

**CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA  
PRE-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY MINUTES FOR  
May 2-3, 2020**

The Fall Inventory Assembly of CNCA was held virtually on May 2-3, 2020. Eric L. opened the Meeting at 9:00am, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Zoom Virtual Orientation was given by Jackie B.; the AA Preamble was read by Austin R. (District 04); Judy W. (Area 03 - Arizona) read the Twelve Traditions in English; the Twelve Traditions in Spanish were read by Adrian (District 17). There were 15 past Delegates & 3 current Delegates: George D. (Panel 27), Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (Panel 36, Area 28 - Maine), Barbara M. (Panel 41), Jim M. (Panel 41) Woody R. (Panel 50, Area 07), Salomon (Panel 45, Colima Mexico), Doug G. (Panel 53, currently General Service Trustee, Japan), Sharon A. (Panel 57), Jim F. (Panel 59, Eastern Missouri), David N. (Panel 59, currently General Service Trustee), Ken M. (Panel 61), Padee M. (Panel 63), Raymundo L. (Panel 65), Joann L. (Panel 67). Ed L. (Panel 70, Area 09), Tom A. (Panel 70, Area 07), Kevin F. (Panel 70, Area 03). Visitors: Five Past Area Officers were also present: Margaret V., Marta B., Michael Q., Judy W., Ray W. Approval of the 2019 Fall Assembly Business Meeting Minutes were accepted as published in the CNCA Comments and Comentarios.

**Attendance: Saturday 275 / Sunday 178**

**Officer Reports**

DELEGATE – TEDDY B-W: Recently our A.A. world has been turned upside down, but the way in which our fellowship has responded has been nothing short of inspirational. The virtual Conference will take place May 16-19. GSO is hiring a director of staff services. The International Convention in Detroit and our Regional Forum in Las Vegas have been cancelled. The next International Convention will be Vancouver in 2025 and the next Regional Forum will be in Salt Lake City in 2022. The in-person National AA Technology Workshop has also been cancelled, but wait for it... they might be doing something online. While we may not be able to take meetings into correctional facilities at the moment, we can still let our sisters and brothers on the inside know that they are not forgotten at this scary time for folks who are incarcerated.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE - JENNIFER B: AA has been in the news a lot lately. In early March, there were a number of articles about a new study published by professors from Harvard and Stanford – actually an analysis of other studies – that when it comes to maintaining sobriety, AA works better than other treatments. And it costs less too. It was also noted that the social connection that we have here in the fellowship seems to be why it works. There has also been a lot of press coverage nationwide about how AA is responding to the pandemic. And it has been overwhelmingly positive.

CHAIR – ERIC L: Our Area's transition to a fully digital presence has been relatively seamless. Our next Assembly is the Post-Conference Assembly, held June 6; flyers will be sent out soon and will be on the Area website. So, will copies of the Comments and Comentarios, since printing and mailing is suspended during the pandemic. In August, we will be holding our Summer Assembly, and workshop topic ideas are due by June 27.

TREASURER – DENNIS H: CNCA is in a good financial condition at the present time. Given the current situation however it is impossible to look too far ahead. Currently we have \$19,420 in our checking account; we are also expecting a refund of \$9,800 from Santa Clara Fairgrounds for the assembly that was cancelled. This would leave us a balance of \$29,220. Our savings account is at \$11,037. Group contributions are about \$5,000 below budget, this shortfall occurred in the second half of April and most likely resulted from the pandemic. It is impossible to say what May income will be, but it is likely to be down from April. Expenses dropped 50% from the amount budgeted.

REGISTRAR – ERICA G: There are still issues with registration. GSO's system is not totally up to speed and they are still working on getting everything smoothed out. Please keep in mind that you can always access everything digitally, like the new GSR and DCM kit contents, the Service Manual, and our Area newsletter.

RECORDING SECRETARY – MIGUEL H: Please feel free to send me your report by email. It's really helpful to be able to add it to the monthly minutes. Big thanks to Chelsea W. for her service helping with the edits of the monthly Area Minutes and the Assembly Minutes. I will be taking notes of all the group conscience these two days of the Pre-Conference Assembly for our Delegate's use at the Conference.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – COREE H: I was tasked with chairing an Ad Hoc committee whose responsibility was to figure out how to make this virtual assembly work, and I would like to thank all of the members of that

committee: Jackie B, James B, Megan M, Drew B, and Miguel H. We have three remaining assemblies this panel – Post-Conference, Summer, and Election – and of those three we have officially confirmed that the Post-Conference will be held virtually.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – MAGDALENO O: A.A.W.S. introduced a new simplified pricing statement and updated A.A. Literature in the 2020 Catalog. It's expected that the 40 millionth copy of the Big Book will be sold this year. To help members during this time GV & LV are giving everyone free access for a limited period to our 2020 Grapevine (Jan through June) and La Viña (Jan/Feb through May/June) print issues.

### **Standing and Sub-Committees Reports**

ACCESSIBILITIES – ALAN W: At our January meeting, we discussed online meetings, and it has been inspiring to see how much our fellowship has grown since then. We have also spent time this year discussing the agenda topics, developing more support for Hispanic women in CNCA06, and other accessibility topics that have emerged at district level. We have also formed an ad hoc committee to develop committee guidelines, and that work is in progress.

ARCHIVES – DENISE G: Our current projects include: Revising the CNCA Archives Committee Guidelines, Defining our scope of collection, The digitization of Area and District records for this Panel-Years 2019 and 2020, Completing the addition of Archives material to the CNCA Website, Acquiring and maintaining records and information relating to how CNCA has been impacted and adjusted to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Fortunately, at our February workday we had training for all of our Area Archivists on how to approach the digitization of their records and the different methods for them to provide us with those records. Our committee meetings and workdays are open to all via Zoom.

BRIDGING THE GAP – LARRY B: It saddens me to report that our BTG Committees are currently not making any presentations due to COVID-19. The BTG committee distributed a letter to the treatment facilities that allow us to make presentations. We informed them about the proliferation of online meetings, and included a comprehensive list of major intergroups, complete with web addresses, a guide to using Zoom and other information. Feedback from our district chairs indicate that a few of community-based programs we serve have temporarily suspended operations, but that the larger programs which enroll clients from a wide geographical footprint remain open, accepting and discharging clients on a daily basis.

FINANCE – DON L: The 2020 budget was approved in February and is based on pre COVID-19 conditions. Contributions or revenue is at 97% of our budget, while expenses are at 63% of the budgeted amount, with net revenue exceeding the budget at 1288% or \$12,303. The finance committee is monitoring both income and expenses now that COVID-19 is affecting groups meeting and the ability to contribute to the Area. The new restrictions have also reduced the Area's normal expenses and that is also affecting the budget.

PI/CPC – JENNIFER B: We certainly aren't staffing any tables at health fairs or professional conferences. Luckily, there are lots of resources available on the aa.org website and our YouTube channels, districts, intergroups PI and CPC committees are rising to the challenge. Some are cooperating with Bridging the Gap and H&I to get information about online meetings in to facilities. We are reaching out to print and radio media contacts to keep them up to date on how people can find meetings.

WEBSITE – DREW B: Web Committee members have been working very hard on this "digital shift" response to COVID-19. Megan M. was a one-woman army developing the webform for your group conscience submissions on the website. We serviced some technical debt this month. The concept of technical debt refers to technology becoming outdated/obsolete over time. We attended to our online translation program and Cloud Storage. We started to allow digital contributions on the CNCA06.org website.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – JAMES B: Since COVID-19 many things have changed for us. I will not have to ask you to bring an FM radios or return them. For live translation at virtual meetings "look for the globe and click that icon; then select Spanish. This is where you can get both English to Spanish and Spanish to English." Please speak slowly for our interpreter. We are still providing translation, Molly and Mateo are our interpreters in our Pre-Conference Assembly.

### **What's in your mind:**

#### **Saturday**

Regarding literature on the 12 & 12 we should keep Bill's original writing / it's important to look at the book list in libraries, the big book and the 12 & 12 are called the AA Books, is there something we can do to define them? / I like to see Bill's history, instead of writing about AA as an entity / I came in with the attitude of knowing everything, and I hear don't fix it and don't be afraid of listening, now I have a more open mind after 30 years of sobriety / Treasurer: we got about \$400 dls today on contributions via Venmo, our online

contributions link on our website is not working too great yet, give us couple of days please / I'd like to make amends for speaking earlier, I'm not a GSR, all you guys are great, I'm more open minded now / thank you all for all you have done for this Assembly / our fellowship had a meeting using not AA literature, we talked we decided to keep on using it, can we still call that an AA meeting? / After listening I've learned new ways to carry the message and this helps me to keep growing, this is not recruiting, this helps me to be more inclusive / This area is divided, some members would like to change the book, and others don't, maybe it's time for a new piece of literature, we had sold 40 million copies out there, at the same I don't want to be closed minded, I'm worried to say yes to different versions of the same message / the catholic religion is 1000s years old and when we talk about change in AA we complain, we should be open to change / are we doing anything about the International Convention?, No the next one will be in 2025 in Vancouver Canada and next Pacific Regional Forum in Salt Lake City Utah in 2022 / nice to talk about the fellowship of men and women but we don't care if we are black or Asian, let's look for ways to included more people, let's take responsibility and not block your recovery / thank you and congratulations for all the work on this assembly, I just hope we don't stay too separate from one another, keep our traditions so that we are still open to the ones that have the desire to stop drinking / I'm impressed this is the first time participating, this is all new for me, thank you for your service / thank God, and all the area servants, I feel really good and happy even through this situation, AA will always continue to move forward / I'm a servant and today what I have seen makes me inspired to continue and congrats for the work you have done / I want to credit the members who helped make this assembly possible, I've been in meetings all over the world, we are a very small part of AA, people in the middle of the country don't see this kind of work in action, the difference of unify vs. rushing / I sent the information by email but I'll participate here next time, the interpretation was really great / thank you to all the organizers, we used zoom to collect group conscience, this is a really humbling experience as a GSR, I love the higher power I met doing GS / thank you to all for participating today and our ad-hoc committee and our interpreters, I learned a lot and I have lots of notes with lots of wisdom from and for our groups, the opinions make us stronger, we will retain our unity and we'll continue moving forward / all the delegates trust the process, it was not the idea to make big decisions, only to start the new procedure, and help start the conversation for the years to come.

### **Sunday**

Lots of talk about changes, in 1960 Bill mentioned, don't let AA ever freeze, back then members resisted the change, in the LV magazine I saw a cartoon saying this "I don't like changes and I don't like the way things are now" / using zoom at conferences I noticed that we suggest what's essential, we all don't have access to same ways connect, keep in mind when we help people, we don't all have the same knowledge / about the pamphlet to the professionals, in SF there's so much misconception of AA, we need to do more, professionals need more open minded information / thank you, I'm full of gratitude, as a GSR I was at the virtual mic sharing my group's thoughts and seeing our delegate typing and taking notes I could feel the language of the heart, in zoom - this connection was different, but it was still a deep connection, not one-on-one but I don't regret it / thank you for a wonderful experience and for the information on broadcasts, social media and other topics during the breaks, individual members and groups and all who are present, why do we need something to inform us about this? not all broadcasts out there represent us, we need a bigger picture and I trust them, the spirit of tradition eleven is about broadcasting, social media, public relations etc.. I'm grateful / we hear fear concerning changes on our literature, changing words won't impact members getting sober, Bill took LSD after the big book was written, I'd like to see Teddy to go to the GSC and moderate our literature and keep our program inclusive / thank you for this assembly, the passion and the quality of the group conscience, we had lots to cover this year, I want to express gratitude / I want to mention our gratitude, our Lit/GV/LV sharing session will continue the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and we are working on a virtual GV workshop / I just wanted to thank you for making this possible, I've had a spiritual experience / the actual service manual is very handy, a binder can be a more difficult thing to carry / What's on my mind is the seriousness of this disease, I can see how vital information can make the difference between life and death, super grateful to have been a part of this process, hope to use this platform for praying and comforting families / thank you for all those who worked on this process, thank you Teddy for always being available, it's a whole learning experience / not a big zoom fan but thank you for the interpretation and members that put this on for us / report charter B, I believe the historical value is not enough for us not to keep the message up to date / report finances we got \$260 dls via Venmo \$290, making \$550 dls total, we are not taking contributions at the link on our website yet / this is my second pre conference I'm amazed and impressed for your dedication and love of AA, I learned lots, beyond words, reminder to suit up and show up, cool how the democracy of this process is so true, thank you Teddy for your dedication / thank you Area officers, I didn't imagine having 300 people here, my two meetings we talked lots about literature item K, we were shocked to see the massive numbers of members that can't have access to this material because of lack of education, one idea we had was to take advantage of all this new technology and create an electronic version of the book with imbedded live hyperlinks so people can click on the link and have the language explained or restated in plain English, maybe this could be an opportunity to have more accessibility through electronic media / at the last regional forum we heard from an African American member talk about how the African American community is still a remote community in AA, it's

really so important that we continue to think about the minority populations and how we can do a better job doing outreach to them/ April 23, 2006 I got arrested, today God bless the person that brought the message for me to get sober / thank you to all officers for this assembly, for one moment I felt like we were all together in Petaluma, I trust our delegate to make the best decision for AA, we are drops that will turn in to a river / excellent translations, I was able to understand more than ever, we talked about changes, we never imagined making decisions via virtual conference / AA is changing, adapting, evolving, and we're preparing to bring the message to the GSC, it was necessary for me to learn how all this works / thank you Teddy for the spirit and his role as a delegate, since the first assembly in the what's in your mind the Spanish speaking members showed the passion and the interest, thank you Mateo and the professional interpreters / thank you for your work, I look forward to hearing the outcomes at the post-conference assembly / I feel honored sharing my group conscience, I noticed the lack of participation from young people, we're dealing with topics that impact everyone / thank you I personally practiced paused, I blocked off this time, and I have a space free from distraction, I miss people, I noticed how I react and just listen and learn / there was local confusion in my group about how to participate and get votes and lots of AA members don't know they can do this, we need to empower members to have their own opinions, Assemblies are good tools / this was a great experience, congrats to the chair and our delegate / great job, really smooth, didn't know how to do it with my group, I learned a lot, thank you I offered to help because members helped me, tech is a tool today / I'm a visitor from Colima Mexico, I was a delegate in 91-92, I never used cellphone or internet to communicate, thank you, Bill and Bob will applaud all of you right now, we have lots of work to do / I'm happy and excited to be here / about fear of change, in "AA comes of age" it said "we have to believe in a God or in the principles and still you are a member of AA" / thank you all for making this happen, please thank GSO and the GSC for translating all the background material into Spanish / thank you officers and ad-hoc committee, I came with low expectations, and I'm amazed, I was able to see your faces and stay focus, we're safe financially, I'm all in for this these virtual assemblies / this gave me an open mind.

**Closed with the Reasonability Statement**

**12:30 p.m. – Closing**