

DCM Sharing Session Minutes March 26, 2022

11:00 AM – The Sharing Session today is our first hybrid sharing session; 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 suggests a topic and then there is a discussion on the topic with those in attendance. For the next 7 Sharing Sessions, Area Officers will be presenting their job descriptions and, yes, this is a promotion because we want all of you to make yourself available... laughter heard from room participants. Today, Richard W., who serves as the Panel 71 Grapevine/La Vina Chair, is presenting.”

New to the DCM Sharing Session:

Index: DCM = District Committee Member, DCMC = District Committee Member Chair, CNCA = California Northern Coastal Area, GSO = General Service Office, GSC = General Service Conference, GSR = General Service Representative A.A. = Alcoholics Anonymous
Past Presentations are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/dcmsessiondocs>

Area Job Descriptions:

Richard W. Panel 71 Grapevine/La Vina Chair

Job description attached.

Presentation Topic – “The History and Formation of Our Spanish Speaking Districts”

Presentation By: Pam S. GSR of District 40/Sub-District 009

It is a pleasure to be with you folks. My disclaimer first: From my limited reading of the history of Area 06, a huge amount of work was done, by many people, to create the district structure we currently have. This was a jumping off point, the most significant of which was how to ensure that the responsibility prayer is handled, namely, that we carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I will present a slide show, with English first and Spanish underneath.

The topics to go over are District overlays, Area 06 linguistic districts (Spanish language); and brief history of Area documents. Hopefully we will also hear feedback from those who experienced the process; lessons and principles which may help us to discuss the future of virtual meetings, and the role of geography.

First, I wanted to get involved with this because I thought it might be parallel to virtual meetings and that was my motivation to get involved. The documents that were helpful and provided to me were the CNCA Discussion and Reports through Panel 67 – Motions book, provided by Alt Delegate Eric L.; two motions from Earlene W. Panel 51 Area registrar - for CNCA group’s right to participate (see page 59); and, Eric H., past member District 12, provided the maps.

There are two Assembly Motions. *The first dealt with forming District 16 and determined that... “the only requirement for a group’s affiliation with the district was the conscience of the individual group, so long as the group had only one vote in only one district.” (88Pre-2, forming district 16). From the second motion District 17 was formed... “the only requirement for membership in this new district shall be the desire of each group expressed in its group conscience.” (90Post-1, forming district 17).*

If there are any questions or clarification needed while going through this, please let us know. I wanted to have a timeline of the Spanish Districts. The creation of these districts spans from 1988 to 2000. There were starts and stops along the way with people attempting to create and decide where districts began and what subdistricts they would find themselves in. As we look at the maps, this will become clearer.

1988 – District 16, at CNCAs pre-conference assembly was ratified the creation of District 16. Geographic boundaries were those of Area 06, and it overlapped with the 15 existing CNCA districts. D-16 representation at Area was a single DCM and

overlayed the entire Area 06. Any group could vote to be part of district 16, provided the group only have a vote in a single district in Area 06. First district to serve Spanish meetings. From Earlene W... “a single DCM served the district. Spanish groups could stay in their district or affiliate with District 16.”

1990 – District 17, ratified as Spanish South.

1994 – District 18, ratified as Spanish North at post-conference assembly. District 12 was allowed to eliminate its Spanish speaking Sub-district 13, due to the recent formation of district 18.

1995 – District 19, ratified as Spanish South South at the Summer Assembly. It included groups within the counties of Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey.

2011 – District 20, ratified as Spanish East at the Fall Assembly. Sub-district 006 of D-07 was allowed to reform as District 20.

Member Questions:

JB: In District 18, I see a gridded area, what is that?

Pam: In the process of this report and selecting these maps, I had extensive conversations and was advised that if I got into the “gridded” area it would be gnarly and the suggestion was to not get into that. Laughter from audience. Kris reached out to me and shared his experience and that there are lessons we learned from the creation of linguistic districts that will help us in creating virtual districts.

Ginger: The black area on the maps...

Pam: That’s the Bay

Ginger: You would have to swim...

Laughter from the audience.

Carolyn M. D-10: One DCM... Would that be one DCMC or one DCM?

Pam: My understanding is some districts have one DCM and others have more. It’s a mix.

Leslie W.: Was the creation of this the request of Spanish speaking groups or the Area? Where did the original idea come from?

Pam (Presenter): I have a partial answer... it appears that in 1972-1974, from people not necessarily Spanish speaking, the discussion began, suggesting overlay.

Spanish language groups preferred a formal request of their groups. In the 1988 Motion, it is a pretty clear statement and not a lot of background.

Members Shared:

Kris W. DCM D-07/006: I was DCMC in District 7, when what was then, Subdistrict 002 in District 16, and asked if it could become Subdistrict 007. It took two years to get Area approval. I want to mention Raymundo L. and Doug Grudy was the delegate who took the issue to the conference. He came back and shared that the conference view was that the Area did not have a right to say No. Which we knew all along.... Audience laughter. Another experience in General Service is Unity - one side of our 3-sided triangle. Reaching unity is not always peaceful. When you disagree with somebody else and you are adamant, it does not mean that you are not complying with the ‘unity’ side of our AA triangle.

There were two members in the Spanish district, Juan S and Bill M. Their basic idea was “a bridge for Spanish speakers to participate and go over to the English language meetings.” That of course has not happened.

Kathryn B. GSR 7@7 Group, D-15 Humboldt. My group 7@7 was born online before the pandemic, in District 15, to support members that could not attend in person meetings. When we were forming the group, there was a lot of discussion of whether zoom meetings would be allowed to join their districts and whether they would be allocated a second-class status. We are allowed to be in Humboldt County, D-15. Talk about forming a separate zoom district. I hope what we are seeing here is a precedent and that groups can be in the district they choose. This seems to set a standard that you can be where you belong.

Bill Hebert DCMC D-40: We recently had a lady contact us with a virtual group. They were in Mexico. They wanted to join our district. I didn't have a problem with that, but it presented the question of a virtual group in some other State, should they be allowed to get involved in a district that is not geographically located for in-person attendance.

Lewis: On the map, I see too many groups in same places. Are you thinking about removing some groups?

Member at Mic in Petaluma: We started with groups on Zoom and, I participated in 12 groups that supported groups from Europe, people on Skype and Spanish. We have 3 groups that are registered on Zoom. We talked to GSO. They are waiting for a point of view from Area 06, it may be responses can come from our own area. Best to integrate GSRs able to attend in person. This is one way that groups can be traditional groups – when they can have a voice and a vote.

Ginger O. D-15 – I would like to answer the man who asked if we want to divide 06 in half. The northern part of 06 is so removed from AA in general, so to have it cut off would be more isolating, so we have always opposed that.

JB SF DCM: This is a great topic. Pam great job! Area 49 New York has been working hard since the pandemic, suggests setting up a special area for all virtual groups. Tradition Six that we have no affiliation with outside enterprises... Zoom is an outside enterprise. The language should be “virtual.”

Megan: There does exist in AA, for a long time, a remote community. I cannot remember what it's called.

Pam (Presenter): It is my understanding that they are lumped in with the international groups. Is that other people's understanding?

June DCM D-40: I'm confused. Is there a format that Area 06 has decided on? If there are Zoom groups in our district, I want them located in our Area, to include them in our voting process. How does the process for that begin and should we start beginning it?

Drew B. Chair: No format. This is a new and we are just beginning to figure it out. Read Tradition Two for guidance.

Carlos (at Mic): I enjoyed the presentation. They want to be a district and to know how to become a district. I feel support from the Area and Districts to fill the need. In your sub-district if there are more than 15 groups its easier to process. We will see what happens and it is about Second Tradition... A loving God and faith in what happens.

Ted B. DCM D-05/003: Thank you Pam! Very timely and a great presentation. It is amazing to put this in a historical context with what is going on. Thank you for helping to enlighten us.

Topic suggested for Next Month: Integrating Zoom groups into district online or virtual groups and how we are dealing with them today. Megan volunteered to present and Laura volunteered to help.

Drew B, Chair: Hey everybody, we did it! We DCM'd, we shared, we sessioned! Grateful to all of you for getting through this maiden voyage. Let's close with “I am responsible...”

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Interim Recording Secretary for DCM Sharing Session