



# CNCA COMMENTS

A.A. Confidential—January 2022

[www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org)



## California Northern Coastal Area of Alcoholics Anonymous

We passed the middle of Panel 71, we continue to learn and experience the meaning of our great responsibility in regards to the willingness to serve through looking after the common welfare despite the circumstances, with a great structured hope as a big part of the solution.

At the last Area committee meeting in December we approved a couple of house keeping motions, one of them related directly to the issue on the project of possible hybrid monthly area committee meetings by acquiring a wireless router. After the great work by the Area finance committee the 2022 CNCA budget was accepted.

We continue thanks to the hybrid Ad Hoc committee discovering and seeking the best practices to maintain the tasks and work of our distributed area being inclusive through listening the conscience with ideas and projects in this continuous re-evolution, revealing and taking this process that never ends since 1953 with the help of Group Representatives, District Coordinators and members of different committees in CNCA, what a great contribution can be obtained by sharing the feeling and the need expressed in a direction that trusting will lead us to the subsistence and mainly the guarantee of the safety of the AA message as a solution to our common need.

After substantial discussion, **the Area has postponed the resumption of in-person Area meetings until March 2022.** During these two months, an ad hoc committee will be investigating hybrid opportunities so that we can ensure the Area can operate successfully when in-person meetings resume. We are optimistic that we can resume our in-person meetings in March, obviously depending on changing conditions. We also deeply appreciate your continued understanding, flexibility, patience, love, and tolerance as this situation evolves. For the most up-to-date information, you are encouraged to check the CNCA website at CNCA06.org.

Thank you for expressing your feeling and love for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Miguel H  
CNCA Chair  
P71

"We can't control the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails."

While similar quotes have been attributed to various people, I credit this one to my first sponsor, Kathleen B., who gave me a coin with a sailboat and this bit of advice on it when I was a newcomer. She passed away many years ago, and the coin was lost in a wildfire. But I still carry this message in my heart, and it was the first thought that came to me when I woke up the morning after our December Area Committee Meeting.

Another thing that's been on my mind lately is something I heard from second-year delegates earlier this year when describing their delegate experience: "You're either in your first year or your last year." I shrugged it off as one of our General Service clichés at the time, but now here we are, halfway through Panel 71, and that sentiment has made the two-foot drop that same first sponsor taught me about. I feel the truth of it in my core.

We are in a new phase of our development in CNCA as we work toward solutions to allow more access to our area events, both in person and virtually, with the goal of something more unified. We will be adjusting our sails many times, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. I have faith in our Hybrid Ad Hoc committee and our other standing committees who will be letting us know what we need to make it happen.

Meanwhile, I do need to make plans. I need to be informed as your area delegate before I attend the General Service Conference at the end of April. I sent out a 2022 Agenda Topics Timeline to all the DCMCs, detailing the deadlines for various parts of the process. I suggest GSRs start talking to their groups now about scheduling sharing sessions in March, and plan to attend district agenda topic workshops held all over the Area in February and March. It's our busy season, and we are all here to help each other learn.

We have an in-person Pre-Conference Assembly planned for April 2-3 in Petaluma. It will be our first in-person assembly in two years! It's too early to know if we can add a virtual element to that successfully. So, for now, we are saving the date of April 9 as a possible "inform the delegate" Zoom event. When we get closer to April, if we determine it is needed, more information will become available as to what that will look like. If we have learned anything in the past two years, it's that we can adjust to changing conditions and get creative.

While I always suggest attending the assembly, there will also be the usual option to submit group consciences in writing, either by email or using the form that will be on our website. From my experience last year, I will tell you that all the methods were equal in their impact on my thinking. Whether I heard it or read it, the voices of your groups were carried with me to the Conference. With the help of the alternate delegate, the recording secretary, the web committee, interpreters and translators, and of course all who participated in gathering those group consciences, I felt fully informed.

Happy New Year!

Jennifer B., Panel 71 Delegate

## Looking for Something?

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## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021

The monthly committee meeting of CNCA was held virtually on December 18, 2021. Miguel H. opened the meeting at 12:30pm, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by David R. (District 08). Jose F. (District 18) read Tradition Twelve in Spanish and Cindi W. (District 12) read Concept Twelve. There were nine 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), Ken M. (Panel 61), Raymundo L. (Panel 65), Joann L. (Panel 67), and Teddy B.-W. (Panel 69). The November minutes and financial report were accepted as published in the *CNCA Comments and Comentarios*.

**Attendance:** 102      **Birthdays:** 123/6

### Officer Reports

**DELEGATE – JENNIFER B:** Please be sure to spread the word that a separate post office box has been established for 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions only. Information is available in the letter I emailed out from GSO, on the aa.org website, and in the most recent issue of the *Box 459* newsletter. The redesign of the www.aa.org website will be unveiled soon. Very exciting! I have been getting lots of questions about the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Spanish Big Book. When I spoke with Amalia C., appointed committee member on trustees' literature, about the motion we sent to the assembly last month, we talked about her working group wanting to connect with the fellowship through local events. A local Spanish service manual study group is hosting two of the members of the 4th edition working group tomorrow night. If you are a Spanish speaker and you have questions for Amalia and Juan, or want your voice heard about translation issues, it would be good to attend that virtual meeting. I do what I can as your link in the chain, but this is a chance to have a direct seat at the table. And it won't be your only opportunity. Another will be at our Literature/GV/LV sharing session in March, when Richard has her booked as a virtual guest. I have also heard that there will be more information provided by members of trustees' Literature about the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Spanish Big Book and the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the English Big Book during PRAASA, which will be held virtually on March 4-6.

The preliminary agenda topics came out about a month early! The DCMCs have those available to share. As a reminder, these are preliminary. The final list will be available mid-February, along with the background information, just like every other year. If you have any questions about the list, feel free to contact me. It is different from what you may be used to, with all the topics at the end still to be assigned to the various committees under the new Equitable Distribution of Workload system (and we now have yet another acronym... EDW). We are in the first year of the trial of the new system and I'm sure we will learn as we go. I am hoping I get to see how the list gets finalized and the work gets distributed when I attend the General Service Board Weekend in January as a conference committee chair. I just booked my flight to Brooklyn for the weekend after our January Area meeting. I'm super stoked about that adventure and opportunity to be of service. We are still in wait-and-see mode until we get the final list and more information. But for those that are excited to get a head start, one item I think groups could

talk about without any background information or summary is under Grapevine/La Viña: "Discuss the wide-ranging impact the Preamble change has had on our AA Fellowship."

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – ERIC L:** I facilitated the group inventory for one of the meetings in our Area; this meeting is run by AA members with current involvement with the justice system and supported by H&I committees in Northern California.

**CHAIR – MIGUEL H:** On today's agenda we will be presenting the 2022 budget from our Finance committee for approval, two housekeeping motions, and we will continue the discussion on our items of Old Business. I am happy to share with you that last week all Area Officers got to hold our inventory meeting in person, being together in the same room for the first time since we got elected. I got to experience the same excitement I felt as a new GSR attending assemblies, preparing and understanding our great responsibility in response to the changes and needs within AA. Just as it all started, one alcoholic talking to another, but on this occasion, it was around Drew's kitchen table. Our CNCA Website committee is still looking for one more member to join the team, so please share with you groups and districts about this service opportunity. We'd like to welcome the newest member of the Technology committee, Evan D.

**TREASURER – CHITRA S:** We currently have \$69,381.93 in our Checking account and \$11,038.87 in our Savings account which is our Prudent Reserve. November contributions totaled \$12,386.59 and we budgeted for \$10,350.25. November expenses were \$2,560.75, and we budgeted for \$17,820.88. As a fellow Area Officer stated at our Officer inventory this month, we are no longer newbies. Halfway through Panel 71, and at the close of this year, I get to reflect and express how unbelievably grateful I am to have raised my hand for this position. It has changed my sobriety - my world has increased in size and my heart gets so full now in a room of people I may never have met before, even if we speak different languages. Thank you for keeping me safe and alive. And yes, our Area is financially healthy and ready for whatever the New Year brings us.

**REGISTRAR – CLAUDIA N:** I'm happy to share that I am starting to get comfortable with the new database that your Tech committee has created for the Area and future Registrars. I apologize for any delays you may be experiencing regarding group additions and changes while I was getting up to speed on the new database. I sent my first member and group lists out last night! This is a work in progress, and I feel like there's definitely light at the end of the tunnel. Since we last met, I have had multiple meetings with the Tech committee, a registrar meeting, and an AirTable presentation meeting that all registrars and others were able to attend. If you think you would like a presentation on AirTable for our district registrars this coming year, please let me know. If you have not gotten your new packet sent to you, please let your registrar know. We now have a way of tracking when that kit was sent out, which I hope will help in our communication with GSO. I recently sent out a document that tracks the history of assembly attendance. I updated the past few years with help from others reviewing the totals in the *Comments* and from notes on

## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021 Cont'd

totals on Zoom. While they may not be perfect numbers for our virtual assemblies, it does give us an approximate number.

**RECORDING SECRETARY – AMY M:** You can expect to see the Fall Assembly business meeting minutes and the inventory notes published in the January *Comments* and *Comentarios*. We had visitors from Mexico, Bolivia, and Ecuador visiting our assembly that day. What an honor. We know that because of technology and the capability to have virtual meetings we truly can embody the Responsibility Statement and be the hand of AA that is there when someone reaches out; we as members and we as the service entity of CNCA. I trust that 2022 will hold for us the balance, harmony, and the unity that we seek as we find our way to the middle of the road solutions that await us, given a lot of work and a little patience and grace.

**ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – DREW B:** Congratulations to District 12 (Sonoma) for getting their bid accepted to host the Pre-Conference Assembly in 2022. I am continuing to work directly with the Hybrid Ad Hoc committee to ensure there is a virtual venue for sharing group consciences and communicating in the Area. There are a couple of motions coming today about hybrid experiences. Please keep in mind that there are a lot of complexities in carrying out what those motions create for the Area. There is a lot of technology involved; hardware, software, and other components that all have to work together, so please be patient with your trusted servants.

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – RICHARD W:** The updated Service Manual is now available in English and Spanish at the online bookstore at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). Big Books are 10% off and receive 10% off AA items focused on spirituality through January 15, 2022. Also, receive 15% off all orders over \$100. The AA Grapevine and La Viña are offering free shipping on all items available now through the end of December. Stories for the annual prison issue are due by January 15 and stories about sober travel are due February 2. La Viña stories on the special section "No Matter What" are due February 2. Both magazines are always looking for stories pertaining to the Steps and Traditions. There are other ways to contribute to the magazine as well, such as sending in your jokes, recording an audio story, and participating in the Carry the Message project. The January Grapevine special section is Beginners, and the La Viña special section is 'Acceptance in AA'. There is also a question-and-answer session with Amalia C., one of our appointed committee members. She addresses some of the questions about the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Big Book in Spanish.

### District Reports

**DISTRICT 01 (MONTEREY) – JESSICA A:** We continue to hold our monthly district meeting via Zoom. We are beginning to gather information from local facilities to begin the discussion about either returning to in person, transitioning to hybrid or remaining online for the time being.

**DISTRICT 02 (SALINAS/SAN BENITO) – JACK B:** No Report

**DISTRICT 03 (SANTA CRUZ) – RUSS A:** We have had discussions about theoretically returning to in-person district meetings.

**DISTRICT 04 (SANTA CLARA NORTH) – LORI R:** We approved our 2022 budget, and we continue to discuss a motion at our district regarding changes to *Twelve Steps* and *Twelve Traditions*. We took a poll about whether our district meetings will be

in person or virtually. Right now, Zoom only or hybrid is preferred. As a tradition in our district in December, we had our previous DCMC share on her service journey. Our district will be having a workshop about writing for the Grapevine on February 12, 2:00pm-4:00pm.

**DISTRICT 40 (SANTA CLARA SOUTH) – BILL H:** At our next meeting we will review our budget and likely hold an election for Alternate DCMC. This month we will be shining our 'Sub-district Spotlight' on sub-districts 11 and 12 and we will also initiate Zoom sub-district break out rooms an hour before our district meeting. This will allow all the GSRs from each sub-district to meet with their DCM directly. Finances are stable in the district. Our budget committee has finished laying out our 2022 budget for approval this month.

**DISTRICT 05 (SANTA MATEO) SARAH B:** This month we will be continuing our district inventory that was started in November. While I'm disappointed that I won't be able to participate due to travel plans, I'm excited for our newly elected Alternate DCMC to hit the ground running in his position and chair the meeting in my absence. I look forward to reading the minutes from our inventory, and plan to propose forming an ad hoc committee to potentially develop some recommendations for the district to consider.

**DISTRICT 06 (SAN FRANCISCO) – JACKIE B:** We elected a new SF Bridging the Gap Co-Chair, Rudy S.M. We also approved our 2022 annual budget and passed a housekeeping motion to send \$2,500 to the General Service Board. We began discussion on a district motion that the District 06 (San Francisco) Committee Meeting "remain on a virtual platform. Other district special events, such as the Agenda Topics Workshop, Delegate's Report, and Unity Day, may be held in person with remote access whenever possible." Our DCMs and GSRs are responding positively to the new pages on our [www.sfgeneralservice.org](http://www.sfgeneralservice.org) website, especially the expansion of 'GSR Resources' to include materials about Group Inventory, A.A. Business Meetings and Agenda Topics. In Inter-group news, the search for a new Executive Director of the SF Marin Central Office continues, and we anticipate a decision to be announced in early January.

**DISTRICT 07 (ALAMEDA NORTH) – ASHLEY J:** Traditionally, District 07 (Alameda North) hosts a potluck at the December meeting. As the district remains online only, we adapted the format to Zoom. We hosted two speakers on the topic of leadership in AA, as well as a GSR sharing session with participation from about twelve GSRs.

**DISTRICT 70 (ALAMEDA SOUTH) – ROY H:** We had our inventory last month and will discuss some actions to take at our next meeting.

**DISTRICT 08 (CONTRA COSTA) – LESLIE W:** The district finished with the inventory at our December meeting and elected a new Registrar. We will be doing a sharing session in January on "How do we explain General Service more concisely and consistently to the groups?" Our January meeting, District 08 will be hybrid- we have the technology and the soft open last summer was a success. Now anyone will be able to choose how to attend our meeting- in person or online. BTG held four meetings and collected thirty-two requests. We are working with District 20 (Spanish East) to provide a Spanish BTG meeting monthly for Pueblo del Sol, a men's residential

## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021 Cont'd

program in Concord. With our new QR code, new folks easily input their contact info directly into our BTG Airtable database. CPC attended the Walnut Creek Homeless Taskforce meeting with multiple community organizations and organizers. They will have the opportunity to present there in mid-January. They will be holding a sharing session with discussion questions at 193 Mayhew Way on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at 10:00am. All are welcome to attend.

**DISTRICT 09 (SOLANO SOUTH) – ERIN B:** We are gearing up for the Interdistrict Workshop on January 15 with neighboring Districts 90 (Solano North), 11 (Napa), and 13 (Lake). A half hour prior to the district meeting used to be a Concept study but is now time set aside for GSRs to become more familiar with Area business. We heard a presentation on Area motions, how to find them, and how to keep GSRs up to date by reading the *Comments* every month.

**DISTRICT 90 (SOLANO NORTH) – BILL H:** We passed a motion to increase our prudent reserve to six months of our budgeted operating expenses. The last time the prudent reserve had been set was eighteen years ago. Discussions will now begin on how much excess funds we have and how to disburse them.

**DISTRICT 10 (MARIN) – JACQUELINE P:** Two ad hoc committees were formed to sift through the district inventory and our officer inventory to pull out the action items and make suggestions for next steps. We are thrilled to host our first-ever virtual GSR Workshop on Sunday, January 23 from 12:00pm-1:30pm. This is a direct result of our inventory process and our desire to demystify the General Service experience. Our Agenda Topics Workshop will be virtual and set for Sunday, February 20, 10:00am-12:00pm. The Novato fellowship hosts two in-person Alcahons at the Druids Hall downtown- one on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and another on New Year's Eve. The Marin Fellowship Intergroup hosts three virtual Christmas Eve & Christmas meetings and an in-person New Year's Eve dance, Rockin' Sober, at the Mt. Tam Methodist Church in Mill Valley.

**DISTRICT 11 (NAPA) – ELIZABETH B:** At our last meeting we were able to approve our budget, investigate possible hybrid format in the future, and form a committee to look at next steps following our inventory. We will be hosting "Meeting with Neighbors", an Interdistrict Workshop that includes Districts 11 (Napa), 13 (Lake), 90 (Solano North), and 09 (Solano South). The workshop is a panel/discussion of the 2022 Conference theme, "AA Comes of Age 2.0". Our next business meeting will be rescheduled to January 8 at 1:30pm, held virtually. The login info is at [www.aanapa.org](http://www.aanapa.org).

**DISTRICT 12 (SONOMA) – JAMES B:** We would have considered a housekeeping motion to fund PRAASA scholarships at our district meeting, but last minute changes meant we need to circle back on this. Thank you for approving the assembly bid last month. Our committee is forming up and we look forward to hosting the event safely and in whatever form it will be.

**DISTRICT 13 (LAKE) – PAUL G:** We are looking forward to participating in the Interdistrict Workshop on January 15 with neighboring districts. Last month we had a great inventory with full participation. We voted to have our January meeting in person. Our new website [www.lakecountycaaa.com](http://www.lakecountycaaa.com) is now

live, and it is beautiful. Unfortunately, we still have some bugs to work out for our new hotline system.

**DISTRICT 14 (MENDOCINO) – MICHAEL Q:** We continue to hold a hybrid district meeting. We alternate our business meeting locations between Willits, Fort Bragg, and Ukiah. We have been meeting in a hybrid format since June. We will be discussing our 2022 budget. All are welcome.

**DISTRICT 15 (HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE) – JERRY C:** We are still reviewing the district inventory. A motion was made to the Area by one of our district members. After reaching out to all the groups, the feedback was to solidly support her motion to develop a hybrid format for the members who are not able to attend a live Area meeting.

**DISTRICT 16 (SPANISH CENTRAL) – EMMA M:** Members from our district committee remain committed to working with and visiting the groups that do not have a GSR. We are looking at our inventory for ways to take action on some recommendations.

**DISTRICT 17 (SPANISH SOUTH) – JOSE L:** Sub-districts 001 and 002 met early in the month. We visited Grupo Un Paso A La Vez and Grupo Un Dia a La Vez which do not have a GSR and gave them information to motivate a GSR. We are helping Grupo Libertad in Watsonville with their group inventory. We had our business meeting with only one item of Old Business; a proposal from a group that the district look for a better place to hold our meeting. We voted and it didn't pass.

**DISTRICT 18 (SPANISH NORTH) – RODRIGO:** We held our inventory with great participation from the GSRs. Thank you to all who helped. We heard a presentation from the Area Officer about the agenda topics process, with many questions asked and answered.

**DISTRICT 19 (SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH) – GUADALUPE O:** We had a visitor from the Monterey Bay Labor Day Roundup; he spoke with us to gather interest and participation for next year's event. District 19 has not collaborated with this event in about twenty years. We will talk about it with our groups and get people motivated.

**DISTRICT 20 (SPANISH EAST) – JAVIER L:** Our meeting continues to be hybrid. We work to visit groups to encourage participation in General Service. We are working with our district inventory.

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

**ACCESSIBILITIES – KAREN H:** We welcomed three new members interested in furthering this work within their districts. Our committee voted to temporarily move our Zoom meeting to the third Saturday at 11:00am. Next month's presentation will be from Ana V. on the topic of the importance of Zoom meetings for Hispanic women. Our Chair, Ren, has announced she needs to step down as Chair of the Accessibilities committee as she takes care of her parents on the East coast, so we hope to elect a new Chair in January. We are grateful for her service and the work and passion she brought to the committee.

**ARCHIVES – PAUL W:** We had our Winter Archives event last week on December 11. The team pulled together an admirable program examining the impacts of Covid-19. We recorded the

# CNCA BUDGET VS ACTUAL - JANUARY—NOVEMBER 2021

## California Northern Coastal Area

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

January - November, 2021

|                                 | TOTAL              |                      |                 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
|                                 | ACTUAL             | BUDGET               | % OF BUDGET     |
| <b>Revenue</b>                  |                    |                      |                 |
| 002 Group Contributions         | 68,073.21          | 78,750.00            | 86.44 %         |
| 003 District Contributions      | 4,212.67           | 13,200.00            | 31.91 %         |
| 004 Assembly Contributions      | 1,201.00           | 4,600.00             | 26.11 %         |
| 005 Tradition 7, Area Comm.     | 1,627.91           | 2,050.00             | 79.41 %         |
| 008 Personal/Misc Contributions | 3,669.92           | 1,100.00             | 333.63 %        |
| 010 Interest Income             | 7.79               | 2.75                 | 283.27 %        |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>            | <b>\$78,792.50</b> | <b>\$99,702.75</b>   | <b>79.03 %</b>  |
| <b>GROSS PROFIT</b>             | <b>\$78,792.50</b> | <b>\$99,702.75</b>   | <b>79.03 %</b>  |
| <b>Expenditures</b>             |                    |                      |                 |
| <b>020 EXPENSE</b>              |                    |                      |                 |
| 021 Delegate Expense            | 1,638.71           | 5,862.85             | 27.95 %         |
| 050 Officer Expense             | 2,792.48           | 21,361.96            | 13.07 %         |
| 130 Committee Expenses          | 23,061.06          | 31,076.32            | 74.21 %         |
| 300 General Expenses            | 44,365.73          | 55,042.64            | 80.60 %         |
| <b>Total 020 EXPENSE</b>        | <b>71,857.98</b>   | <b>113,343.77</b>    | <b>63.40 %</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>       | <b>\$71,857.98</b> | <b>\$113,343.77</b>  | <b>63.40 %</b>  |
| <b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>    | <b>\$6,934.52</b>  | <b>\$ -13,641.02</b> | <b>-50.84 %</b> |
| <b>NET REVENUE</b>              | <b>\$6,934.52</b>  | <b>\$ -13,641.02</b> | <b>-50.84 %</b> |

# CNCA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION—NOVEMBER 30, 2021

## California Northern Coastal Area Statement of Financial Position

As of November 30, 2021

|                                     | Total               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                       |                     |
| Current Assets                      |                     |
| Bank Accounts                       |                     |
| Operating Funds - Checking          | 70,866.40           |
| Prudent Reserve - Savings           | 11,038.87           |
| Total Bank Accounts                 | <u>\$ 81,905.27</u> |
| Total Current Assets                | <u>\$ 81,905.27</u> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                 | <u>\$ 81,905.27</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>       |                     |
| Liabilities                         |                     |
| Total Liabilities                   |                     |
| Equity                              |                     |
| Operating Funds ~ Adjusted          | 63,830.75           |
| Prudent Reserve ~ Savings           | 11,140.00           |
| Net Revenue                         | 6,934.52            |
| Total Equity                        | <u>\$ 81,905.27</u> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b> | <u>\$ 81,905.27</u> |

## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021 Cont'd

entire 4-hour session. In the next few months, the group is going to concentrate on developing requirements for the Archives portion of the CNCA website and putting together a plan to clean up the records room and erect new steel shelves.

**BRIDGING THE GAP – GEORGE X:** Since the last ACM, our districts have made forty presentations at treatment and/or correctional facilities. We received eighty-two contact requests. This month, we did not receive any letters from inside AA members at our P.O. Box. I received some sad news, the kind of news that you know is coming, but nonetheless, you're never prepared to hear. This news was the passing of Larry B., a longtime Bridging the Gap committee member, both at the district level in Alameda County and in Area 06. He was the BTG Chair for Panel 69 and my predecessor. Larry was an articulate speaker who used language of the heart when communicating. He also was an extraordinary writer, having helped craft the language and templates of our BTG Pre-Release Contact Service program. But more than that, Larry's humor demonstrated the importance of laughter in recovery and personified that indeed we are not a glum lot. Larry was one of my BTG mentors and a friend and he will be missed.

**FINANCE – JOANN L:** We reviewed the Statement of Financial Position, Budget versus Actuals, and November expenses. We also looked at the financial impact of the motions on the CNCA Area Committee Meeting agenda for today. The 2022 Budget is being presented today for approval. We are happy to announce our first 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition workshop on January 29, 2022, at 10:30am on Zoom. Please encourage all GRSs to attend. The hope is to start a conversation about having a financially healthy group. We have a housekeeping motion today for funding of Spanish interpretation for this workshop.

**PI/CPC – ERIC L:** Today we discussed strategies to communicate with the public about AA. We are also discussing the eventual resumption of in-person PI/CPC meetings. Next month, we will be discussing diversity and minorities in AA.

**TECHNOLOGY – NICK S:** The Technology committee welcomed its newest member; Evan D. Gavin O. from the Tech committee will continue to work closely with Claudia on AirTable to fine tune it to the Area's needs. But it seems like she has successfully transitioned from using the old Microsoft Access database to the new and improved Airtable! I will now be turning my full attention to the Tech committee's next big task: to create a rollout plan for the use of the Microsoft Office 365 Premium Licenses.

**WEBSITE – MEGAN M:** We are still in need of one more member. Ask your group members if they are interested. The Web committee tech members are planning to build a password-protected directory by the end of January. We are investigating the most secure and easiest to manage solutions available. We've had a change of roles within our committee, and we now need to purchase a subscription for Adobe Acrobat Pro. Our Area motion in Old Business addresses this need. We hope you like the new feature on the website, the 'What's New!' on the top of the front page. We are updating what's posted their quickly so check it out! Visit your [www.cnca06.org](http://www.cnca06.org) website and let us know what you or your groups want to see there.

**INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – MAGDALENO O:** We anticipate having a couple of practice sessions for the in-

person ACM to test our equipment and train for the set-up process. We encourage everybody to acquire an FM radio to use for interpretation purposes when we convene as a group together. It will help our experience be more efficient.

**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 just over two years away. One of the things we will need is a logo, and the logo competition closes on December 31. So, if you're creative or know someone who is, share that with us. The winner receives a free PRAASA 2024 registration! If you would like to volunteer to serve on one of the committees for PRAASA 2024, please send me an email.

**HYBRID Ad Hoc – KEN M:** Our purpose and scope is to explore the feasibility of conducting our Area Committee Meetings and assemblies with a hybrid component, assessing issues related to equipment needed, internet access, interpretation, and member participation (including voting) in multiple locations. We have made progress in all areas. We have agreed to concentrate first on how a hybrid component could work at the ACM. Accordingly, we are planning to do a trial run at the January ACM at the Petaluma Community Center. This will be a closed test, available only to the hybrid committee and a few helpers. The Area will provide some of the required equipment, such as a video projector, video screen, necessary cable and connections. The hybrid committee will use its own laptops, cameras, etc. for the trial. The other requirement would be the purchase of a wireless hotspot router and a data plan to provide internet access. We are making a housekeeping motion today to purchase said items. We are also requesting that members of the hybrid committee be eligible for travel expense reimbursement to do the work of the committee.

**CNCA COMMENTS / COMENTARIOS – DENNIS H:** Both the *Comments* and *Comentarios* were completed on Tuesday, December 14. The minutes for the Fall Inventory Assembly will be in the January edition of the newsletter.

**DCM SHARING SESSION – CHASE C:** We heard a presentation from Jeff D. of District 11 (Napa) on the topic "How do we use our electronic presence?" How many times have you talked with someone, and when they are not aware of the information on the AA website, we state, "It's on the website," and they reply, "I can't find it."

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – RICHARD W:** If you are receiving an ePub version of the magazine and have not gotten an email to access your account and have been unable to do so, the easiest method to get assistance is to call them directly. We reviewed our schedule for future sharing sessions. The inspirational David N., past Trustee and past Chair of AAWS, will be our guest next month, adding perspective to what we do. The topic for the February meeting will be how to use our positions to improve the discussion of motions at the Area. Amalia C., an appointed committee member of the trustees' Literature committee, will be our guest at our March sharing session. Everyone is welcome!

**H & I – KAREN B:** Happy Holidays. H&I is working with the facilities we serve to provide meetings where permitted. We offer literature to those facilities whether or not they currently allowing meetings. The next General Committee meeting is



## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021 Cont'd

February 13, 2022. Meeting information will be on our website [www.handinocal.org](http://www.handinocal.org) soon. Thank you for your contributions that help H&I carry the message to alcoholics that cannot attend regular meetings.

**LA VIÑA ANNIVERSARY – JUAN T:** I drove to Las Vegas with 150 drawings from our members to be entered in the logo and theme contest. Participating areas were 03 (Arizona), 06 (California Northern Coastal), 07 (California Northern Interior), 09 (California Mid-Southern), 93 (California Central), and 42 (Nevada). Four of the five finalists were from CNCA but the winner for the logo was from Area 42 (Nevada).

**HISPANIC FORUM – LUIS R:** We had a business meeting in District 17 (Spanish South) to wrap up for this year's Hispanic Forum and determined the financials to disburse to CNCA and to GSO.

### AREA BUSINESS

**Presentation of 2022 Budget:** *Presented by the CNCA Finance committee*

*Presentation:* Four changes were made after last month's presentation. First, Line 10 was moved to the end of the budget. The amount was changed from \$75,000 to \$65,000 after November bills were paid. \$15 was added to Line 27 for PRAASA registration. \$600 was added to Line 192 for the data hotspot which is needed now that we are going back in person. And a comment was added for Line 155 through 157 to state that these numbers for the CNCA *Comments* also include expenses for the *Comentarios*. Line 160 through 162 were left at 0 with a comment that these expenses are included in line 155 through 157.

**No objections. <<<2022 Budget Approved>>>**

### Housekeeping Motion

- That CNCA fund \$90 for Spanish translation for the Finance Committee Workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition on January 29, 2022. - *Presented by the Panel 71 Finance Committee*

*Questions:* **Q:** Would you consider a friendly amendment to use the word "interpretation" instead of "translation"? **A:** Yes, we can do that.

*Motion will now read, "That CNCA fund \$90 for Spanish interpretation for the Finance Committee Workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition on January 29, 2022."*

**No objections. <<<Housekeeping Motion Passed>>>**

### Housekeeping Motion

- That CNCA purchase a wireless router hotspot and a data-only plan, not exceeding \$200, to try a test/trial hybrid Zoom component at the Petaluma Community Center at the January ACM. – *Presented by the Hybrid Ad Hoc committee*

*Presentation:* The internet capacity at the Petaluma Community Center is not adequate to serve our hybrid needs. The cell service is good there. We need these devices and a data plan.

*Questions:* **Q:** Is the device cost separate from the data plan cost? **A:** Yes, the device is about \$160-170, and the data plan through T-Mobile is about \$20/month and is month to month that we can stop and start anytime. **Q:** What is the bandwidth or how many GB is it? **A:** Up to 150 MB/second, which is a lot. Also, T-Mobile has a strong cellular signal inside the facility. **Q:** Will this be able to accommodate multiple committees at the same time? **A:** We'll have to see how it performs first inside the building. If it is centrally located and still does not allow the committees to fully function, then we can buy another one. **Q:** During the trial will anyone have access to the hotspot? **A:** No, while testing, it will be only used by the committee and a few helpers so we can assess the needs and make the necessary recommendations. **Q:** Will this be installed somewhere inside the facility, or would you bring it along for each meeting? **A:** No, it is just a small portable device, and it would be added to the list of things the Assembly Coordinator travels to our meetings or assemblies with. **Q:** Can the Tech committee be included in the testing process? **A:** That has not been discussed yet. **Q:** What is the likelihood that it will not be effective and prevent our subcommittees from being functional? **A:** The solution would be to buy another device and data plan. Our first step is to do a trial for only the ACM and go from there. **Q:** When we do go in person, do other cell phones cause interference to the hotspot that we would need to turn our own phones off? **A:** No, other people's devices aren't accessing the Wi-Fi hotspot there; it is for the device that is running the Zoom meeting. **Q:** There won't be Zoom in January, correct? **A:** Correct. **Q:** How confident are you that the committee will have some recommendations within five or six months? **A:** Very confident.

**No objections. <<<Housekeeping Motion Passed>>>**

### Housekeeping Motion

- That CNCA reimburse all members of the Hybrid Ad Hoc committee for travel to and from the Petaluma Community Center to conduct its trial/test, and subsequent meetings. – *Presented by the Hybrid Ad Hoc committee*

*Presentation:* We felt we could ask for this because it will take a lot of driving from all of us to do the tests needed.

*Questions:* **Q:** Would this follow the reimbursement guidelines that if a member is already eligible for reimbursement by their district that they won't get reimbursed by the Area? **A:** Yes. **Q:** Is this for a stated period of time or is it open ended? **A:** Ad hoc

## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021 Cont'd

committees get disbanded after they make their recommendations, so just for the life of the ad hoc committee. **Q.** How many people are on the committee? **A.** Five. **Q.** Can we see the wording of this motion, please? **A.** Someone will type it up and put it in the chat and send it to the recording secretary. **Q.** Do you know if there is already a precedent for ad hoc committees to receive travel reimbursement? It cannot be a housekeeping motion if it is setting a precedent. **A.** I don't know. **Q.** When do you intend to start getting reimbursed? **A.** Starting the January ACM would be ideal. **Q.** If the January ACM ends up being virtual, will the test still take place anyway? **A.** I'm not sure, not if we are not allowed to go. **Q.** Is this only for ACM or assemblies two? This motion is not on the agenda and is pretty spur of the moment. I'm having a problem with the subsequent part that was thrown in there at the end. **A.** I will withdraw the motion now and come back next month with a better worded request.

### 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*

**Vote by 2/3 substantial unanimity: Yes: (47), No: (0), Abstained: (1)**

**No minority opinion was heard. <<<Motion Passed>>>**

### Old Business

*Due to the time-sensitivity of the motion, the Chair moved item to Old Business from it being a Presentation of New Business at the Area Committee Meeting in November.*

- That starting in January 2022, all Area meetings of CNCA 06 be simultaneously held virtually and in person. We will start with the technology we now, utilize and increase it monthly until members on both mediums have equal accessibility and an equal ability to participate. - *Presented by Ginger O. at the Area Committee Meeting 11/27/21, seconded by Kris W.*

**Group consciences-** We were unanimously in favor and agree to use what we have available to us now and gradually increase it to make our meetings accessible to as many people as possible. // our group agrees with this motion. It does not have to be perfect, but it would be progress. // Our group

was unanimously in favor to support and enjoy Ginger's motion. // We were unanimously in favor. // At first at the district we were confused about how to move the motion forward in the proper procedure, so we bumped it which compelled her to bring it forward as an individual, but now the district is unanimous in support of this. // in the district where this originated the groups were unanimous. We have the farthest distance to travel and do not feel comfortable with being disenfranchised.

**Personal opinions-** I have a lot of concern about these variants. We are not post-pandemic and if we meet in person during another surge, I think a lot of people might get sick. Couldn't we rethink this? // I've struggled with the wording of this motion. Some committees right now are just virtual and the way this is worded it would force them to put an in-person aspect to it. We know we aren't capable to go fully hybrid with our current situation in the ad hoc is doing their work to fill that gap. // Why is there such an urgency to meet in person in January? Let's postpone this while the ad hoc works on it. // I'm not sure what this motion accomplishes. It confuses the intent of why the ad hoc was created. I would be in favor of postponing the in-person ACM though. // I would like to see to it that we don't miss a single meeting, there's no reason why we can't. Why can't it be as it is now where we have the virtual and we can bring in the in-person instead of the other way around. // I have concerns about being virtual only. There are many people who are not participating in General Service while this has been our only platform. // There are many people suffering and in fear who need to be in a Zoom meeting. I do not know why we are even considering meeting face to face with the cost, the controversy, and the accessibility issues. It makes no logical sense. // It disturbs me that we would put something on the agenda for a new item of discussion and there are people who can't come. // I do support the intent of this motion, but I have struggled with the wording. The Area Officers have the Right of Decision, and they can use that to delay meeting in person. Meeting in January compels us to do something when we are not ready. We should delay this meeting. But also telling the ad hoc how to do its job by just throwing up a Zoom meeting derails the purpose of the ad hoc. // More than the specifics about the motion I am hearing a group conscience arise how about whether or not we should meet in person in January and navigating this uncertainty. Thank you to everyone who put so much work and thought behind this to help us stay open and accessible. // We are aware that whether or not we meet in January in Petaluma is contingent upon the changing situation of the virus. I think we also know that hybrid is our future. Right now, we can't get a fully informed group conscience without the voices of the people who are not attending on the virtual platform. We're not hearing from them because they aren't here. This process is not just one big blank check. Let's let our ad hoc committee take the steps they need to get us closer to the solution. // Thanks to the ad hoc committee. I think this motion is in knee jerk reaction to the announcement of going in person. // In terms of how we do business in AA, this does not feel like the upside-down triangle way of doing things. I'd like to know if there's anything we can do today to stop the in-person meeting in January. // I am not in favor of this motion although I appreciate the spirit of it. I just feel like the wording is not good. Nonetheless, I am not

## AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES—DECEMBER 18, 2021 Cont'd

going to an in-person ACM in January so I will trust that it will proceed just fine without me. Our district will be okay. // Our district has been meeting hybrid for quite some time and it does work well, although there are lots of times when it's not always so clear if everyone is heard or being heard. We miss the emotion that is seen in our faces when we are in person. I agree that this motion kind of seems like a blank check. I believe our trusted servants have the vision to do what it takes to bring us forward on this.

### What's On Your Mind?

It sounds like we are meeting in person. I hope nobody gets sick. // The Area Officers made this decision without a motion and without discussion. Where is the common welfare in the unity in that? It says in Tradition Two our leaders do not govern. I heard a group conscience expressed today. // This all happened because the Area Officers made a unilateral decision and then dropped it on the Area. Ginger spoke up. So what if the wording is not great; it made its point and got us talking about it. // I'd like to withdraw my motion, if possible. It served its purpose. It came from the fact that the decision to meet in person disenfranchised many members and groups. This discussion brought us back together. Thank you for your support, it's scary to be so clumsy. // I feel grateful. This is a challenging conversation, but I feel it is all rooted in love. Sometimes I get bothered that people think this is the first pandemic of our lifetime and it isn't. AIDS decimated whole communities of gay men in the 80s and 90s, and yet if you go to the Castro now you can see that gay men are thriving. AA will too. I want a quick solution too, but we have to go step by step. All of this is out of love; why else would we be giving up our whole Saturday to be here? // I have never understood the decision to return in person. I don't think we got a reason. I understand that some people are not on Zoom. But was it about using the Community Center and not wanting to lose our space? // How we do things in my home group is we take a group conscience, and not one person makes a decision for the group. // I am grateful to participate in a Third Legacy meeting where we study the service manual on Wednesdays at 6:00pm-7:00pm. All are welcome. Hang on to your old service manual. It's just a suggestion but it will help with reading the footnotes in the new revision. // I heard lots of thoughts and emotions two day. Our meeting stayed open during the pandemic, and we were able to reach a lot of new people who are willing to show up and be of service. If needed I'm on board for helping with any of the testing that the ad hoc committee does. // Tomorrow is our service manual study at 6:00pm and we welcome the coordinator of the committee working on the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Spanish Big Book. Interpretation is provided. // I appreciate hearing the sharing of so many minds about the January ACM. I was really moved by the district conscience we heard earlier. We need to keep in mind though that there are so many people who are not here. We are missing participation from the majority of Spanish-speaking GSRs who are not using this platform. None of this is permanent. I know this could not have been an easy decision for the Area Officers. // The virtual AA History Symposium will be held January 28-30. Registration is \$30 and there

are scholarships available. // I am interested in pursuing the idea of creating a virtual district in the spirit of accessibility. I'm grateful to be here, thank you for the meeting. // I'd like to give thanks, it's exciting to have the idea of meeting again. I'm motivated to see how it all works out. We continue to visit groups to encourage people to be of service and people do show up. // Happy holidays to everyone and their families. I hope we all have a safe New Year's as well. It will all work out. // I have a lot of concerns with how this was handled. Also, Covid is an airborne illness, so I think it's a little different. // I appreciate the meeting today. I'm intrigued by the Grapevine Instagram account. I think it serves our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition very well. It's got me wondering if there are any districts creating their own Instagram accounts. // I'd like to see if I can explain this from an Area Officer's perspective. I don't think that we made a decision without everyone else. From the way I understand it, there was no motion to go virtual because we entered into it as a state of emergency. In June, the Petaluma Community Center reached out to us and asked us what we wanted to do. We knew we needed to secure something with the facility so we could resume when it became safe. We talked about it with districts since then about possibly opening in January. Then we had another surge and so it became obvious to remain virtual and wait until 2022.

*The meeting was closed at 3:40pm with the Responsibility Declaration.*

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

# CNCA AREA COMMITTEE & ASSEMBLY MOTIONS—JANUARY 2022

## Area Committee Motions

### OLD BUSINESS

- That starting in January 2022, all Area meetings of CNCA 06 be simultaneously held virtually and in person. We will start with the technology we now, utilize and increase it monthly until members on both mediums have equal accessibility and an equal ability to participate. - *Presented by Ginger O. at the Area Committee Meeting 11/27/21, seconded by Kris W.*

### 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 & Translation committee at the Area Committee Meeting 10/23/21*

## Area Assembly Motions

### PRESENTATION OF NEW

- That the phrase “cómo nosotros los concebimos” (as we conceive it) on Step Three of the third edition of the Big Book in Spanish be corrected in future editions to; “como nosotros lo entendimos” (as we understood him), the correct translation from the English version of the Big Book. - *Presented by District 20 at the Area Committee Meeting 11/27/21*

### OLD 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 at the Area Committee Meeting 2/27/21*
- 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 at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21*

### NEW BUSINESS

- That CNCA distribute the Area newsletters (Comments / Comentarios) electronically unless requested by mail. - *Presented by District 06 at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21*
- 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 at the Area Committee Meeting 10/23/21*

# DCM SHARING SESSION—DECEMBER 18, 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:

Presentation By: Jeff D. of District 11/Sub-District 002 Presentation Topic – “How do we use our electronic presence?”

Index

DCM = District Committee Member,  
DCMC = District Committee Member Chair,  
CNCA = California Northern Coastal Area,  
GSO = General Service Office,  
GSC = General Service Conference

Jeff D. of District 11 Sub-District 002 screenshared the handout “Web Talk Outline” that reflected the topic as narrated during the sharing session: <https://tinyurl.com/dcmssessiondocs>

How can we effectively use our AA Website? Why are we looking at this? How many times have you talked with someone and they are not aware of the information and we state, “It’s on the website,” and they reply, “I can’t find it.” The web is constructed and that’s the process. Telling them about the website and encourage them to use it. Show them how to use it. Pass It On. Having a team and invest the time and district members on how to use the website and suggests having a workshop for the users.

Some of the questions to consider when creating a website in A.A.: How do we make our website more effective? If no one uses it, it’s a waist. Folks are looking for a connection. It is an extension of our leadership. Does it convey the message of our three legacies and leadership? What is on the website? What you want on the site is based on the user. How to make it attractive and easy to use. Defining who the users are to make easy to navigate and get the resources need. Target audiences’ identity. Start looking at the greater amount of the audience’s identity. What is the platform of choice, what browsers do they use? Knowledge of local user and out of towners. Where are your users located? Most Groups do not have a website, but some do. How do users look at your website?

Text attracts more attention when making a point rather than images which are usually scanned through. Knowing where to post blocks on the web page. Valued propositions clear above the fold. You are telling your users you are important and that you want them to have a deeper connection to A.A. Using a ton of headings. What is the difference between a heading and a headline? Drawing the user’s attention of

where they want to go. You want to run a “So-what test” why should I include it is it needed and is it clear. If it does not meet that requirement. Infinite browsing. Long hallway with open doors. You keep searching and searching. Keep it short and get to the point. Sometimes we want to be fancy. But that is how you will lose their attention. Big and bold picture. Call to Action instructing people where to go and what to do. Click Here is a call to action. Making first impressions and building trust with the content is the primary goal to maximize the user’s experience on the site. Being big and bold with a logo, which is also a tool and method that builds trust. The less written content the more spatial and brilliant the experience becomes. Consider avoiding big block of texts accompanied with more big block texts.

As members in the session shared their experiences of how their Groups and/or Districts are implementing dynamic electronic presences, their appreciation for the presentation spoke volumes with how to better practice the principle of inclusivity and transparency in the digital format. This too has proven that the Principles can also permeate the virtual world, thus the ability to Carry the Message continues to be a driving force even under such conditions.

TOPIC FOR NEXT MONTH:

No topic at the time as the January 22, 2022 DCM, Sharing Session will be held in person at the Petaluma Community Center at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chase C. | DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary

## FALL INVENTORY ASSEMBLY—NOVEMBER 6, 2021

The Fall Inventory Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held virtually on November 6 2021. Miguel H. opened the meeting at 9:44am, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The AA Preamble was read by Laura C. (District 04 ). Randall W. (District 04) read the Twelve Traditions in English, and Miguel G. (District 19) read the Twelve Traditions in Spanish. There were ten 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), Jim F. (Panel 59, Area 38), Ken M. (Panel 61), Raymundo L. (Panel 65), Joann L. (Panel 67), and Teddy B.-W. (Panel 69). The minutes from the 2021 Summer Assembly were accepted as published in the *CNCA Comments and Comentarios*.

**Attendance: 229**

### Officer Reports

**DELEGATE – JENNIFER B:** I'm thrilled to announce the newly revised and reformatted AA Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 edition, is now available in PDF format on the AA.org website! The print edition is coming soon. By now, you should all have access to printed copies of this year's Final Conference Report through your districts, as well as the digital PDF version. I hope you enjoy reading it and sharing whatever you find interesting with your groups. Remember, enthusiasm is contagious! Reading the Final Report gives you a much better understanding of how we got here and where we are headed. And even more importantly, how it helps the still-suffering alcoholic.

We will hear from our assembly guest, John W., before we break for lunch about the work being done by AA World Services. The trustees' committees are in full swing carrying out the actions of the last Conference and getting ready for the next one. I'm looking forward to his report! The Pacific Region delegates will be meeting later this month with our regional trustee, Kathi F., to hear her report on the October General Service Board weekend. I will send out her written report when it is available.

I spoke with both Kathi and John this week so I could give you an update today on the progress of the two Area motions we sent in as potential agenda items – to create a new pamphlet for transgender alcoholics and one for Spanish-speaking LGBTQ alcoholics. Unfortunately, due to the number of literature items still being carried over from the 70<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> Conferences, and all the literature projects currently underway, the trustees' Literature committee decided that no new pamphlet proposals will be forwarded to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference as agenda items this year. The good news is we are encouraged to resubmit our items for a future Conference. So, we will talk about doing that next year. As chair of my Conference committee, I will have the opportunity to attend the next quarterly General Service Board weekend in January along with the other Delegate chairs. So that's exciting! While there have been some timing changes this year with the new equitable distribution of workload process, we can still expect to see the final list of Conference agenda topics and background material (in English) available by February 15. Our Area Summaries will follow by March 1. Your window of participation will stay the same.

I hope you are all saving the weekend of March 4-6 for the annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (also known as PRAASA). Area 58 would love to welcome us in person in Portland, OR as originally planned. But in order to keep people safe and meet their financial obligations to the venue, the host committee is actively evaluating in-person, hybrid, and online hosting options. No final decision has been made yet. The only thing I can say for sure today is don't make any nonrefundable plans. And the best way to know what is going on is to keep an eye on the website [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org). Meanwhile, please know that the PRAASA 2022 program committee and all the Pacific Region Delegates are taking proactive measures to ensure that participants in the PRAASA program reflect our commitment to diversity and inclusion in Alcoholics Anonymous service.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – ERIC L:** Be sure to check out the latest issue of Box 459, which includes information about an Armed Services Standing Committee formed in Area 08, an interview with our new GSO General Manager, and an interview with the Harvard researcher who studied AA's effectiveness.

**CHAIR – MIGUEL H:** Welcome everyone to the Fall Inventory Assembly of CNCA 06 and thank you District 04 for all the work and for the great meeting last night and the great panelists. Today we'll resume discussion on the motion regarding the development of a graphic novel that depict the first 164 pages of the Big Book. We will hear two Presentations of New Business. The first one related to the distribution method of the Area newsletters (*Comments/Comentarios*) and second, a request to the trustees Literature Committee to rescind the 2021 advisory action that changes the wording on page 66 of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. More will be revealed. After our business meeting, John W., AAWs Director, will give us a special treat with an AA World Service Report.

As I announced at the last Area Committee Meeting, the monthly ACM will resume meeting in person in January 2022 at the Petaluma Community Center located at 320 N. 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. Archives, I&T, and Finance committees all meet at 11:00am. The Area Committee Meeting will start at its regular 12:30pm time. In the next few months, all other committees will also resume in-person meetings. Masks will be required, and no food or coffee will be served, but you can bring your own.

The Area Officers created a Hybrid Ad Hoc Committee, please welcome the members: 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 their lifetime. The committee is 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. Also, we'd like to welcome our newest member of the Website committee, Danica R., and our newest member for the Interpretation and Translation committee, Rosa R.

**TREASURER – CHITRA S:** As the first year of this panel comes to a close and the Area takes its inventory, let's take a look at

## FALL INVENTORY ASSEMBLY—NOVEMBER 6, 2021

the overall financial health of the Area. Area Contributions, year to date, are \$68,500, and our expenses totaled \$44,300. Thank you for keeping us self-supporting! As we had excess funds accumulate, we made a distribution to the General Service Board in the amount of \$25,000. This is in line with the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, which guides us to pass on funds with no stated purpose to other entities in AA. Currently our checking account has \$63,000 and our prudent reserve has its standard amount of \$11,000. We are paying our bills on time, and we have the funds to do so. Our Finance committee is in its final stages of creating next year's budget, looking at historical spending and asking the questions of what next year's needs are and the cost associated. We have enlisted the help of an outside bookkeeper to audit the books quarterly and make suggestions on how we can continually improve. As our Area begins next year in person, our expenses will increase, and we will be asking the groups to be aware that contributions are welcome in order to meet our needs. Thank you for keeping our Area afloat and financially healthy.

**REGISTRAR – CLAUDIA N:** Please don't forget to register for this assembly. The link to register is in the chat. If you cannot access the link, you can text me your information. I have been able to attend a quarterly sharing session put on by GSO for Area Registrars and a monthly sharing session for Registrars hosted by Area 58 and Area 14. At our sharing session with GSO we went over new changes to Fellowship Connection and how we can choose virtual meetings now when we register new groups or GSRs. These sharing sessions give us opportunities to look at what we are doing well, what we need help in and how we can all better work together. Please inform your district Registrar if you have not gotten your new packet within two weeks of being registered. GSO is still having delays in getting some kits out and now have an option to choose a mailed kit, a digital kit, or an opt out option. I will now be able to see when the kit was sent out.

**RECORDING SECRETARY – AMY M:** 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 in September 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 Gratitude month, and I am grateful for today's host committee District 04. This is our final assembly in yet another year of virtual assemblies. God willing next year we will get back in the same room with each other. On that note, I have received a formal bid for Pre-Conference 2022. I have also been in discussion with another district on bidding for the Post-Conference 2022. If you are looking to have what I call a "Unity Event" and host an assembly, let's talk!

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – RICHARD W:** We now have a revised and retitled pamphlet 'Faither Leaders Ask About AA', formerly titled 'Members of the Clergy Ask about Alcoholics Anonymous'. Other new pamphlets include 'Experience Has Taught Us, An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions', which is illustrated, and 'Hispanic Women in AA'. The AA Grapevine has begun its new Podcast which is a half-hour variety show featuring AA members Don and Sam. Each week Don and Sam interview a different member about their experience, strength, and hope in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner. The new podcast is available in English every Monday. You can hear the podcasts by visiting [www.aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast). There are various ways to contribute to the Grapevine and La Viña: We can upload our stories, photos, or illustrations. We are always accepting personal stories along with stories about Steps and Traditions, and you do not need prior publishing experience. All it takes is a little willingness and a desire to share. Another way to contribute is by recording your story. Grapevine and La Viña accepts personal recovery stories from AA members in the form of audio recordings up to seven minutes in length. Don't forget you and/or your group are invited to subscribe to the print magazine and/or the e-Publication version. You can also utilize our The Carry the Message Project to share this subscription to those who might want or need a subscription.

### Area Standing Committees and Sub-Committees

**ACCESSIBILITIES – JENNIFER K:** Our Committee is guided by the Responsibility Statement. We are dedicated to providing information and resources that help make AA accessible to all who reach out for help. Access barriers can be physical, mental, geographical, cultural, or any other factor (such as: ethnicity, spirituality, safety or barriers to unity and inclusivity) that can hinder an alcoholic from receiving the AA message or participating in the AA program (our literature, meetings, the Twelve Steps, and service opportunities).

Committee highlights since the last Assembly include the formation of District Accessibilities Committees in District 06 and 07. Topics at our monthly committee meeting have been about potential access barriers with the return of in-person meetings and assemblies, hybrid meetings, and safety as an accessibility issue.

**ARCHIVES – PAUL W:** We met with District 18 (Spanish North) in Rohnert Park to discuss the functions of the Archives committee. Although the Spanish linguistic districts have their own archives, we are working together to share critical information. The District 18 audience was very engaged during the presentation, and we suspect some members of District 18 will attend our next workday in Concord. Our goal is to assist all Archivists, Area 06 wide, when they need help. The Archives team is also preparing for our December 11, "Archives Open House – CNCA Faces COVID-19". We are currently working on a list of speakers from which we will select the panel members for our event. Lunch will be served at this event, and the discussion on how the pandemic has affected our AA lives should be of interest to anyone who has lived through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our tech team continues to make more documents available online. The ultimate goal is to have certain documents downloadable from the web. At the present time we are loading documents

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into our system but have not yet worked with the Web committee to make a viable search.

**BRIDGING THE GAP – GEORGE X:** The Bridging the Gap Forum is next Saturday, November 13th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa. The doors open at 9:00am for registration and a light breakfast. Panels begin at 10:00am. Now, if you're wondering what you'll hear at a BTG Forum, here's a statement sent to me by Brady S., our BTG Chair in District 01 Monterey. "In early July, our Correspondence Secretary sent me an email letting me know a newcomer would be arriving in my area soon. This "newcomer" had filled out a Pre-Release Contact Request and mailed it to the BTG P.O. Box in Petaluma. Little did I know, this newcomer had 43 years of sobriety through H&I inside Soledad prison. A handwritten letter was forwarded to me from a Craig S., identifying himself as an alcoholic. In my short thirty days as a member of BTG, this was to be my very first bridge. I hadn't even given a presentation yet. The next day, I sat down to write Craig to tell him the solution I've found through AA in the Monterey area. Amazingly, I received a reply just a few days later. In his letter, he described his desire to remain an active sober member of AA after his release. He was soon to be paroled to the Veterans Transition Center in Marina. The next day, I called the VTC asking them to notify me of his arrival and gave them my contact info. Two weeks later, I received a call informing me that Craig would arrive in a couple of days. Upon his arrival, Craig called and invited me to a closed AA meeting held at the VTC for veteran parolees. To this day, we continue to attend meetings together, get coffee, and go for drives." Craig will be attending the BTG Forum and giving a testimonial on his experience with AA committees performing Twelfth-Step work.

**FINANCE – JOANN L:** The Area Finance committee continues to assist the CNCA Treasurer and monitor expenditures. We are currently in the midst of the budget process for 2022. We will be presenting 2022 Budget at the Area Committee Meeting on November 27. Today, none of the motions on the Assembly agenda have any monetary impact on the Area, with the exception of the motion for the newsletter. If we resume printing and mailing the newsletter, we will incur a cost that is currently in the budget. We temporarily halted printing due to Covid restrictions. The Finance committee continues to plan a workshop on talking about the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to the AA groups, to be held in the beginning of next year. With the return to in-person Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies, our financial expenditures will be increasing. We will be communicating to the Area the increase in expenditures along with our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions as they occur. Zoom had proven to be a financially prudent way to do Area business and we know from experience we can return to doing business on Zoom should we need to. The Finance committee stands ready to be of service to CNCA 06 in any way we can.

**PI/CPC – ERIC L:** The Area PI/CPC committee hosted two virtual events to inform professionals working in healthcare, law enforcement, the legal field, education, and human resources, as well as faith leaders, about AA, what we do, and how we can help. We also contracted with an email list broker to send approximately 600,000 emails to professionals in Northern California about the event, and about AA. We likely won't see the results of this effort for months, if not years, but it is likely we have been able to inform people that AA is available and that it can

help. The Seventh Tradition contributions of your groups made these emails and this event possible.

**TECHNOLOGY – NICK S:** For those that don't know, the Technology committee is a brand-new committee that was formed just before Panel 71 began, or what I like to call "The Virtual Panel". I want to thank every officer, fellow committee chair, and committee member I've had the opportunity to interact with so far this panel for being so warm, welcoming, and most of all, patient, while we figure out what the Tech committee's function is here in the Area. Here are some highlights of what the Tech committee has accomplished or currently working on: The largest task I feel we've taken on is transitioning our entire area database from our old Microsoft Access database to a new and improved AirTable database. We've made a position on the Tech committee, Software Administrator, whose role is to spearhead this transition with me. We have been working very strategically over the last week to have Claudia, our Area Registrar, up and running on the new database this month! I greatly encourage your district to use AirTable as a database if it isn't already doing so. It has the potential to greatly reduce the amount of work that goes into a very challenging service position. We've created a position on the Tech committee, Virtual Meeting Administrator, who has been helping the Area and Assembly Coordinator, Drew, by managing our Zoom accounts, committee meetings, and giving tech support at our monthly Area Committee Meeting. Also, we've acquired ten Microsoft Office premium licenses for free and are in the process of setting the groundwork for how these could really assist the Area. Lastly, we've been working directly with the Web Committee to see if we can assist by taking on email management.

**WEBSITE – MEGAN M:** The Web committee was approached by two members excited to be part of our team! At our next committee meeting on November 20, we hope to elect both people into service. We've had some attrition, but we are back to a full complement of seven trusted servants. We continue to plan improvements to the website and welcome your ideas. You may contact us by using the form at [www.cnca06.org/contact-us](http://www.cnca06.org/contact-us).

**INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – MAGDALENO O:** First, we want to thank our professional interpreters for providing us with interpretation. Please speak slowly to assist our interpreters. We also want to inform you that Rosa R. has joined our committee, which now makes our committee complete.

**PRAASA 2024 – TEDDY B-W:** What is PRAASA? It's the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. A weekend conference for 1,500 service nerds! Each of the fifteen areas of the Pacific Region hosts PRAASA on a rotational schedule and it is our turn in 2024. We have signed the contract with the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, which will be venue for the event. The Attraction and Outreach sub-committee has been meeting; a good sign, as outreach can only be effective if there is inclusion and equity. The Attraction and Outreach subcommittee has launched a prize competition to design the logo for PRAASA 2024. I will post the competition flyer in the chat and play a short video to end my report.



# FALL INVENTORY ASSEMBLY—NOVEMBER 6, 2021

## Area Business

### Presentation of New Business

That CNCA distribute the Area newsletters (*Comments / Comentarios*) electronically unless requested by mail. - *Presented by District 06 at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21*

**Presentation:** This was presented at District 06, and we discussed it for two months, then it passed unanimously. The purpose of this motion is to make electronic delivery the default method of distributing the newsletter for when we are allowed to mail them again. Right now, we are doing so exclusively because mailing got suspended due to the pandemic, and it is not appropriate to assemble them in-person (Lick & Stick parties). But when we can safely mail them again, we would resume the way of U.S. mail being the default method of delivery, and we'd like to flip that. The cost of printing and mailing roughly 1,300 pieces is about \$10,000 per month. It is not exclusionary, just a preference. U.S. mail is certainly still an option for those that cannot or prefer not to receive them via email.

**Questions:** **Q.** What is your intended method to allow for the request for hard copy or not? **A.** That is the function of the Registrar. Maybe at some point we could have a way to opt-out on the website. **Q.** I am unclear on which request is to be made. **A.** The default method of delivery would be electronic, so if you wanted to receive it by mail you would request it. **Q.** Which way would they receive their request? **A.** How the Registrars do it now; upon registration when we begin a new service position. The rosters that the District Registrars pass around at their meetings already have a box that people check if they wish to receive the newsletter. We would also take a thorough canvas of the people that already receive them prior to the new panel. **Q.** Is the digital option available in both languages? **A.** Yes, translation of our newsletters would remain the same as it is now.

**Motion to become New Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.**

### 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 at the Area Committee*

**Meeting 10/23/21 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.** Is your intent to change this so soon after the fellowship voted to have it this way because of your romanticism of the original text, regardless of whether it would be good or bad for AA as a whole? **A.** Yes, none of the groups in District 20 were in agreement with changing it. A lot of us identify more with the original text. It reminds us to put aside our character defects and raises consciousness about the importance of keeping them in check. **Q.** Do the makers of the motion understand the intent behind the original change? **A.** Yes, we understand it. We discussed this for four months and we simply identify more with the original text.

**Motion to become New Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.**

### Old 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 at the Area Committee Meeting 2/27/21*

**Discussion: [Group consciences]-** This was our district conscience. Overall, we were in favor, it's a great way to reach a broader audience. It will be more accessible to people who are younger, with lower literacy levels, or who are offput by the language in the big book. Some had concerns about how the graphics will appear, to be mindful of cultural depictions so to not further create additional barriers. // This is an assessable tool that can help guide beginners and reach a broader audience. // Our group was in favor. The majority felt like it is a fun and new approach and is inclusive. // The majority of the group was in favor. Some had people they knew that were not able to understand the Big Book and it will be a valuable resource. The minority opinion did not want any change. // Our group was unanimous. We felt anything that will help is a good idea. There are any people who don't read at a higher level. // Our group was unanimous and felt it can be done without altering the text. It will help with readability and some that find the language to be a barrier. // Our group was in favor. Last summer there was the video presentation from GSO that explained about reading comprehension and literacy levels. It was impactful and changed a lot of minds. It was very noteworthy to hear people's opinions before and after that video. // Our group was unanimously in favor. // Our group was divided. The people who were against it had concerns about how well it carries the message. Also, they were confused because the Big Book is not a novel. // Our group was unanimous. We felt it speaks to Tradition Five and if this is a way to bridge a language gap then let's do it. We see the success with the illustrated Twelve Traditions and Concepts pamphlets. // The group was divided at first then we came around to agreeing that it is an attractive way of receiving the message and can reach people with lower reading levels. // We felt it is a very good idea. We had questions about the cartoons or if it would be blurred faces. // We felt it was a good idea. People might learn more than from how the Big Book is now. // Our group was unanimous. We felt it will reach more people who have difficulty reading or understanding the ideas in the Big

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Book. // Our group was mostly in favor. Some had concerns about the cost and how different cultures will be portrayed. // Our group felt like this would be considered a translation into a new language and did not feel it would change the original Big Book, so we thought it was a good idea. // Our group was unanimously in favor. We were very grateful for the literacy survey that was presented by GSO. **[Personal opinions]-** I am in favor, but I get upset at the idea that people who understand illustrations better than comprehending sentences are put in the same category as people who can't read or have a lower comprehension level. // I think it is an extraordinary idea. This will help people. // I've talked to educators who suggest that most people who understand just plain English language are at a 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. // It's a great idea. It's just another mode to understand the language. // This will help many people who are highly intelligent and can comprehend complex ideas but are dyslexic. // I can read very well, but I also I'm a photographer and I'm used to making interpretations from a picture or something visual. // I'm kind of questioning the timing on this. Shouldn't we see how the plain language version comes out first? I do love the idea though. // This is going to get people excited and want to share their voice about this. People are hungry for material, and we love to share with others. I think it's a great tool for people with dyslexia or who are nervous to read in front of other people.

***Motion to remain Old Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.***

### New Business

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 at the Area Committee Meeting 7/24/21

**Discussion: [Group consciences]-** We were unanimously in favor. We spoke about Tradition 10, and importance that we have no authority and knowledge over others. // This was controversial for us we had quite a dialogue about it and were kind of split, mostly not in favor and felt that this sentence is not intended to be hurtful. // We had a good discussion about it and voted seven to three not in favor. But the minority opinion that agreed to the change felt the wording should be replaced. // We were mostly in favor and felt that people who suffer from eating disorders or have low self-esteem about their weight may have trouble with this part of the book and that we could be more sensitive in our literature. // Our home group at first had some chuckles about it but then did agree to change it. It could be brought up to date, it was written a long time ago. // Our group was divided on this. About half don't want to change it and the other half feel that the phrase can have a negative impact on

folks with eating disorders. // we feel it should be left as it is and then it's not so serious. There was a minority opinion that liked the idea to change it. // The minority opinion found humor in it. But the majority agreed that it is insensitive, and humor is not okay at somebody else's expense and that it was fat shaming. // Many people have an unconscious bias about food addiction. It is an issue. // Our group was strongly in favor. Eating disorders could be life or death for some people and many suffer from self-deprecation or a diminished sense of self. The minority opinion said that people can take what they like and leave the rest. // Our group was unanimous to change it if it offends. **[Personal opinions]-** I think it is possible to retain a humorous tone to this chapter but still be respectful, inclusive, and not create a further barrier. // Sometimes I hear people be confused about who wrote it. It wasn't Bill W. He died in 1971 and the first edition of *Living Sober* came out in 1975, written by a member at that time, Barry L., who was hired by GSO; it's not sacred text. // Part of the reason there was such a need to produce the Big Book was to face a whole world of ignorance about alcoholism that was contemporary in its time. Each generation will have a contemporary ignorance and I see that a lot now around food addiction. Our literature exists in time with what is contemporary, so we need to look at what might be insensitive ask to learn more. // It is the first book I read, and I felt it to be inclusive. But it is good to change if we are aware of it. Change the little details. We don't want someone to read something they don't like and not come back. // I am not against it, but it seems like we are discussing so many other items of literature and that we are going about it piecemeal. I think we need a complete audit of all our dated language. It would be worth the expense for even a few lives. I think much more can be done with our literature. // I think it should be updated. Is helpful to not have derogatory language and we know that most people have a whole set of problems outside alcohol. // We have a variety of language, and the context varies. We will be changing books forever because there's always something that's offensive. I think it's an opportunity to discuss and grow. // I don't think it's offensive. Alcohol offended much more that we were willing to make so many changes. // I identify as an overeater, and I'm not offended by this paragraph. People are being too sensitive.

***Motion to become Old Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly held on April 2-3, 2022.***

The meeting was closed at 12:00pm with the Responsibility Declaration and resumed for 'What's On Your Mind?' after the inventory.

# FALL INVENTORY ASSEMBLY—NOVEMBER 6, 2021

## CNCA AREA 06 INVENTORY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

FACILITATOR: JOHN W., AAWS DIRECTOR

RECORDING SECRETARY: NISAA A., AREA 49 CHAIR

### 1. What is your vision for how we can better fulfill our purpose as an Area?

- Preparation for service commitments and service participations
- “How to prepare a GSR” was a suggestion for an initiative to prepare GSRs
- Others expressed the need for preparation for service positions
- Workshops on different areas of service
- GSRs should know their importance and that we want them to participate
- Many members expressed the desire to continue to embrace technology, such as hybrid and virtual
- Consider that many have joined via zoom and others are remote
- Virtual has given more access to participating in General Service
- Best practices on how to run virtual meetings
- Include GSRs in the decision making
- Fewer Area meetings and more assemblies
- More transparency on housekeeping treasury decisions, don't circumvent the process
- Greater communications and cooperation with other service entities
- Continue pre-inventory meetings to explain what inventories are about
- Return to serving the groups
- Break down barriers to participation
- Accessibilities support such as closed captioning in-person
- International convention in California area
- Interpretation could be improved
- Reflect on the fifth warranty
- Ensure that we are not voting our own individual conscience, but the conscience of the groups we are representing.

- Actively recruit and retain new trusted servants
- ### 2. How well is information flowing between groups, districts, and the Area?
- Individuals could share information that the Area is providing
  - Better reporting system is needed--am I the bottleneck?
  - Feels like a top-down system of importance, not enough coming from groups
  - There are a lot of resources to keep the groups informed
  - Assist in making information easier to understand and absorb, give highlights
  - The Area does a good job of providing information
  - Our district meet agendas are so full we don't have time to discuss Area business
  - Visit groups that do not have GSRs to share information
  - Make it clear where you can find information
  - Think of a more centralized way of collecting and accessing information
  - Subdistrict meetings can be a place for GSRs to ask questions and get support
- ### 3. Are the Area Committee Meeting, the standing and sub-committees, and the sharing sessions effectively serving the full Area?
- There is always room for improvement although we are doing a good job
  - Better clarity during new business presentations is needed, we are asking questions that can wait until actual discussion starts
  - Refrain from sharing multiple times
  - More interpreters for the meetings, especially when we go back live.
  - Consider dividing the Area to effectively conduct business
  - Reports could be submitted in writing and then 2 minute shares could show the enthusiasm of the commitment
  - Have a survey or focus groups for feedback
  - Add a GSR Sharing Session

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- Consider restructuring the business meeting and possibly extending the meeting
- Need to do a better job with safety, for example the BIPOC community in AA
- There is a lack of diversity
- Committee members do extra work outside of the meetings, we get a lot done

## 4. Are we mindful of the spiritual principles underlying the right of decision and the right of participation when we conduct Area business?

- Some are given more opportunities to express their personal views when all members should have equal time
- Using email blasts to try to gather support for or against a motion outside the meeting is not in line with our principles
- How do we preserve the spiritual foundations of anonymity?
- Should committee chairs have a vote?
- More transparency on how agenda items come about
- Have more trust and respect in our service leaders and fellow trusted servants
- Find ways to engage the groups that aren't participating
- If you see a need for change, don't just complain --make a motion and follow the process

## 5. How do the size and demographics of CNCA help or hinder our effectiveness in serving the groups?

- The size is hindering participation when we have to limit shares
- Could a combination, redistribution, or shift in geographical boundaries help?
- Virtual has allowed districts to consistently participate
- Shouldn't be about how to effectively run business meeting, but about carrying the message
- Motions Book has old Ad Hoc report that discusses dividing the Area
- Our size allows us access to more resources, and is the reason we can provide so many services and be truly bilingual
- Visit other Areas

- Concentrate on working with districts as opposed to dividing the Area
- Lack of diversity, especially considering our demographics here in the Bay area

## 6. Are people who do service for CNCA adequately supported?

- Solutions should come from the groups and districts, officers are here to help
- People are supported in their service in CNCA
- Are we adequately supporting Spanish speaking trusted servants with interpretation and translation?
- There is a financial barrier to doing service at the Area level, reimbursement does not cover everything
- Support from other experienced trusted servants can help to not feel overwhelmed
- Pass on information to your successors--what do you wish you had known?
- Have more trust in the committees who present motions
- Consider what we are asking of our trusted servants who are not retired, have children, etc.

## 7. How have we risen to the challenges of service in the pandemic? Where have we fallen short?

- CNCA met the challenge
- Could have started the Hybrid Ad Hoc process sooner, but trust that we will find a solution to allow all to participate
- Voting procedures are being lost with the virtual participation
- Some of the heart is lost when we do business in the virtual room
- How to handle virtual groups?
- There should be discussion about returning to in-person before we decide
- Business meetings have run more effectively virtually
- Allowed first time GSRs to do service with virtual being an option
- This inventory had less in attendance than before, people are not here

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- Have not been adequately supporting the Spanish community virtually
- Remote communities and those with accessibility needs feel included
- We worked out how to apply the traditions to virtual meetings
- When passing on information we should add what we have learned from doing service virtually

The inventory concluded at 5:00pm and the assembly resumed with 'What's On Your Mind?'.

### What's On Your Mind?

We had 229 people at one time on this assembly today, with 217 registered. // Thank you, John for guiding us through this process. CNCA couldn't have met without your help. I love the interpretation; I understood everything clearly. // I'd like to give a shout out to our interpreters Mateo and to our rookie Angela who interpreted for us for her first time today. Welcome and thank you. We have our own little dialect and lots of acronyms. Also, I'd like you thank District 04 for stepping out of their comfort zone, to John for his gentle and kind facilitating, and Nisaa for scribing. // Thank you, John, and Nisaa, and thank you District 04 for the wonderful kickoff event on Friday night. // I am feeling the challenges with zoom. I miss chatting before and after and fellowshipping on zoom is not the same. // Thank you to the people who interpreted, to our facilitator, and to the district that hosted. Here is where I learned love and commitment, tolerance, sacrifice, to ask questions, and to show up. And after 20 years we're still talking about trainings. // I hear a lot about a misconception that people who do Area service are elite, that you have to be retired or wealthy to be available. And that's not true. I used to be a truck driver. We had a delegate who was a trash collector and one who was a waitress. It's about love for service and for the Area. // Thank you for allowing me to participate here today. I feel alive from this experience. // Thank you District 04, John, Nisaa, and the interpreters. Thank you all for having the faith and for stepping up to share. The Area prepares us. When I was selected to serve, I felt the responsibility and do not want to run away from it. It's like a warm sober blanket. // thanks to all, I am a newbie here in General Service. I got a ton out of today's meeting and got to see us in action and living the Traditions. // we did so much today, what a wonderful inventory. I feel like a better-informed Delegate, and it makes me love you more. I love hearing you all speak your truth and I appreciate you being a part of my recovery. // Thank you, I cried. I want to announce the 6<sup>th</sup> Hispanic Women's Workshop on December 4, hosted by Area 3 Arizona. It is a hybrid event. The theme is "Unity and Strength Among Us." // Thank you for being here. I heard a lot about educating and training GSRs who are trying to figure out this service. // What I like is that I feel very part of more and more. I used to be shy and keep ideas to myself, but I learned to trust you and to share. I was afraid that service was for the 'higher ups' but I realize that service is about equality. //

I'm grateful I attended this inventory. I learned a lot and it was a great experience. I will report back to the group. // When we are back to being in person and we have our committee meetings, I think it would be great to create space for GSRs. // I want to say thank you to our visitors from Mexico, Bolivia, and Ecuador. Also, it blows me away how we support each other. I asked about the Motions Book and during this meeting three people sent it to me. Thank you. // I'd like to point out the effect we have on our groups it was like pulling teeth too talk about agenda topics. I go to Trans meetings, and it seemed like transgender voices didn't really matter. But I continue to talk at my meetings. Sometimes I'm so frustrated with AA, but I stay here because it keeps me sober. Thank you for giving me my voice. Now I can go to those groups and tell them that some language changes are being made, that 'opposite sex' was removed from the 12 & 12. I can show them that if they stick around long enough there might be a place for them in AA too. // Information is flowing. Secondly, I am in communication with a group that uses an anonymous Gmail account for their business meetings, and it works well. // I'm proud of our district. We really showed a lot of talent and willingness. The kickoff party was so great, and the ad hoc committee worked so hard and really stepped up to do what it takes to get it done. // our group turned one year old. I think I will propose the inventory idea. I had COVID and the after effects now keeping me from going out, so I was happy to be here today. // I learned how important the inventory is and our group will know what to do in December. // Thank you for hosting. I got a lot out of it and the music woke me up. I heard a lot of good ideas, hope, and ways to improve. // I just read something about how being able to see faces creates empathy and it made me think about us and how we use Zoom. I think it's important to keep our screen on for each other, if possible, I know there's sometimes where it's necessary to turn the camera off. But I am practicing on that myself and it is something to consider. At our district because we are discussing the possibility of staying virtual permanently. // I am grateful for the participation and everybody that made this possible. I'm old, I learn from young people. When I needed to learn Zoom, I called the young person from CNCA. Zoom kept us united more than otherwise.

The assembly was closed at 5:30pm with the Responsibility Declaration.

*Submitted with Love and Gratitude,*

*Amy M.*

*CNCA Recording Secretary- Panel 71*

## 2022 CNCA CALENDAR—PANELS 71

### 2022

|          |   |           |   |
|----------|---|-----------|---|
| January  | 22—Area Committee Mtg.                                    | September | 16—18 Pacific Regional Forum, Salt Lake City, Utah<br>24—Area Committee Mtg |
| February | 26—Area Committee Mtg.                                    | October   | 22—Area Committee Mtg   |
| March    | 4,5 & 6—PRAASA Portland, Oregon<br>26—Area Committee Mtg. | November  | 05— Election Assembly<br>26—Area Committee Mtg                              |
| April    | 2&3 — Pre-Conference Assembly<br>23—Area Committee Mtg.   | December  | 17—Area Committee Mtg<br>(Note: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)                        |
| May      | 14— Post Conference Assembly<br>28—Area Committee Mtg.    |           |   |
| June     | 25—Area Committee Mtg.                                    |           |   |
| July     | 23—Area Committee Mtg.                                    |           |   |
| August   | 13—Summer Assembly<br>27—Area Committee Mtg               |           |   |

### PANEL 71 ASSEMBLIES

**2022 Pre-Conference Assembly,**  
April 2-3 *Petaluma Veterans Building.*  
*Petaluma (District 12)*

**2022 Post-Conference Assembly,**  
May 14

**2022 Summer Assembly,**  
August 13

**2022 Fall Election Assembly,**  
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.

**Literature/Grapevine Chair**  
Richard W.

**Contributions to General Service Board**

**Alternate Delegate**  
Eric L.

**Pacific Regional Trustee**  
Kathi F.

**General Service Office**  
PO Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York New York 10116-2407

**Chair**  
Miguel H.

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

**All other Correspondence**

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Chitra S.

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**Recording Secretary**  
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**NorCal H&I Committee**  
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[handinorcal.org](#)

**Assembly Coordinator**  
Drew B.

### 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 3rd Saturday of every month at 11 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