

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES FOR 2021 POST-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

The Post-Conference Assembly Business meeting of CNCA was held virtually on May 15, 2021. Miguel H. opened the meeting at 9:12am, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Vivian K. (District 07). John S. (District 03) read the 12 Traditions in English, and Jose C. (District 18) read the 12 Traditions in Spanish. There were seven past Delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (Panel 36, Area 28 Maine), Barbara M. (Panel 41), Jim M. (Panel 45), David N. (Panel 59, and now currently a past Trustee), Raymundo L. (Panel 65), and Teddy B.-W. (Panel 69). Past Area Officers present were Dennis H., Judy W., Laura W., Magdaleno O., Martha B., and Michael Q. The minutes from the 2021 Pre-Conference Assembly were accepted as published in the *CNCA Comments and Comentarios*.

Attendance: 237

Area Business

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Discussion: [Group consciences]- Our group said yes to this, but after explaining what the Warranties are there wasn't much interest. // Our group is not in favor. // We are unanimously in favor if it comes as a piece of Service Material from GSO. // We are in favor; many people did not know about the Warranties or the Concepts. // Although there was more interest once they were shown, the group voted no. The information can be found elsewhere. // Our group is in unanimous support of this. // The majority of the group is not into it, but the one person who favors it is very passionate about it. // The group feels that the Warranties are already printed, and it separates the Concept from the others. // They were not well-known about before the discussion. The group is not all in but does not object. // Unanimously in favor. // We are in favor, but not clear on the purpose. If it is helpful to someone in service, then we are not opposed. **[Personal opinions]-** A one-piece summary would be helpful. The Warranties are concrete and simple, and grounded in spiritual principle. // This could be more effective on the website; quick and easy to find.. Then they could be printed if wished. // They are printed elsewhere. But I really appreciate the value of this conversation. // I don't know about the Warranties. It would be helpful for those who are uninformed. // I'm not really in favor or against, but Concept XII is the summary of the Warranties. // I wasn't familiar with them and there was only a mention of them in the Service Manual, so I looked online and found them on Reddit. // I was deeply affected by the Warranties, and it brings a lot of spiritual principles to the forefront. I'd love to see the vinyl window shades with them like we see the Steps and Traditions. // I'm not so sure about printing a summary, but on the website is a good idea. // We had a DCM create a discussion topic and asked, like we do with the Traditions, "How do the Concepts and Warranties apply to our lives, not just in AA?" // I think they should be published. The pamphlet on the Concepts has a summary on the back, and larger than in the Service Manual. We don't know where to find them. // I'm not familiar with them, that's the beauty of this job. It's a little hard to digest. I Googled it and a lot of stuff came up, although not Conference Approved. I think something in laymen's terms would be a good think to put out there. // If it weren't for my service sponsor and working the Concepts, I wouldn't have known they are right there in Concept XII. They are such a treasure, let's get them out, either on the website or published. // I am in favor. They blew me away and showed me more of what service is all about. They are exciting and not just administrative. They should be out there. // The Concepts are kind of dry, but the Warranties are hidden and so good. A one-page bulleted list would help clarify their meaning to people new to them. // They are there in the Concepts. We need to encourage people to get into the book instead of taking stuff out. // I'm in favor because it will get people talking about them. // They were not known about in a Concept study; they are hard to find. // About twenty-five years ago there was this same discussion in WA, and we ended up with the *Twelve Concepts Illustrated*. // When I was new I didn't understand anything about how broad the service structure is, how groups function, the money. I would want to know why this would be opposed. // The newly revised Service Manual does have the Warranties show up all throughout and plus there is the Concept XII essay. I can't show any drafts, but it should be available this Fall. // To help people be aware of them we can bring them up in personal shares at our home group.

The Assembly was asked if they were ready to vote, and members were ready to vote. Substantial unanimity (2/3) was required for the motion to pass.

Vote: Yes (89) / No (28) / Abstain (21)

Minority Opinion: I opposed this because of hearing about the Service Manual revision. // It's already been published in a pamphlet and a book. // More isn't always better. Things get written out when making a summary. Why extract? // A single sheet of paper floating around does not seem useful. // It would be smart to wait and see the new Service

Manual. // How will it help people to have something nobody will look at, and what need does it address? The better solution is to have this discussion, and we will learn how to find them.

There was a motion to reconsider, and it was seconded.

Vote by simple majority: Motion to reconsider passed.

Motion to remain Old Business at the Summer Assembly.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Discussion: [Group consciences]- We are in favor of any pamphlet that is written by the group of people whose need is represented. // There are no people in our group that represent that community and we feel that there must be a need for it to be proposed and we support it. // The majority of our group is in favor, with a minority opinion that it is not necessary. // Our group had many feelings on both sides. // The majority of the group agrees this is a marginalized community, and the minority opinion says the 'woke generation' has gone too far. // We are in support of this and hope it will be written by people from that experience and culture. // We are in unanimous favor. It speaks to our primary purpose to reach all suffering alcoholics and help people relate. // We unanimously support this and wonder why wouldn't it be supported? // We are in favor, and the minority opinion suggested making existing literature more accessible to this community. We are in favor, but based on the title, who is the target audience? What about Latinx LGBTQ who don't speak Spanish? // Our group feels this is a no brainer, as long as it's written by that community. // We are unanimously in favor because we want to reach all alcoholics. // Our group is always in favor of literature that speaks to our primary purpose. [Personal opinions]- This is an overlooked demographic. // I think this is a good proposal. It will help me learn sometimes what not say and to be more respectful in my own speech. // This demographic of people needs something that speaks to them not only in their language, but their culture. // If this were produced it would become Conference-Approved, and the beauty of our Conferenced-Approved literature is that it is all translated in English, Spanish, and French. The existing LGBTQ pamphlet was translated into Spanish language but doesn't meet the cultural need of this community. This would represent their cultural experience, start out in Spanish, and still be translated into English and French. // There is more prejudice being LGBT and Latinx. This would need to be written by and for that community. // I am in favor of this. It would be a worthy investigation to look at the existing stories in the current pamphlet and find their source language. Also, somewhere there needs to be a clarification that gender identity and sexual orientation is not the same thing. // It will be interesting to see a pamphlet that reflects more than just the Anglo-Saxon experience. Here in the U.S. people are more encouraged to believe in their own ideas and open expression when it comes to culture and religion. Latin countries have a different belief system and our own prejudices to overcome. This will be an expression of our own experience. // Homophobia is alive and well and in AA we can combat this. I am not Latinx, but I am a lesbian. I was at a PRAASA years back where the presenter made homophobic comments and it hurt. // In the beginning I did not agree with this. But after more discussion I see who it will help. I'm in a Spanish group in the center of San Francisco. Now I am more open-minded, and people are getting into it and seeing how serious it is. It will help, not hurt. // Representation provides individual access to stories for those who relate to them. The term intersectionality is used to describe an overlap of two or more marginalized groups, as Latinx LGBT are. The name should be changed for the target audience. // I am a Spanish-speaking gay male, and I am free to express that now, but it was difficult. Thankfully I have an LGBT group where I feel a sense of belonging. But another group sometimes still throws out mocking comments and has a rejecting attitude. AA is a beautiful community. I read the current LGBT pamphlet, and although in Spanish, I did not feel a connection. // I support this. It's important to hear stories from LGBT who are Hispanic. It's not just about the Anglo-Saxon experience. // It's important. We know that AA helps family relationships be more successful, and AA is a big family where all should be included. And so others can see we are more inclusive. // This teaches us to be more open-hearted and to understand all perspectives and ways of living. // I remember being at a larger regional meeting and learning from Latinx women how few Spanish-speaking women's meetings there used to be. That has changed some and gave insight to the need for a Hispanic Women's pamphlet. It helps everyone else too, not just Hispanic LGBT.

The Assembly was asked if they were ready to vote, and members were ready to vote. Substantial unanimity (2/3) was required for the motion to pass.

Vote: Yes (118) / No (8) / Abstain (13)

Minority Opinion: The idea seems fine, but the mention of a better title that is not chosen by English speakers is why I voted against it.

There was a motion to reconsider, and it was seconded.

Vote by simple majority: Motion to reconsider failed.

<<<Motion PASSED>>>

NEW BUSINESS:

- That the Trustees Literature Committee develop a graphic novel, or a series of graphic novels, that depict the first 164 pages of the Big Book. – *presented by District 90*

Discussion: [Group consciences]- Our group was divided. Those in favor think it will help those with limited literacy skills, and not just for young people. Those not in favor asked if young people were consulted. They could be offended. *//* Our group think it's a good idea if chapters 8, 9, and 10 could be left out. *//* We are in unanimous favor. Helps with literacy issues and provides another accessible option. *//* We favor this motion. It's not a replacement but another option. It can remove barriers and help reach people where they are at. *//* Someone in the group is a student with a master's degree and had difficulty concentrating. They have ADHD but not low literacy skills and this would be beneficial. *//* It is not a prudent use of our funds at this time. *//* We are in favor. It reaches those with lower reading skills, ADHD, and some people are visual learners. *//* Our group felt it could either be great, or real cheesy. We also had concerns about the cost. *//* We are in unanimous support. *//* Anything that helps reach to all alcoholics is a salvation to sufferers. It's time for changes in how we carry the message. **[Personal opinions]-** This could remove some barriers some have to the AA message. The graphics would be the sticking point to how successful it could be. *//* Our group had more questions than a vote, such as where do the funds come from, how is it distributed, and who does it? *//* I'm intrigued. "Novel" seems misleading though, because it implies fiction. *//* In my own experience, I have a PhD and I made it through without ever reading a text. I struggled through; I am not a visual learner, but an auditory learner and I used a lot of comic books. The Big Book is difficult to read, I think a graphic novel is mandatory. *//* It makes sense at a glance but seems there could be a lot of hidden secondary issues. I hear two competing ideas; is it that we want a visual representation or is it the outdated language? *//* I love innovative ideas to perpetuate our message. Although they were fictional, there were 16 million graphic novels sold last year. My concerns are the cost, the scope, and the time spent. *//* During the GSR sharing session on this topic, I really noticed how it felt. People got excited about this. A member who is 88 is thrilled with the idea. *//* I am in favor of the verbatim depiction of the first 164 pages. *//* I like the medium and it could be entertaining, however it's a huge commitment and investment. If not done well it can have some spiritual consequences. Could the Grapevine do a section of graphic novel as a trial? *//* I didn't like the idea at first because I can read well. But I've got a new friend who can't read, and I am wondering how to help him understand the message? This could help a lot. *//* I've seen in meetings that people with no problem with literacy level can still struggle to read out loud. We need an easier way to read it. *//* I've seen how effective putting words to visuals is by my experience in producing plays. It helps people identify.

Motion moved to Old Business at the Summer Assembly.

The meeting was closed at 12:00pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

What's On Your Mind?

Thank you District 14! And thank you to all who registered; we had 285 total. *//* I'd like to invite you all to a once monthly meeting called "What a Concept." Zoom info is in the Chat. *//* I wanted to suggest something on the Area website like an open page where online groups can sign up. *//* In some hybrid meetings where the camera is turned on to the room the people at there don't necessarily know who they are being broadcast to, unlike the other way around where if you're at home and don't want to be on video you can turn your camera off. I'm not in favor of that and think it needs discussion. *//* In the revision of the AA Preamble, one suggestion I never saw was the emphasis on the word "is". This is the only "is" statement anywhere in AA and it be a shame if its importance is not retained. *//* Congratulations to all trusted servants here. I am not from this Area, and I will have great thing to report from this meeting. *//* Our Zoom meeting has 120 people every day. We are having a steering committee meeting soon to discuss hybrid meetings and I am part of the tech committee. If the camera is on the group, there can be a designated section for people who don't want to be on camera. We are continuing to explore best practices and get feedback. *//* In hybrid meetings when there is an issue of limited capacity, people who are willing to get up for a newcomer can have their phones and just go outside and still join the meeting. *//* I'd like to give some context to the Seven Deadly Sins. That concept is the entire framework for Chapter Six in the Twelve & Twelve, so it's not just the paragraph about anger, lust and gluttony that is getting revised that makes reference to them. We can really see the influence of Bill W.'s friendship with Catholic priest, Ed Dowling. I'm not saying it's great, I'm Jewish. But it just is. *//* Congrats to Jennifer, your report was awesome. For groups looking for info on re-opening and hybrid meetings, SF-Marin Fellowship is having a workshop on May 20, 7:00pm-8:30pm. *//* Our group created a list of people who will

voluntarily step out of the meeting if it reaches capacity; we are calling it a “tap-out list.” // I have noticed, and maybe it’s more common in Hispanic homes, that when people are on Zoom at home sometimes other people in the house just show up on the camera. Like sometimes the whole family is there. It’s not in alignment with anonymity and can feel weird and uncomfortable sometimes. // This Conference opened the door, and now some things that were problematic in are literature are less of a barrier. But whether I participate virtually or in person, my responsibility to be kind and welcoming remains the same, and sometimes the barriers exist in us. It’s our turn to be what our literature looks like. // I wish I had started with this assembly; the last one was painful. It’s a good start but my group would like to see it go further. // I am putting the info in the Chat for the Celebration of Life for Jeff A. on May 30. I think he would have been very happy about today. // Thank you, I appreciate this assembly.