



CNCA COMMENTS



A.A. Confidential—November 2021

www.cnca06.org

California Northern Coastal Area of Alcoholics Anonymous

Thank you to John W. the “AAWS Director” for facilitating our Inventory and to District 04 for a great Assembly we experienced with a huge participation.

At the Assembly we also resumed the discussion on the motion regarding the develop of a graphic novel or a series of graphic novels that depict the first 164 pages of the Big Book, we also heard presentation of two items of New Business; the first one related to the distribution of the Area newsletters (Comments / Comentarios) and the second one, a request to the Trustees Literature Committee that the 2021 advisory action related to the phrase “lustful enough to rape “ on page 66 of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be returned to the original language. More will be revealed.

What a month; At our Area Committee Meeting we discussed a proposition to increase the hourly rate for interpretation from \$60 to \$75, for both professional and professional quality interpreters. We also had a really good discussion on the topic “hybrid, virtual, and in-person options for CNCA meetings”.

At the Area Committee Meeting in October the Area officers decided to create a Hybrid Assemblies Ad Hoc Committee formed by; Ken M, Megan B, Jose M, Russ A, and Michael Q. Ad-Hoc Committees address issues of long-term and significant interest to CNCA and are expected to remain active and engaged in the organization during it's lifetime. The committee to provide a written report of their findings together with any recommendations and will keep minutes of their meetings on file with CNCA Recording Secretary.

In more news; The Area Committee Meeting will resume meeting in person in January 2022 at the Petaluma Community Center at 320 North McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma. We will keep meeting the fourth Saturday of every month. The DCM and DCMC Sharing Sessions will start at 10:00am, as well as the Literature/Grapevine/La *Vitña* Sharing Session. The Archives, I&T, and Finance committees all meet at 11:00am. The Area Committee Meeting will start at its regular time, 12:30pm. In the next few months, all other committees will also resume in-person meetings.

We will continue to monitor all health and safety guidelines regarding Covid-19 as we return to onsite meetings. Masks will be required, no food or coffee will be served, but you can bring your own.

I came to AA broken, smoking free cigars from the coordinator's desk, drinking coffee hoping not to drink the next day, the human need is the creator's opportunity materialized in AA.

Miguel H
CNCA 06, Chair
P71

My deadline for this article is always the Friday after our Area Committee Meeting. But by the time you read this, it will be much later in the month. We will have held our Area Inventory Assembly, and we will be heading into the winter holidays. What to write about? What am I feeling? Oh, gratitude!

November is Gratitude Month in A.A. To learn a bit about the origins and ideas for celebrating, you might type “AA gratitude month” into your favorite internet search engine to find past Box 459 newsletters and more.

Rather than give you a history lesson here or remind you to put a little more in the basket, I decided to reflect a bit on my personal gratitude. Starting with the obvious: I'm grateful for the new chance I was given at life, instead of dying an alcoholic death like so many of my friends and family. My mother literally drank herself to death at 57. She didn't see a way out and couldn't accept help that was available to her.

I'm grateful for the new friends that I have met along the way, my family of choice. People who have been there for me through tragedy and triumph the last (almost) 19 years. People with whom I can be my authentic self. And all the laughter and adventures we have shared.

I'm grateful for a connection with a power greater than myself. I don't feel the need to define it, but I do know that it seems to get more powerful the bigger my group of drunks becomes. I no longer feel isolated and alone.

I'm grateful that through working the Steps with my sponsors, I learned to recognize my part in my suffering and how to form true partnerships with other human beings. I can be a trustworthy and reliable employee, volunteer, neighbor, friend, spouse, and family member.

I'm grateful to all those who have come before us, who passed on the life-saving message of recovery. And for all those who come after us who will do the same. "Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward. In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you." (*As Bill Sees It*, p. 29)

I'm grateful to be part of a society of alcoholics in action—in my home group, in our Area, and as a member of the General Service Conference. As we slowly transition back to more in-person events, it has been wonderful to meet some of you in person for the first time. But I'm also grateful for all the virtual connections I have made over the last two years.

I'm grateful for your service as we trudge this path during a global pandemic. I trust that we will meet the new challenges ahead with mutual respect and love. I look forward to whatever 2022 has in store for us.

With love and gratitude,
Jennifer B.
Panel 71 Delegate

Looking for Something?

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AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—OCTOBER 23, 2021

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held virtually on October 23, 2021. Miguel H. opened the meeting at 12:30pm, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Bren B. (District 07). Fran H. (District 08) read Tradition 10 and Jose F. (District 18) read Concept 10 in Spanish. There were eight past Delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (Panel 36, Area 28), Barbara M. (Panel 41), Jim M. (Panel 45), David N. (Panel 59 and past trustee), Padee M. (Panel 63), Joann L. (Panel 67), and Teddy BW (Panel 69). The September minutes and financial report were accepted as published in the *CNCA Comments* and *Comentarios*.

Attendance: 104 **Birthdays:** 164/8

Officer Reports

DELEGATE – JENNIFER B: Hopefully you received a copy of the letter I forwarded from our new General Manager at GSO, Bob W. You can also find it at aa.org under 'What's New'. The office at 475 Riverside Drive in NY reopened on October 1 for employees, but most of them continue to work from home a few days a week. And the hope is to reopen our General Service Office to visitors and tours in early 2022, but right now, you still can't visit. I also sent out an update from publishing about new and revised literature. I was excited to buy copies of the pamphlet for Hispanic Women in AA and Experience Has Taught Us—the new illustrated intro to the Twelve Traditions—for my own library. And a revised 12&12. I think many of you are familiar with the Corrections Correspondence Service, which links AA members who are incarcerated with AA members on the outside so that both can share their experience, strength, and hope with each other. The Corrections desk at GSO announced that the new Matching Application launched in early October. This state-of-the-art digital application replaced the old, outdated system and will enable matching of persons in custody to members on the outside faster and more efficiently. One of the new features includes matching based on miles rather than region – greatly increasing matching possibilities. If there is no available match, the staff member will receive an alert and they can immediately contact a Bridging the Gap committee chair for assistance. Phase Two will revise functionality and fix or add features as needed. I'm looking forward to our Area inventory on November 6. I encourage you to interpret the questions however you like, and jot down some notes of your thoughts in advance so you can make the most of your time at the microphone. The other thing I am especially excited about is that we will get a report on some of the activities of AA World Services from our guest, John W. He is a non-trustee director serving on the trustees' Corrections, Public Information and Literature committees. He's also on the sub-committee for the development of the plain and simple language Big Book. He's the Chair of the AAWS Publishing committee, and he's a cool human being. As a reminder, we will also be electing our Area nominee for the next Pacific Regional Trustee at the assembly. Anyone with ten years of sobriety who feels they have the time available to serve and the other qualifications is eligible to stand for that election.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – ERIC L: The Quarterly Report from GSO updated the fellowship about progress on the pamphlet for mental health professionals, audio interviews with military memberships, the use of the Lord's Prayer at the International Convention, the AA Membership Survey, and the placement of public service announcements on streaming platforms.

CHAIR – MIGUEL H: The Interpretation and Translation committee is seeking one more member to be a part of the gang; you do not need to be bilingual. For more details or questions please contact Magdaleno O. Also, our Web committee is looking for two members to join the team. For more information, please contact the Web committee chair, Megan M., or any of the Area Officers. And now, some big news: The Area Committee Meeting will resume meeting in person in January at the Petaluma Community Center at 320 North McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma. We will keep meeting the fourth Saturday of every month. The DCM and DCMC Sharing Sessions will start at 10:00am, as well as the Literature/Grapevine/La Viña Sharing Session. The Archives, I&T, and Finance committees all meet at 11:00am. The Area Committee Meeting will start at its regular time, 12:30pm. In the next few months, all other committees will also resume in-person meetings.

TREASURER – CHITRA S: We currently have \$60,119.33 in our Checking account and \$11,038.68 in our Savings account which acts as our prudent reserve. Our September contributions totaled \$3,612.14 and we budgeted for \$7,550.25. Our expenses for September were \$4,824.25 and we budgeted \$10,868.27. As our Area prepares to take its inventory, it prompts me to look at the Area Treasury position and ask my own questions in review of this year, and in anticipation of the following year as we create next year's budget. The Area is preparing to go back to in-person Area Committee meetings beginning in January 2022. Do our current contributions meet the expenses of the Area, or are we relying on accumulated funds to pay our bills? Are all of our Area expenses necessary? Or have we found new and more efficient ways of doing business during the Pandemic that we may think about implementing in the future in order to be financially prudent? What services are not being fulfilled because we do not have budgeted funds? Do we practice corporate poverty? Do we look at our systems and try to improve them or do we do things they were done in the past without question? Do we fear change, or do we bravely look in the mirror and talk about what we see? I am looking forward to healthy discussion.

REGISTRAR – CLAUDIA N: As we move along in this first year of the panel, changes are happening with re-openings of meetings, discussions about hybrid possibilities and the advantages that technology affords us. I have met with a couple of members of the Technology committee regularly and as they get AirTable closer to being up and running, I am more excited every passing week on the benefits it will bring to our Area. Please continue to send me your group changes, so we can keep our records as up to date as possible and continue to be good stewards. There have been some changes on Fellowship Connection, mainly how it looks when you go on

AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—OCTOBER 23, 2021 Cont'd

the site, and now we have the option of asking for virtual or hard copy kits to be mailed or to opt out.

RECORDING SECRETARY – AMY M: I continue to produce the minutes for our Area Committee Meetings and Assembly Business Meetings with gratitude and to the best of my ability. Behind the scenes a group of volunteers have been taking a look at the index of our Motions Book that has not been updated since 2011. What we discovered is that in the last ten years the language we use in our motions has developed with the trends of the 21st century, so we have added new index categories that pertain to things related to accessibility and technology, for example. It's exciting to see our Motions Book get so much attention this year. With the approval last month to translate over 200 pages of Discussions and Reports to Spanish, and the work being done on the index, by the time I pass this on to Panel 73 it will be more accessible and hopefully easier to navigate for our members. It is an honor and a privilege to be the current custodian of such an important document.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – DREW B: It is really fun taking other people's inventory but in AA, we take our own inventory. So, as previously said by my colleague officers our Inventory Assembly is November 6 hosted by the charming and powerful District 04. I have met with District 04 to do a virtual assembly training and we will meet one more time the week before the assembly. District 04 will also be hosting a pre-assembly event the night before and the program looks spectacular!

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – RICHARD W: We are expecting the updated Service Manual to be available in November so be on the lookout. We have three new pamphlets that have been released. For this inventory season I'd like to remind you that you can find some sample questions in the AA Group pamphlet, the Twelve Traditions Checklist, and the Twelve Concepts Checklist all available on aa.org. The Carry the Message Project is still going on. I have heard a lot of great feedback on the Grapevine podcasts, which started in early October and are released every Monday. You can find the podcasts at aagrapevine.org on the top right tab marked Podcasts. Grapevine and La Viña are always looking for stories on Steps and Traditions.

District Reports

DISTRICT 01 (MONTEREY) – JESSICA A: We are preparing for a District 01 inventory at our November district meeting. We anticipate continuing our discussion about returning in person in the next couple of months. Our DCM continues to hold a sub-district meeting for all GSRs via zoom. They share presentations with each other, ask questions, and study the Concepts and Traditions.

DISTRICT 02 (SALINAS/SAN BENITO) – JACK B: We continue to need more GSRs and participation in General Service. Some groups that were meeting on Zoom have switched to in-person only. Also, some groups that had been inactive during the pandemic are coming back to life. As a District we are trying to decide if we should be in-person again, but we have such low

participation that we would feel guilty to have an Area Officer travel all this way.

DISTRICT 03 (SANTA CRUZ) – MATT E: Our September discussion about the importance of group inventories sparked interest in GSRs to learn more about what, how, and why of them. So, this month we devoted more time to discussing area, district, and group inventories, and I am happy to see GSRs taking this information to heart and scheduling group inventories at their meetings. Our District Inventory will be on November 10, and all are welcome.

DISTRICT 04 (SANTA CLARA NORTH) – LORI R: We are doing regular stuff such as budget and inventory, and we are very excited about hosting the Inventory Assembly. We will have a Friday evening kick-off event from 6:30pm-9:00pm. Included is a panel discussion about how the process of inventory creates unity and helps us to better carry the message. The panel will consist of seven experienced trusted servants including a past DCMC, AAWS non-trustee Director, an Area chair, and four past and present Delegates. The Festering Resentments will entertain us during the break and then we will have break-out rooms for Q & A with panel speakers. Our own Coree H., non-trustee Grapevine Director, will give us updates.

DISTRICT 40 (SANTA CLARA SOUTH) – BILL H: This month we tackled several housekeeping motions, continued the passionate discussion of a third motion and tabled a fourth motion. This month our "Sub-District Spotlight" featured sub-district 10, which allowed us to hear from one GSR who introduced their home groups to us. Finances continue to be stable in our district. Our budget committee is diligently laying out our 2022 budget, which will roll out for approval in December. Our district meeting location has opened up and although we have not set a return date yet, we are one step closer, as the district has obtained the insurance required by our meeting venue.

DISTRICT 05 (SAN MATEO) – SARAH B: This month, we passed our first motion to provide up to \$2,000 to PI/CPC for literature expansion and replenishment. It was a testament to the value our district has for this vital service, which continues to be active in the community. The H&I committee is considering returning to in-person monthly business meetings. Planning for holiday Alcahons hosted by Intergroup are underway, with random drawings of groups to host meeting slots. The District 05 budget ad hoc committee presented our 2022 budget which seems to have been well-received. Next month we look forward to our district inventory and distribution of the printed Conference Reports.

DISTRICT 06 (SAN FRANCISCO) – JACKIE B: We used a Zoom poll to select the final six questions for next month's district inventory. Our Treasurer and Ad Hoc Finance committee presented a proposed 2022 district budget for review, and we will be voting on it in December. Our Alternate DCMC presented an important piece of New Business that our monthly District meeting remain on Zoom. Our district will spend a great deal of time discussing this motion, as well as solicit group consciences, before taking a vote well into 2022. We also passed a motion to establish an annual budget of \$500 for our BTG committee. In local intergroup news, interviews have begun for new Central Office Executive Director, although the Board continues

AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—OCTOBER 23, 2021 Cont'd

to accept resumes. There is an opening on the Intercounty Fellowship (IFAA) Board of Directors.

DISTRICT 07 (ALAMEDA NORTH) – ASHLEY J: We have not met since the last Area Committee Meeting. Our next meeting is via Zoom this Wednesday, beginning with a Concept study at 6:30pm, new GSR orientation at 7:00pm, and business meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

DISTRICT 70 (ALAMEDA SOUTH) – ROY H: It is good to report that of the meetings that went completely dark during the pandemic, some are starting to reopen. Of those that went virtual, more and more are returning either as hybrid meetings or as in-person only. We took a break from "business as usual" at our District Meeting this past month and had our visiting Area Officer share about her journey in Service and the theme of our pre-business meeting GSR Sharing Session was the same. We still have several service positions available including PI/CPC, H&I Liaison, two sub-districts, and Archives. At our next business meeting, we will be conducting our district inventory.

DISTRICT 08 (CONTRA COSTA) – LESLIE W: As a result of involving the GSRs and their groups in the selection process of our district inventory questions, now many groups are conducting their own inventories. With the 50+ attendance we welcome on a regular basis, we hope to finish in December and be able to present the notes as a road map for the remaining twelve months of Panel 71. Our Joint Unity Day with Contra Costa Intergroup is an in-person event on November 20 at the Hope Center in Pleasant Hill. Come join us for a friendly version of AA Family Feud and presentations on the joys of service commitments. Finally, District 08 is delighted to announce that we have a soft open for our newly designed website. Please check it out at district08cnca.org.

DISTRICT 09 (SOLANO SOUTH) – DONNA F: We will hold our district inventory in November. A GSR requested that we bring more discussion of Area motions and agenda items in our district meetings. Our district is chugging along and reopening many in-person meetings, but there is a strong divide in the preference for in-person vs. Zoom meetings, notably in the Vallejo Fellowship, which holds the greatest number of meetings per week in our District. We still have many vacant positions in the district, so we discussed attending new and different meetings to give a plug for General Service, and some of us committed to doing this.

DISTRICT 90 (SOLANO NORTH) – BILL H: We will be holding our district inventory in November. We selected questions in our October meeting and are looking forward to our visiting Area Officer to facilitate. Our December 1 meeting will be a District open house. Here we encourage GSRs to bring a spouse, a sponsee, or someone interested in what General Service is about.

DISTRICT 10 (MARIN) – JACQUELINE P: More than 150 members, family and friends attended our hybrid Unity Day on Saturday, October 16. Many new GSRs reported feelings of unity, collaboration, and joy at seeing how the Marin AA service entities work together to help the still-suffering alcoholic. The San Rafael fellowship hosts a family-oriented Gratitude event on November 20, 12:00pm-4:00pm, with speaker Debbie D. and lunch at the beautiful St. Vincent's Church in Terra Linda. For the past decade or so, Marin's Strawberry meetings have host-

ed a huge Thanksgiving event, which this year has been cancelled due to the pandemic. To fill the gap, various Thanksgiving and Gratitude events are being planned, including a Fairfax Alcahthon.

DISTRICT 11 (NAPA) – ELIZABETH B: At our last district meeting, we continued to discuss improving communication and accessibility on the aanapa.org website. We are working to coordinate with Intergroup through our Ad Hoc Tech committee. Our district is hosting the Interdistrict Workshop shared among the districts Solano North, Solano South, Napa and Lake County. On our next district meeting we will hold an inventory and business will be tabled until the district business meeting on December 4.

DISTRICT 12 (SONOMA) – JAMES B: We held a Third Legacy election to fill the position of Recording Secretary. Our BTG sub-committee is hosting the 16th Annual CNCA BTG Forum on November 13, 9:30am-4:00pm. The event will be in Santa Rosa at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and it will include a real BBQ. We now have the green light to return to our location where we had held our District meeting, with the only restrictions being whatever requirements Sonoma County has at that time. That is great news as this means we will be able to have real discussion on how and when we will return to meeting in that facility again. We hope to "soft open" at the site again in January. It is great that site is willing to allow us to use their WiFi to have it be hybrid. Our district inventory will be held at our November meeting.

DISTRICT 13 (LAKE) – PAUL G: We had a PI/CPC event titled Heroes for Health and Safety. We had a new person manning the booth and he is now very enthusiastic about this service. We lost our webmaster, so the new website is delayed but we have a new system for our hotline which automates the call-forwarding.

DISTRICT 14 (MENDOCINO) – WARREN R: We discussed, among other things, our 2022 budget and PRAASA. We also agreed on four questions for our district inventory, which will be at our November district meeting in Willits. Fort Bragg Fellowship will be having a Thanksgiving Alcahthon with meetings all day and a "sack lunch", which will have to be eaten outside of the meeting hall. MENDYPAA, our young people's group, continues to host our weekly beach bonfire meeting on Wednesdays at Caspar Beach at 7:00pm.

DISTRICT 15 (HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE) – MEGAN M: We held a district inventory early in October. All our positions are filled except for PI/CPC. We received the General Service Conference hard copy reports from our Delegate and dispersed them to the DCMs and GSRs. We continue to meet virtually for our business meetings with no present plans to meet in-person yet.

DISTRICT 16 (SPANISH CENTRAL) – FERMIN R: We are excited to have received the Conference final reports in print, and we are taking them to the groups. We are looking forward to attending the Hispanic Forum. We have met in our new meeting space in San Francisco for the first time. We elected a new PI chair, and they have made a visit to the Mexican Consulate to provide information about AA.

DISTRICT 17 (SPANISH SOUTH) – JOSE L: On October 9 we traveled to Simi Valley, CA to be ready on Sunday at 8:00am for the 21st Hispanic Forum hosted by Area 93. In total we had

CNCA BUDGET VS ACTUAL - JANUARY—SEPTEMBER 2021

California Northern Coastal Area

Budget vs. Actuals: 2021 Budget - FY21 P&L

January - September, 2021

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue			
002 Group Contributions	53,420.66	84,750.00	63.03 %
003 District Contributions	3,237.67	14,400.00	22.48 %
004 Assembly Contributions	1,024.00	4,600.00	22.26 %
005 Tradition 7, Area Comm.	1,294.91	2,300.00	56.30 %
008 Personal/Misc Contributions	3,509.18	1,200.00	292.43 %
010 Interest Income	6.52	3.00	217.33 %
Total Revenue	\$62,492.94	\$107,253.00	58.27 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$62,492.94	\$107,253.00	58.27 %
Expenditures			
020 EXPENSE			
021 Delegate Expense	991.00	6,071.19	16.32 %
050 Officer Expense	2,070.41	23,682.98	8.74 %
130 Committee Expenses	21,214.87	33,883.30	62.61 %
300 General Expenses	42,671.48	56,873.97	75.03 %
Total 020 EXPENSE	66,947.76	120,511.44	55.55 %
Total Expenditures	\$66,947.76	\$120,511.44	55.55 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -4,454.82	\$ -13,258.44	33.60 %
NET REVENUE	\$ -4,454.82	\$ -13,258.44	33.60 %

CNCA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION—SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

California Northern Coastal Area

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2021

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Operating Funds - Checking	60,792.72
Prudent Reserve - Savings	11,038.68
Total Bank Accounts	\$71,831.40
Other Current Assets	\$ -1,315.47
Total Current Assets	\$70,515.93
TOTAL ASSETS	\$70,515.93
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Operating Funds ~ Adjusted	63,830.75
Prudent Reserve ~ Savings	11,140.00
Net Revenue	-4,454.82
Total Equity	\$70,515.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$70,515.93

AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—OCTOBER 23, 2021 Cont'd

seventeen AA members from District 17 in attendance, including eight GSRs and four hopefully future GSRs. During October, our presence was requested for Grupo Livermore to help them to have a group inventory. Just as we started, a newcomer showed up and we gave him information. By the grace of God, we will continue with the inventory later. The Area 06 La Viña Anniversary committee had a guidelines revision assembly at Grupo Nuevo Sendero in Seaside CA, with all five linguistic districts present.

DISTRICT 18 (SPANISH NORTH) – JOSE C: We have good participation at the district. We distributed the Conference final reports to the groups and as a result there is a new GSR. We will hold a district inventory next month.

DISTRICT 19 (SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH) – GUADALUPE O: The special event for the revision of the La Viña Anniversary guidelines took place last month. That was a full twelve-hour event, and we will have a second meeting as a committee to finalize the changes. There was participation from sixty-four members of our linguistic districts, as well as from other Areas.

DISTRICT 20 (SPANISH EAST) – JAVIER L: We are working on having an inventory, and our 10th anniversary is also approaching. We are the host of the next interdistrict meeting of the five linguistic districts. Also, we are excited to attend the 2nd Hispanic Forum held in CNCA that is happening tomorrow. We are looking forward to the Area's Fall Inventory Assembly.

Area Standing & Sub-Committees, Sharing Sessions, and Liaison Reports

ACCESSIBILITIES – JENNIFER K: We are excited that we now have new Access committees in Districts 06 and 07. Today we heard a presentation from past trustee Madeleine P. titled 'Safety in Accessibilities' that highlighted the recent updates to the Service Material from GSO regarding safety in AA.

ARCHIVES – PAUL W: The holidays are rapidly approaching, we are working on the annual Archives Open House for December 11, 2021. The theme for this year's meeting is "CNCA Faces Covid-19 – Our Story". We will give tours of the Archives and serve lunch and snacks. In the past, we have focused on doing Oral Histories and gathering Group Histories in the Open House. Although we will touch on those disciplines, the focus this year is different. This year will feature a speaker panel providing an overview of how Covid-19 affected them in the early stages of the pandemic (mid-March 2020) and what is happening now that the pandemic is increasingly coming under more control (October to December 2021). Additionally, we are interested in how things changed from a GSO perspective. What functions were the most impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions. We are looking forward to meeting with District 18 (Spanish North) in Rohnert Park to give a presentation on the functions of an Archive committee.

BRIDGING THE GAP – GEORGE X: We are approaching the 16th Annual Bridging the Gap Forum taking place on November 13, hosted by District 12 Sonoma County at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa. I believe this event will be the first CNCA in-person event of Panel 71. We will be following all CDC guidelines and Sonoma County Health Mandates pertaining to Covid-19. The Area06 BTG Committee welcomes all

those interested in learning more about the 12th-Step work we perform to attend and hear informational panels on treatment and corrections, enjoy the fellowship and a free BBQ lunch! At the October BTG committee meeting we reviewed fourteen possible inventory questions and the district chairs identified five to discuss when we take our inventory next month. Since the last ACM, our districts have made twenty-seven presentations at treatment and/or correctional facilities. We received eighty-seven contact requests, including two contact requests forwarded to CNIA, and one letter received from San Diego.

FINANCE – JOANN L: The Area Finance committee reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, Budget versus Actuals, and August Expenses. We also looked at the financial impact of the motions on the CNCA Area Committee meeting agenda for today. We are continuing the discussion to have a finance workshop about how to talk to your groups about self-support. If you have any financial topic that you would like to see in a workshop regarding the 7th Tradition, please let me know.

PI/CPC – ERIC L: Preliminary data from the email distribution campaign regarding the AA in Action event suggests the email campaign informed new professionals about what AA is and how it can help people suffering from alcoholism. Next month, we will be discussing presentations at schools.

TECHNOLOGY – NICK S: As you may know, the Tech committee has acquired ten Microsoft 365 licenses for free and we are working on distributing them to some committee chairs and Officers. My entire report will be dedicated to addressing some of the questions that have come up in the last month about this: **Q.** Are the licenses free forever? **A.** Yes, as long as CNCA maintains a non-profit status. **Q.** How did the Tech committee decide who would get the licenses? **A.** We decided based on the software each license comes with, in addition to which committees and officers could potentially benefit the most. We could easily redistribute the licenses if the Area and Officers decide there would be a more logical distribution. **Q.** If the licenses are beneficial why not distribute them to all the Officers and committee chairs? **A.** Right now, we only have the ten free licenses. We are really hoping to learn if this is beneficial to the Area. This is a great opportunity for the Area to experiment without costing anything. In the event the Area decides we want more licenses, we can make a motion to get more. Each additional license costs \$60/year (50% off due to our non-profit status). **Q.** Does the Tech committee have a rollout plan for distributing the licenses? **A.** Not yet. We are in the process of putting together a detailed plan. This will take some time to put together, so we are holding off distribution until we smooth things out.

WEBSITE – MEGAN M: Many on the Web committee enjoyed the virtual WordPress for AA Websites Workshop last month. It inspired us to add a Privacy Policy to the website. Now that I've told you about how we don't share information, I'll announce that we do collect it. We have installed Google Analytics and Monster Insights to identify our audience and improve our discoverability. Though our website's purpose is to provide information and guidelines to our districts and members and not necessarily provide information for newcomers, we have found that one of the most popular pages on cnca06.org is the page that links to the individual district's recovery meetings. We are

AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—OCTOBER 23, 2021 Cont'd

also planning to revamp the website to make it easier to find information, including documents from meetings up to nine years ago. We are in the planning stage and welcome your suggestions. Email Web chair on the 'Contact Us' form on the website.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – MAGDALENO O: We will be presenting an item of New Business today to increase the hourly rate for our professional and professional quality interpreters. As in every month, we had many documents to translate, and we started to use a translation program called "Machine Learning System". It has been very helpful. We have a vacant position in case anyone is interested. Lastly, we are already checking the final details for our Inventory Assembly.

PRAASA 2024 – TEDDY B-W: 2024 might sound like a long way off, but there are things that need to happen now to ensure a successful event three years away. The venue contact is signed, and we are ready to go! The logo competition closes on December 31 and the winner receives a free PRAASA 2024 registration. If you would like to volunteer for PRAASA 2024 please send me an email.

CNCA COMMENTS / COMENTARIOS– DENNIS H: Both the *Comments* and *Comentarios* were completed on October 15. This was delayed due to issues with Translations. We will continue to work to improve the timing of these documents in preparation for a return to mailings of hard copies.

DCM SHARING SESSION – CHASE C: Fran from District 08 Contra Costa presented on the topic: What's an A.A. Group? They began with a reading from the AA Group Pamphlet and began to distill the Traditions in how they function at group level. They reached out to 9th Tradition committees such as local Central Offices and Intergroups asking them directly if they've had a problem with affiliation. The presentation inspired a highly interactive response, with members sharing their experiences about the differences between a meeting and a group, how to become an AA group member, differences between open and closed meetings, naming an AA Group, and some of the issues that their personal groups are having as an effect of the pandemic.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – RICHARD W: Today's Literature, Grapevine, and La Viña Sharing Session started with updates on the Service Materials available from the General Service Office. Following that, the attendees brainstormed themes of discussion and came up with three: The first topic was new and old ways to present and distribute literature in our service commitments. The second topic was a continuation of our conversations from last month. Our big final discussion was an open discussion on returning to an in-person sharing session. I did not take a group conscience, but I could tell the attendees were very happy to get the chance to be back in person. We also had sharing from the La Viña event that occurred on October 17th to discuss revising the La Viña Anniversary guidelines.

LA VIÑA ANNIVERSARY – JUAN T: There was a twelve-hour event last month to discuss revising the La Viña Anniversary guidelines. The event will be hosted next year by our own CNCA District 19.

HISPANIC FORUM – LUIS R: We are happy and nervous about tomorrow's event hosted by District 17. The 2nd Hispanic Forum will take place 9:00am-4:00pm at the Newark Pavilion. There will be simultaneous interpretation.

AREA BUSINESS:

Presentation of New Business:

- A request to the Trustees Literature Committee that the 2021 advisory action related to the phrase "lustful enough to rape " on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be rescinded and the language be returned to the original. - *Presented by District 20*

Presentation: District 20 is presenting this motion because many share the same idea that lust has made people rape or be raped. The text as it was written makes the concept real to the reader of the possible result of letting our character defects take over. To reflect on the reality of this is a reminder to be careful of the extremes our character defects can get to. None of the groups in District 20 voted for the text on page 66 to be changed, and we are presenting this motion to have it changed back.

Questions: Q. What are the reasons? *A.* Members of our community are able to identify with lust and where it can lead. *Q.* Have you considered that the collective conscience has already spoken on this earlier this year? *A.* The group that brought this forward would like its voice heard and District 20 supports it. We think it should be talked about and analyzed further. *Q.* Do you understand the original intent for the change in the first place was to address the erroneous conception that rape is a result of lust but rather of power and violence? *A.* There are different points of view on this.

Forward to Assembly business. Motion to become Presentation of New Business at the Inventory Assembly on November 6.

Presentation of New Business:

- That the rate for hourly interpretation be raised from \$60 to \$75. This will apply to both professional and professional quality interpreters. - *Presented by the Interpretation and Translation committee*

Presentation: The request for this raise in salary came from one of the professional interpreters that we hire to provide Spanish/English interpretation. Past increases were in 2007 from \$40 to \$50, and then in 2009 from \$50 to \$60. The I&T committee recommends we apply this increase to our professional quality (in-house) interpreters as well.

Questions: Q. Can you help me understand the difference between professional and professional quality? *A.* The professional interpreters we hire are licensed and from an outside company. Professional quality interpreters are our own AA members

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that we pay. **Q.** Is it per hour? **A.** Yes. **Q.** What is the average rate now? **A.** The professional rate from this company is \$85/hr, and they are offering us their non-profit rate. **Q.** Was the committee just afraid to ask for more? If the going rate is more than \$75, why not pay more? **A.** The request came from the professional interpreter. **Q.** Are all interpreters getting the going rate of \$85? Did you only look in the Bay Area? Some areas like where I live the rate is much lower. **A.** We have used this company for many years, and they are in the Bay Area. We also reimburse their travel expenses and paying someone traveling from the Bay Area makes the most sense for CNCA. **Q.** Is this compensation for just the interpreter or for equipment too? **A.** Just the interpreter. **Q.** Why are we paying less than the going rate? **A.** If the Area wants to pay more, I suppose we can. **Q.** Did I hear correctly in the initial presentation that this request and the said amount came directly from one of the professional interpreters himself? **A.** Yes. **Q.** Did you meet with other Areas to see if they are paying more or less? **A.** No, we did not. **Q.** Is this for written or oral translation? **A.** It is for oral interpretation at our assemblies and Area meetings. **Q.** Does it cover gas? **A.** No, we pay gas cost according to the Expense Reimbursement Guidelines. **Q.** Do we currently have more of our own interpreters? **A.** Yes, and typically we hire the professional interpreters for the assemblies. **Q.** You are not just forwarding the request along, but the committee is recommending it? **A.** Yes. **Q.** How much per year do we pay? **A.** Last year we paid \$14,700, and this would incur an increase of \$3,000. **Q.** If we had an assembly in Fortuna, would we have a lower rate? **A.** No. **Q.** There are many motions regarding Spanish/English interpretation and how they are compensated, and we passed a motion ten years ago, 1008-3, that consolidated them. Since now there is no distinction between them can we assume the interpreters' rate of compensation and travel reimbursement are implicit within it? **A.** Yes.

Motion to become New Business at the Area Committee Meeting on November 27.

Old Business:

- That the Area purchase two (2) Adobe Acrobat Pro Software yearly subscriptions for use by the Area Web committee. Costs not to exceed \$312 a year as budgeted. - *Presented by the Web committee as a Housekeeping Motion at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21*

Discussion: It reminds me of a lesson I learned early on when trusted servants were not wanting to accept the travel reimbursement offered. To keep a precedent and to stay in alignment with self-support, it is important to not give the message that members must foot their own bill or equipment. // If a committee has a need and requests something, we should give it. Does it enhance the services rendered? If yes, then let's proceed. I'm not sure why this has been controversial. // I am in favor of this. It is useful and important software, especially for the Web committee. It also sets the example that

individuals are not expected to come with their own software in order to be of service. // Recent minutes shows a statement that this motion already passed and was indicated by the number in the Motions Book. Why are we voting on this again? // It became a new and separate motion because how the software is offered now is in an annual subscription, so I thought the motion wording should reflect that.

Motion to remain Old Business at the Area Committee Meeting on November 27.

Discussion Topic:

- Discuss hybrid, virtual, and in-person options for CNCA meetings.

Discussion: I travel a lot and have the lifestyle of a nomad living in my van right now. I am a GSR and have other service commitments and feel the hybrid meetings are very useful. // For accessibility issues, we need to have hybrid ACMs. // I live in a district that is very separated geographically, so we certainly have experienced the benefit of hybrid meetings. I think it's worth investing the time to explore our options. // The main complaint for many hybrid meetings of various levels and size is the inability to hear everyone. The people on Zoom can't hear the people in the room. We would probably need to hire a company to develop something that everyone is projected on the screen and the speaker, either on Zoom or in the room, can be heard. // I learned all I knew about General Service when I was actively participating in the Area, because we didn't always have someone to bring back the info. For a time, I had to stop coming because of physical and other reasons. Hybrid Area functions are the only possibility that I can stay involved. // I am a tech dinosaur, but I am involved with three hybrid functions, so I had to learn. Always I think the things that go out the window first are autonomy and anonymity. Technology does exclude people too. The culture is changing, and I hope we don't take it too fast. // This discussion puts the cart before the horse. Shouldn't we get a general consensus first about which direction we want to head? // I would love it. We have this newly acquired ability to use this technology, I wouldn't want to see us walk away from it. It would be a big expense, but we can save in other areas like travel expense. Districts that are further away have less say because fewer people come, or they come less often. // I don't really love hybrid meetings, but it has served well. Our County is still considered being in the purple tier. Would it even be safe to carpool? We need to go slow and do this responsibly. // Even though things are more opened up, I have integrity and choose to not go out and that is why I am sober. Hybrid has issues of not all being seen or heard, but I can improve. // I'd like to encourage us to keep an open mind; a single experience or meeting does not represent all of them. If a setting had a poor hybrid set-up it doesn't mean they all will. It can be done well. Don't give up based on a single experience. I went to a bar and didn't like it, but I certainly didn't give

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up on bars so easily! // I love meeting in person, nothing can replace that. But another factor I have noticed is the extreme weather events we've experienced the last few years. We were at an ACM when the building suddenly needed to be evacuated. It would be great to have the capability to switch on the fly if something extreme occurs. // I like that we are looking at in-person, but we do know for some that is an access issue. Hybrid seems to inspire the most to be of service; I think it can be done.

The meeting was closed at 3:28pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy M.
CNCA Recording Secretary- Panel 71

What's On Your Mind?

I've noticed that since we've been conducting business online that, although it's wonderful more people are participating and willing to go to the mic, we're spending possibly too much time on Presentations of New Business. I would like to invite us all, myself included, to take a pause before raising our hands and consider if it is truly a question to clarify the wording or intent or are we giving an opinion that should wait for when the item is moved to New Business. The time we have to conduct business is limited. // I'd like to thank everybody for their opinions on our hybrid meeting discussion, but one word I hoped to hear and didn't was unity. What can we do that is best for the unity of the Area? I hope we can reflect on that. // I have a little grievance I'd like to express about the Area Officers making the decision to return to in-person ACMs in January. Districts are also trying to make decisions about how to return and we are taking the time and asking the GSRs for their input, and I think that should have happened here too. I love you all and I know you're trying to do what's best, but I feel this conversation should have been discussed as an Area. // I have the printed Final Report right here. It was shared via email too, and prior to these Zoom meetings I had never heard of this before. So, I don't see the point of spending the money and printing these up to distribute so they can collect dust somewhere. Does that need to be done? I enjoy both the virtual meetings and being in-person. I am looking forward to our future solutions. // Whether we manage to do hybrid meetings or not, the Area did what was needed to get through the last year and a half. There was no motion made to go virtual, but it was an immediate solution to a global situation. We will continue to do what is best for AA. // Relating to the idea of hybrid Area meetings, we now have a Technology committee. I hope they can help facilitate this process, and we gather the greatest amount of experience to put our ideas to work. // I was wondering why we didn't vote on the Old Business today. How long does something stay on Old Business? // I was surprised to hear about the in-person ACM in January, but we are not talking about a hybrid meeting in January? // Attendance at hybrid meetings is drying up, and now some groups are having trouble paying their rent. // Maybe now is a good time to ask this question: Can't we get a sense of the room about returning to in-person in January or being hybrid? // When the Area Officers meet directly following this meeting, we are going to form an ad hoc committee to explore our hybrid options and hope this will begin to answer our many questions.

CNC AREA COMMITTEE & ASSEMBLY MOTIONS—NOVEMBER 2021

Area Committee Motions:

Old Business:

- That the Area purchase up to two (2) annual subscriptions for adobe Acrobat Pro at a current cost of \$312/year for use by the Web Committee and add a line item for said cost to the Area budget moving forward. - *Presented by the Web committee*

New Business:

- That the rate for hourly interpretation be raised from \$60 to \$75. This will apply to both professional and professional quality interpreters. - *Presented by the Interpretation and Translation committee*

Area Assembly Motions:

Old Business:

- That the Trustees' Literature committee develop a graphic novel or a series of graphic novels that depicts the first 164 pages of the Big Book. - *Presented by District 90*
- That the Trustees Literature committee consider deleting or changing the following wording in the book Living Sober "Better to be chubby or pleasingly plump than drunk, right? Did you ever hear of anyone being arrested for "fat driving"?" Which is located in Chapter 9 titled "Eating or Drinking Something--Usually, Sweet" on page 23 of the 2019 printing. - *Presented by District 90*

New Business:

- That CNCA distribute the area newsletters (Comments / Comentarios) electronically unless requested by mail. - *Presented by District 06, San Francisco*
- A request to the Trustees Literature Committee that the 2021 advisory action related to the phrase "lustful enough to rape " on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six" of Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions be rescinded and the language be returned to the original. - *Presented by District 20*

DCM SHARING SESSION OCTOBER 23, 2021

DCM Sharing Sessions Minutes October 23, 2021

11:00 AM – Sharing Session held virtually; opened with the Serenity Prayer by Chairperson, Drew B.,

What happens at a DCM Sharing Session by Drew B.: At the DCM Sharing Session, a District Committee Member suggest a topic and then there is a discussion on the topic with those in attendance.

New to the DCM Sharing Session: Kat C. from District 08

Presentation By: Fran H. DCM District 08 Contra Costa County

Topic Presentation – “What is an AA Group: The nuts & bolts of an A.A. Group,” Presented by

The 10-minute presentation began with the question “What’s an A.A. Group?” It also was an immersive take of the footwork that it took to prepare for the presentation. They gathered information based on their observance of a concern at last month’s DCM Sharing Session and identified by acknowledging there is a problem and asking themselves why there is a problem and what it is they need to know. The gathering of information began with the cache of literature that supplies the alcoholic a type of reliance on the forefathers and founders of A.A. It was Tradition-by-Tradition and Concept-by-Concept that provides the guiding principles for not only the Group but the individual as well. It was admonished to identify the principle and characteristics within all 36 principles. The presenter shared that “Any two or three alcoholics may call themselves a Group...” -- that each Group is a thumbprint.

What is affiliation? To connect or associate self with another is a concise definition of affiliation. The use of A.A. Group names is an example of how the principle of non-affiliation is practiced. Not affiliating with political or religious organizations. It is suggested by experience that naming a Group after a person could steer the alcoholic into Power and Prestige and Over-Domination. Another example could be Groups that use outside literature (Non-A.A. approved literature, that is to say literature not approved by the General Service Conference). The Principles welcomes freedom to the alcoholic. Everyone has a right to go to meetings that they want to go to. If a meeting wants to read the Bible at the meeting, they have the autonomy to do so. Simply put, we don’t have the right to tell them if they can have a meeting or not. Experience has shown that meetings that played in the playground of outside literature didn’t last. When meetings and Groups go against Traditions, the meetings don’t last, the Group does not last. Go to the group if you have a problem to present the case, and let the Group Conscience have the ultimate authority.

The presenter concluded with a collection of what they learned in preparing for the DCM Sharing Session, and how their perspective has changed in the process: great Love and great pain are both needed!!

Members Shared that attended the session on their experience and reflections of the presentation. Here is a glimpse:

- That tradition does say the primary purpose is to carry “its” message, not “the” message
- At the risk of being inclusive are we now being exclusive excluding some people?
- What are ways to get people to know about the Traditions?
- Should Groups that just practice the 4th and 5th Steps be registered?
- The differences between fellowships, Alano clubs, shared spaces with church for rent, umbrella Groups
- The need for Atheist & Agnostic meetings especially in the Bible Belts of the Country because when you go to a meeting and they ask if you have been saved by Jesus Christ and you say “no,” are not welcome to the meeting.
- Getting sober in Chicago, there were several meetings that were specified for doctors, lawyers, pilots and caused considerable controversy amongst other alcoholics in the area deeming them not A.A.
- It is not the responsibility of the alcoholic to be punitive. Love and Tolerance is our code and these are spiritual challenges.

Proposed topic for the November 2021 DCM Sharing Session:

“What is a sub-district?” (Suggested by Kris W.)

Closed with the Responsibility Statement – 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Chase C. | Sharing Session Recording Secretary

2021 CNCA CALENDAR—PANELS 71

2021

November 27—Area Committee Mtg.
 December 18—Area Committee Mtg.
 (Note: 3rd Sat)

2022

January 22—Area Committee Mtg.
 February 26—Area Committee Mtg.
 March 4,5 & 6—PRAASA Portland, Oregon
 26—Area Committee Mtg.
 April 2&3 — Pre-Conference Assembly
 23—Area Committee Mtg.
 May 14— Post Conference Assembly
 28—Area Committee Mtg.

June 25—Area Committee Mtg.

July 23—Area Committee Mtg.

August 13—Summer Assembly
 27—Area Committee Mtg

September 16—18 Pacific Regional Forum, Salt Lake City, Utah
 24—Area Committee Mtg

October 22—Area Committee Mtg

November 05— Inventory Assembly
 26—Area Committee Mtg

December 17—Area Committee Mtg
 (Note: 3rd Sat)

PANEL 71 ASSEMBLIES

2022 Pre-Conference Assembly,
 April 2-3

2022 Post-Conference Assembly,
 May 14

2022 Summer Assembly, August 13

2022 Fall Assembly Election, Nov. 5

If your District is considering making a bid for a Panel 71 Assembly, please contact the Assembly Coordinator [Drew B.](#)

PANEL 71 AREA OFFICERS & AREA MEETING INFORMATION

Delegate
Jennifer B.

Alternate Delegate
Eric L.

Chair
Miguel H.

Treasurer
Chitra S.

Registrar
Claudia N.

Recording Secretary
Amy M.

Assembly Coordinator
Drew B.

Literature/Grapevine Chair
Richard W.

Pacific Regional Trustee
Kathi F.

**To contact an Area
officer or Committee, or get the pass-
word for any meeting, please use [the](#)
[web form](#).**

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
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New York, NY 10163
212-870-3400 [aa.org](#)

CNCA
P.O. Box 884222
San Francisco, CA 94188-4222
[cnca06.org](#)

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

CNCA Standing Committees & Sharing Sessions

For questions about meetings, including passwords, please contact
Committee chairs (ideally in advance of the times noted below):

CNCA Committee meets the 4th Saturday at 12:30 pm, Zoom ID 632-553-607. [Contact Miguel H.](#) or your DCM or DCMC for the password.

Accessibilities committee meets the 4th Saturday of every month at 10 am. Zoom meeting ID is 818-2594-1066. [Contact Karen H.](#) for password.

Archives committee meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm. Zoom meeting ID is 981-8745-2281. [Contact Paul W.](#) for password. The Archives mailing address is 185 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek CA 94597-2065.

Bridging the Gap committee meets at 7 pm on the Thursday prior to the Area Committee meeting every month. Zoom meeting ID is 988-7891-7593. [Contact George X.](#) for password. BTG mailing address is PO Box 750623, Petaluma, CA 94975-0623.

DCM sharing sessions are held before the Area Committee meeting on the 4th Saturday of every month at 11 am. Zoom ID 632-553-607 [Contact Drew B.](#) for password.

The **DCMC** session meets on the 4th Saturday of every month at 10 am and is open to DCMCs and Alternate DCMCs only. Zoom meeting ID is 632-553-607. [Contact the Miguel H.](#) for password.

Interpretation & Translation committee meets at 11 am the 4th Saturday of every month. Zoom meeting ID is 897-0815-0798. [Contact Magdaleno O.](#) for password.

Literature/Grapevine/La Vina sharing session is 9 am the 4th Saturday of every month. Zoom meeting ID is 824-9101-6140. [Contact Richard W.](#) for password.

Public Information/ Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) committee meets at 9 am the 3rd Saturday of every month. Zoom meeting ID is 568-947-843. [Contact Eric L.](#) for password.

Technology committee meets at 8:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday [Contact Nick S.](#) for password.

Web committee meets at noon the 3rd Saturday of every month. Zoom meeting ID is 337-574-6264. [Contact Megan M.](#) for password.