.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 25,890.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 25,890.91
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Operating Funds ~ Adjusted	5,089.60
Prudent Reserve ~ Savings	11,140.00
Net Revenue	9,661.31
Total Equity	\$ 25,890.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 25,890.91

Cash Basis Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:09 AM GMT-07:00

AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 28, 2020

spondence GSO is receiving has increased and members are working 12 hours a day, if you have the opportunity please thank them for their hard work, so far contributions are down at GSO members are processing this from home, don't forget to send your contribution if is in your possibilities / lots of people in rural areas are now doing zoom meetings / not everyone has a way to do it, we need a way to reach out those people / I don't know if NY has material on how to do this, meetings using the traditions or create something to help inform on PDF to better facilitate meetings / and issue with face to face meeting at the fellowship in SF, authority said we can't have a meeting, we tried with the mental issue argument but soon they're going to be patrolling to avoid gathering / AA goes where people are, we are leaving people behind, are we contacting facilities through zoom and have a group meeting even by phone, I hope we get ideas how to reach those people / I have serious concern, what kind of data does Zoom collect? names? I don't trust corporation companies, and make sure people don't take pictures etc... especially online meeting names address, the way we are attending the meeting, is that anonymized / groups in Marin are meeting in a big room with social distancing / we need something to tell people to not meet personally, we have members opposing this decision, putting the responsibility Vs faith on God / before this meeting today I talked to someone who was in tears, and its ok to have this reaction, and how we talk about feelings like this, this is the time to be honest and share how we feel, please feel free to contact me (Joann L.) / at PRAASA in Arizona was the first time we asked each other if we can hug, if you have someone to hug do it.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

If we are not capable, we should be hire a lawyer to check the privacy on this platform / I reviewed part of the contract, the data they collect is not allowed to be recorded without per-

mission, and in terms of direct marketing they don't sell data, sales are eligible otherwise they use privacy policies, you won't get marketing based on what you say / pretty emotional seeing you all working now, DJ will be proud of us doing this / we crossed the bridge with love, how many members are connected, keep it up, zoom as been accelerating participation here in Alaska, thank you for your love and strength, this is a great opportunity to grow practicing the traditions / thank you David and Jackie for your information / it's about progress, don't take for granted all we have done / Q: what time frame do we have for the pre-assembly ? A: we will let you know once we decide / our home group was zoom bombing we reached out for help from accessibility / this is the closest experience I had like back in the days when there were no traditions / all this virtual meeting and phone, all been excited, how we affect new members, we will discuss this a our next District meeting / thank you for all the contributions through Venmo, you can send contributions online to @cnca06- 7th-tradition set to private number, 1070 are the last 4 digits / thank you for allowing me to participate, at every 4th Saturday of the month, I want to commit to CNCA and this lovely set up with alcoholics in action.

3:38 p.m. -Closing

- Miguel H.
CNCA Panel 69 Recording Secretary

CNC AREA COMMITTEE & ASSEMBLY MOTIONS—April 2020

CNCA Motions – April 2020

AREA COMMITTEE

Housekeeping Motions

- That CNCA host a workshop for Spanish-speaking members of the Area to provide information regarding technology basics (like using e-mail and accessing the Area website), at a cost not to exceed \$15.

Old Business

- That CNCA amend the motion “to provide two hours of professional Spanish/English interpretation, if requested, during the monthly Area Officer meeting at the rate of \$75 per hour” to “\$100 per hour and mileage reimbursement.”
- That CNCA add a line item to future budgets, with the approval of a housekeeping motion, to authorize funding the travel expenses of two liaisons to the Hispanic Women’s Workshop.

New Business

- That CNCA add a line item to future budgets, with the approval of a housekeeping motion, to authorize an annual contribution no greater than \$600 to the Hispanic Women’s Workshop.

Presentation of New Business

- That CNCA incorporate as a California Public Benefit Corporation and retain the services of a qualified attorney to attend to the incorporation. – *presented by the Area Structure ad hoc committee*

Discussion Topics

- Discuss ideas & options to operate CNCA on a more financially prudent basis
- Discuss content available on the Area website, and what might be added to improve communication
- Discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants
- Discuss ideas on how to convey information regarding Area Assembly motions to the GSRs

AREA ASSEMBLY MOTIONS

Old Business at Area Assembly

- That CNCA establish a standing committee on Technology.
- That CNCA requests that a pamphlet entitled "Experience, Strength and Hope: AA for the Transgender Alcoholic" be produced. – *presented by District 07*
- That AAWS publish a one-page summary of the six warranties. – *presented by District 08*

New Business at Area Assembly

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

**CALIFORNIA NORTHERN
COASTAL AREA 06 OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
PRE-CONFERENCE
VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY 2020**

**“2020 – A Clear Vision for You”
SATURDAY/SUNDAY MAY 2-3, 2020**

**ZOOM URL: <https://zoom.us/j/138208063>
DIAL-IN BY PHONE: (669) 900-6833
MEETING I.D. 138 208 063**

Saturday

8:00am Virtual Assembly Room Opens
9 - 9:15a Chair’s Welcome
9:15 - 9:30a Zoom Orientation
9:30 - 10:30a Area Business Meeting
Reports only (No Business)
10:30 - 11:30a Remarks from the Delegate
Sharing on Conference Theme
Group Consciences
Agenda & Treatment/Accessibilities
11:30a - 12p Break
12 – 5p Group Consciences
*Literature, Regional Forums/
International Conventions, Archives,
Trustees, Grapevine, Pubic
Information & Cooperation with
Professional Community*
5:00 – 5:30p What’s on Your Mind?

Sunday

8:30am Virtual Assembly Room Opens
9 - 9:15a Chair’s Welcome
9:15 - 9:30a Zoom Orientation
9:30 – 12p Group Consciences
*Finance, Policy & Admissions, Report
& Charter & Corrections*
12 – 12:30p Break
12:30 – 3p Group Consciences (Continued)
3 – 3:30p What’s on Your Mind?

**SIMULTANEOUS SPANISH-
ENGLISH INTERPRETATION IS
PROVIDED IN THE ZOOM APP**

2020 CNCA CALENDAR—PANEL 69

2020—Panel 69			
April	25—Area Committee Meeting	Aug., <i>cont.</i>	15—Area Committee Meeting (Note: 3 rd Saturday)
May	2-3—Pre Conference Assembly, https://zoom.us/j/138208063	Sept.	26—Area Committee Meeting
	23—Area Committee Meeting	October	24—Area Committee Meeting
June	27—Area Committee Meeting	Nov.	14—Election Assembly, tbd 28—Area Committee Meeting
July	25—Area Committee Meeting	December	19—Area Committee Meeting (Note: 3 rd Saturday)
August	8—Summer Assembly, CrossWalk Community Church, Napa, hosted by District 11		

PANEL 69 ASSEMBLY DATES—2020

2020 Pre-Conference Assembly
May 2-3, online at
<https://zoom.us/j/138208063> or
(669) 900-6833.

2020 Post-Conference Assembly
tbd

2020 Summer Assembly
August 8, CrossWalk Community
Church, Napa (Hosted by District 11)

2020 Fall Election Assembly
November 14

If your District is considering making a bid for a Panel 69 or 71 Assembly, please contact the Assembly Coordinator, Coree H, via [the web form](#).

PANEL 69 AREA OFFICERS & AREA MEETING INFORMATION

Delegate
Teddy B.-W.

Alternate Delegate
Jennifer B.

Chair
Eric L.

Treasurer
Dennis H.

Registrar
Erica G.

Recording Secretary
Miguel H.

Assembly Coordinator
Coree H.

Literature/Grapevine Chair
Magdaleno O.

Pacific Regional Trustee
Kathi F.

***To contact any Area
Officer or Committee,
please use the
[web form](#).***

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CNCA
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San Francisco, CA
94188-4222 [cnca06.org](#)

NorCal H&I Committee
P.O. Box 192490
San Francisco, CA
94119-2490
[handinorcal.org](#)

CNCA Standing Committees & Sharing Sessions

are typically 4th Saturdays every month (3rd Saturdays in December, and often January)
Committees and Sharing Sessions meet in the mornings,
the Area Business Meeting is held from 12:30—3:30 pm.

Address is 320 N. McDowell Blvd., Petaluma

Accessibilities committee meets at 10:00 am. For information contact Alan W.

Archives committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Denise G. Archives mailing address is 185 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. Archives workday is at 193 Mayhew Way.

Bridging the Gap committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Larry B. BTG mailing address is PO Box 750623, Petaluma, CA 94975-0623.

DCMs' & DCMCs' sharing sessions meet at 10:00 am.

Interpretation & Translation committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact James B.

Literature/Grapevine/La Vina sharing session meets at 10:00 am. For information contact Magdaleno O. [www.aagrapevine.org](#)

Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Jennifer B.

Web committee meets at 11:00 am. For information contact Drew B.

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INTERPRETATION & ASSISTED LISTENING**