

## **CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA FALL ASSEMBLY 2023 MINUTES**

The Fall Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held at Monterey Moose Family Center in Del Rey Oaks on November 4, 2023, with members attending and participating in person and virtually. Chitra S. opened the meeting at 10:00, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Assembly orientation was presented online by Panel 49 Past Delegate Nancy H. Jose F. read the A.A. Preamble from District 18; John D. from District 08 read the Twelve Traditions, and Ana V. from District 18 read the Traditions in Spanish. There were nine past Delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (P36, Maine), Barbara M. (P41), Jim M. (P45), Nancy H. (P49), Ken M. (P61), Joann L. (P67), Teddy B.-W. (P69) and Jennifer B. (P71). There were two past Trustees, Nancy H., and David N. There were three past area officers: Michael Q., Magdaleno O., and Marta B. One visitor from outside the Area was Monty C., Area 08 Delegate. The minutes from the Summer Conference assembly were accepted as published in the CNCA Comments and Comentarios. **Registered attendance:** 197 in-person; 79 online.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**DELEGATE – ERIC L.:** We are updating the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” and, as a fellowship, we are seeking submissions for stories from AA members with diverse backgrounds. The AA Membership Survey website has been delayed because of translation backlogs but will be up soon. A pamphlet will be launched by early 2024. The General Service Board has recommended that Scott H., a past Trustee-at-Large Canada, be added to the slate of officers as chairperson of the General Service Board; if approved next year, he would be the first alcoholic chair of the Board since the 1950s.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – MIGUEL H.:** The Trustees Literature Committee seeks stories from AA members with diverse backgrounds in response to the 2022 Conference Advisory Action that they revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” to update the stories to represent greater diversity. The Trustees’ Literature Committee requested consideration be given to stories from multicultural populations, stories from A.A. members whose experience reflects multiple factors, and those from diverse populations not addressed in other current A.A. literature. The deadline to submit stories is April 30, 2024. For more information, please feel free to contact me.

**CHAIR – CHITRA S.:** Our CNCA newsletter is now available to everyone in a new digital format. Please go to [cnca06.org](http://cnca06.org) and scroll past What’s New until you see a form to enter your name and email address to subscribe to our Comments and Comentarios. As an act of prudence to conserve money for our area budget, our area officers will not be visiting districts in December, but we will this month. Please let your groups know we are accepting contributions to pay for the many services our Area provides. This is the final assembly of the year! We have, in action, been practicing so many principles laid out in the service manual. Today, we will practice group inventory, walking together through fear to have a healthy and honest discussion of our Area’s strengths and weaknesses. Our districts are also taking their inventories, and perhaps after experiencing both, our GSRs can suggest inventories of their home groups, passing on the tools we are learning.

**TREASURER – CLAUDIA N.:** Our checking account has \$15,392, and our savings account/prudent reserve (one month’s operating expenses) has \$13,001.83. This year, through our third quarter, our actual contributions have been \$108,582, and our budgeted contributions were \$ \$91,803. The actual expenses are \$138,404; the budget was \$123,956. Please let your groups and meetings know CNCA has changed its address, and the SFO PO Box is closing on November 30. Please send all disbursements, contributions, and correspondence to our new address, California Northern Coastal Area, 1390 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite G-339, Petaluma, CA 94954). Starting December 1st, we will replace paper receipts with emailed receipts unless requested otherwise. This is a decision the Finance Committee came to after looking into methods to save on expenses and streamline our process. Please thank your groups for their generous contributions, which enable your area to continue the services that reach out to the suffering alcoholic.

**REGISTRAR – DREW B.:** I met with the General Service Office Staff at the Area Registrar Sharing session online. It’s where area registrars meet, collaborate, and complain. In three weeks, I’ll meet with GSO staff in person. Let me know if there is anything I can pass along! Our Area newsletter is now digital, and you must OPT IN to receive our newsletter through physical mail. Please let me know if you want it in the physical mail. The cool group names are among the most interesting things about being your Registrar. The name says a lot about what to expect when going to a meeting. It’s often the first attraction to our fellowship and solution. For example, CNCA has almost 100 groups with the word “Serenity” in the name. If you want to start a group or rename an existing group, here are some names from our literature: Bone-Crushing Juggernaut, I Might Be in The Wrong Place, Doing The Right Things, Process Of Discovering, Forced Humility, Wild Eyed and Filthy, and They Took My Daddy and Made Him Better.

**RECORDING SECRETARY – SARAH B.:** Since the last assembly, I received and added a minor correction to the motions book to be reflected when made available at the beginning of next panel. The 2001 summer assembly was hosted by District 90, not District 09. So far, this panel, the Area Committee, and Assembly bodies have acted upon 39

business items, and only two failed. I continue to increase awareness of our minutes and support for the Grapevine through the assembly word count competition. While our Area Literature/ Grapevine/La Viña chair and I hope that the ACM decides to support this effort, we trust the group conscience of the body to decide whether to use our group's funds for it. Four people guessed the word count for the Summer Assembly minutes, and Judah N., DCM from District 12, was closest with 6,646 words. He donated his winnings to a print subscription to the Grapevine for an alcoholic who can't afford one through the Carry the Message Project. I accept submissions up to one week after each assembly. What do you think about our Area hosting a recording secretary workshop? Please contact your DCMC for the survey link I sent them in November. Please email me at [recordingsecretary@cnca06.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@cnca06.org) if you have any comments or questions.

**ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – JACKIE B.:** Thank you to District 01 Monterey, led by Elena B. and Annette C., for hosting this special assembly. Their six-month planning and dedicated team of volunteers have been impressive. Despite initial apprehensions about the physical demands, I'm grateful for my service position. The support and help from others have been overwhelming, and today, it's clear that the effort has been worth it. The essence of our work in General Service is about connection and communication. I appreciate the role of GSRs in this process and encourage everyone, especially first-timers, to actively participate and share their thoughts. Remember to mark your calendars - the Pre-Conference Assembly will be on April 6 & 7, 2024, in Petaluma, CA, hosted by District 18 Spanish North and District 12 Sonoma.

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – MATT E.:** Last night, I was struck by the relevance of the Grapevine daily quote, which said, in part, "I would prefer an evening with my AA friends to any person or group or group of persons." You can access the Grapevine daily quote on the Grapevine App! The app is doing very well. Since it launched in September, there have been 1,709 new annual subscriptions, 686 monthly subscriptions, and over \$52,000 in revenue. Keep telling your groups and spreading the word.

#### **AREA STANDING & SUB-COMMITTEES**

**ACCESSIBILITIES – THOM H.:** Five people attended our last Accessibilities Committee. East Bay reported that their intergroup is planning to fund an ASL meeting. District 04 had safety workshops, including a focus on ways to welcome people with disabilities. There was consensus about having a hybrid meeting during the Area Committee meeting starting next year, and we are still in discussion due to the low attendance at this meeting. Our next meeting will be virtual.

**ARCHIVES – CAROL H.:** Our open house is on December 9th from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the repository at 193 Mayhew Way, Pleasant Hill/Walnut Creek. There will be demonstrations of what we do as a committee. All are welcome and encouraged to come and check out the district and area documents housed there. The November workday is on the 11th. Please encourage your district members to join us. A reminder that if your district is having a Unity day, we are always eager to participate.

**BRIDGING THE GAP – JOHN O.:** The BTG Forum went very well; we had representative presentations from the medical field and the public defender's office, rehabilitation/recovery services, and Tribal Health. The hospital and institution were there with Julio, updating us on their activities and financial condition. Julio was pleased to see how BTG has grown within CNCA, and all presenters encouraged BTG to continue providing much-needed services to the many clients and patients they see and treat. We have so many opportunities to expand our BTG services. However, it is limited by our lack of knowledge of the many businesses and facilities that deal with alcoholics in recovery. We have just started expanding our services with the County of Lake by assisting those who need a ride to their first AA meeting, and we recently received two blue card requests from San Quentin Prison. Growth is happening! Year to date, as of October 1, BTG now has 305 volunteers; we have reached out by giving 421 presentations and have received and processed 1591 blue cards, a request for our services.

**FINANCE – DAVID N.:** One of the most important responsibilities the Finance Committee has every year is to develop next year's budget for presentation to the Area Committee for their disapproval, if any. We started that work in May and have been hard at it since then. We gave our initial draft budget to the Area Officers at the October area officer meeting to ask for their input. We are now working to incorporate their suggestions and are finalizing the budget for presentation at the November Area Committee meeting. We will ask if budget disapproval exists at the December Area Committee meeting. This is a very challenging budget. At the November ACM, the Finance Committee will be ably led that day by Russ A. in my absence.

**INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – ELENA B.:** We have replaced 100 digital radios, earphones, and a few old radios, and recently replaced worn-out headsets and microphones. We have translated approximately 250 documents for Area Officers and Committees, 56 miscellaneous emails, Comments, and Comentarios for February through October. We also helped with the Agenda Topics summaries, the Delegate Report, and PRAASA Steering Committee documents. The Interpretation Coordinator contacted all the needed interpreters and confirmed availability

for ACM monthly sharing sessions, standing committees, and assemblies. We have built two portable interpretation cubicles for the sharing session rooms at the ACMs and assemblies. We have been requested to bring the equipment to our committees' workshops, Unity Days, pre-assembly dinners, and events.

**PI/CPC – MIGUEL H.:** I've received two letters from Eileen A., a General Service Office correspondent. She is asking for a member of our area PICPC committee or an A.A. member near the Yolo County Detention Center facility to contact the group or the facility administrator to find out if there is anything A.A. can do to help. Yolo County Detention Center, Woodland, CA 95776. The second letter requests a prerelease contact to our Area Corrections Chairperson to contact members and help upon their release. The member will try to arrange a temporary A.A. contact who can help the transition from "inside" A.A. to "outside" A.A. and begin to get acquainted and comfortable in A.A. GSO does not assign sponsors. However, most members find sponsors at the A.A. meetings they attend. Literature and a pamphlet explaining more about sponsorship, "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," were included. The approximate release date is January 2024, and he will be at Glendale City Jail in Glendale, CA, upon release. I've sent this information to the correspondent areas to support the journey between the door to the facility and the nearest A.A. meeting or group. This cooperation is between PI/CPC, H&I I, and Bridging the Gap. If you would like to participate in PI/CPC work for the Area, our committee meets the fourth Saturday of every month at 9 AM, and everyone is welcome.

**PRAASA 2024 – JENNIFER B.:** Registration is open for the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, March 1-3 in San Francisco. If you've never been, talk to people that have. This is an experience you must not miss! You can go to the website [PRAASA.org](https://www.praasa.org) to register and book a hotel room. The website also has information about volunteering, accessibility needs, transportation, and frequently asked questions. The host committee needs many volunteers to help welcome hundreds of members from the Pacific Region. There's a form to sign up and flyers with QR codes on the website. You will want to plan because parking is an issue. We suggest taking BART, carpooling, and using parking apps. Many home groups can't afford to fund their GSR to PRAASA when it is far away, but it's right here next year. So, GSRs, ask your groups in advance if they can help fund your attendance. They might say no, but you won't know until you ask. Invite other members to come with you and see what it's all about. (A friend who says he hates General Service loved PRAASA.) The \$40 registration, purchasing optional meals, and staying in the host hotel all make PRAASA self-supporting. In a way, it is a contribution to general service. You will be a much more informed GSR for going, and it's so much fun.

**TECHNOLOGY – JACQUELINE P.:** Since our last Assembly, the Tech Committee has progressed toward finalizing our guidelines. We are discovering that the guidelines are where spiritual principles and practical guidelines meet. We continue our focus on weaving into the guidelines the very definite roles of our Hybrid Team's trusted servants. The Hybrid Team launched a two-month reduced capacity trial at the Area Committee Meeting (ACM) to move in the most prudent financial direction. This trial will not affect our online participants or technology services offered at the ACM; however, "chat" will be disabled during the morning Committee and Sharing Sessions. If the trial is acceptable to the Area, we can reduce the required onsite hybrid members and travel expenses for the ACM every month. We've set up the ability to perform collaborative notetaking for Sharing Sessions and Committees on the morning of the Area Committee Meeting. The notetaking docs are accessible via Linktree and allow online and in-person participants to record notes simultaneously. Thank you to the I&T Committee for reviewing our bilingual trifold presentation. I am grateful to have attended the National A.A. Technology Workshop in Winchester, VA, in the Shenandoah Valley, a sacred hunting ground for indigenous people, including the Shawne and Iroquois. The yearly workshop is where US, Canadian, and international members share and work together to serve and provide meaningful, useful, and up-to-date technology expertise to the fellowship. CNCA is on the leading edge of Areas producing hybrid events. I was grateful to lead a discussion group on best practices, and many attendees requested our process and equipment documents. Our Hybrid Team spent its last meeting working diligently on the logistics that allow me to present this report in person and online. Transporting our hybrid meeting equipment to and from the Assembly is a large job. Please thank our hard-working Hybrid Team members.

**WEBSITE – JAMES B.:** The drawback to having been involved with General Service for some time is that I forget not everyone knows all the words, acronyms, committees, and language we use here. With that in mind, the web committee attends to the care and feeding of the website, [cnca06.org](https://cnca06.org). We currently have a survey on the website seeking input on how you use the website and what you might like to see with the site in the future. You can even point us to sites you like to look at. Even if you haven't used the site, feel free to swing by and fill out the survey. Thank you to those who have taken the time to fill out the survey on our website. If you are not receiving the CNCA Comments in your email or would like to sign up, you can do this from the home page on the CNCA website, where the signup form for Spanish and English is located. Now that we are emailing the Comments using the new system and not using the PDF format, we are revising the workflow. Part of the past workflow involved breaking out the various parts of the PDF and posting them in various locations on the website. If you used that section of the site, we are working on updating it. Please let me know if you see anything that needs to be updated, have suggestions or requests for changes, and have constructive feedback.

**WACYPAA – COURTNEY:** WACYPAA stands for Western Area Conference of Young People in A.A. We are young people putting on an A.A. conference, but it's not just for young people. It's December 28 – January 1 at the Oakland Marriott. For information on how to register and contribute, visit [wacypaa25.com](http://wacypaa25.com). The program will be out soon. We're having a New Year's Eve party. Join us!

## **AREA BUSINESS**

### **PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS:**

- That CNCA continue to provide hybrid functionality for every Area Committee Meeting and each Assembly. -  
*Presented by District 15, Humboldt/Del Norte*

**Presentation:** Megan M., DCMC from District 15, presented. During COVID, our Area immediately began meeting on Zoom. Now that we meet in person, it's great that we can still access Area Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings online. It provides accessibility for people who can't come in person. A member in our district put forward a motion not long after we came back in person. We never voted on it; it was tabled. District 15 wanted to have hybrid meetings made official.

**Questions:** **Q:** I'm hard of hearing. Is the motion to make hybrid meetings official? **A:** Yes. // **Q:** I heard the Accessibilities Committee chair say they've decided to become hybrid and return to Petaluma. Does the motion include the meetings in the morning from 9 am to the ACM? **A:** Many are hybrid now, but they're not included in the motion. // **Q:** Will there be a way to share best practices and have folks trained on hybrid capabilities? **A:** The motion doesn't address this. // **Q:** My group is online, and we have members from all over the world. Can an international member be elected as a GSR and participate in the Area? **A:** That's not part of this motion, but it's a thoughtful idea. // I asked for my group's conscience, and they decided they should continue hybrid because it's useful to include more people and their conscience. // **Q:** Would you consider a friendly amendment to add the standing and subcommittee meetings to this motion? **A:** No. // **Q:** Does this have any reach over individual meetings in our Area? **A:** No. // **Q:** Can you clarify how we would include the subcommittees that meet before the ACM? Would it come in another/separate motion? **A:** This motion doesn't include the subcommittees. It's just the Area Assemblies and the ACM. // **Q:** I'm a member of District 07's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Accessibilities Committee. Would the hybrid meetings be ASL-interpreted? Closed captioning is nice for those whose first language is English, but it's foreign to those whose first language is ASL. Would an ASL interpreter be provided for Zoom meetings? **A:** This is not part of this motion. // **Q:** Would the district consider a time limit on this? For example, until the end of this panel and the middle of the next panel? **A:** I'd have to ask the district, but I think they would say no. It can be changed or rescinded later through another motion. // **Q:** Is there an intent to change anything about how the area currently practices hybrid? **A:** No. << **Motion to become New Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly on April 6, 2023.** >>

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- That the Conference Literature committee consider producing literature combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with the Twelve Concepts for World Service. – *Presented by District 14 Mendocino at the Area Committee Meeting on 10/22/22*

**Discussion: Group consciences:** Most members agreed with the motion. We had a minority opinion that didn't explain. // My group discussed, and a question asked was, "Why is this being brought up again?" This was an agenda topic in 2015. // Our group agrees to combine the three books into one. // Our group voted 4 to 3 against combining this. We already have literature on the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts available. A pamphlet, The A.A. Group: Where it All Begins, has all three. // Our district voted in favor after two months of discussion. // Most of my group thought it would be too complicated for a newcomer, but one thought getting the Twelve Concepts out there was a good idea. // Our group supports this motion with substantial unanimity. We think there's value in raising awareness for the Twelve Concepts. Members shared that their only previous experience with the Concepts was as a GSR, not through regular engagement with literature. Opposing opinions were around costs and logistics, which the Literature Committee would address. // Our group unanimously agreed that they would use this literature and further explore this idea. A.A. literature is valuable, and the Twelve Concepts are prominent in the program. The Concepts are not generally known or talked about except in dedicated meetings. // Having these consolidated to go through with a sponsor or to expose a newcomer in a literature meeting would be nice. There was some concern that it would confuse a newcomer. They don't see how it could harm. It's hard to find anything about the Concepts. The suggestion was that it would be helpful if the Concepts were written more digestibly; it's a little dry. It would be nice if this proposed literature were put together in a way like The Twelve Concepts illustrated. // Our group was in favor. There were minority opinions that it was redundant and concerns about cost. Some comments were that a working title "12 by 12 by 12" is confusing, that accessible language would be welcome, and to make this online instead of print. // Our fellowship is in favor of moving forward with this literature. Most people were unaware of the Concepts until becoming a GSR. More exposure early on would be beneficial. Any writings by Bill and Bob are valuable to keep people informed and educated. // My group was unanimously in favor of a pamphlet. It could be a tool for a sponsor, a service sponsor, and a literature meeting. It would be putting our money to good use. They don't like the name "Twelve by Twelve by Twelve" but didn't have another suggestion for a title. // Our group is in favor. A member shared that it's good to implement literature, and it's easier to obtain literature. One is concerned about the cost of paper. // I visited many groups that don't have a GSR, and many

are in favor. They said the General Service Manual is the only place to see Concepts, and nobody buys it unless they're in General Service. If combined, the Concepts would create more interest in General Service. // My group favors making the Principles and Three Legacies more accessible. // The majority is in favor for reasons already stated. The minority opinion is that the Concepts should stay between service sponsors and their sponsees. // My group is in favor because it is more convenient to learn about the 36 concepts of AA. // My group is happy to have a book with 36 principles to familiarize itself with all 36 instead of just 24. // My group is unanimously in favor. It would create more awareness of the concepts for everybody. As meetings are generated around the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, meetings could be generated around this literature to create a better understanding of the Concepts. // My group in favor. The majority said it's very practical. Sometimes, if we don't have a book, we don't study. If we produce this book, we'd have something we can use to study. They would like the name to be "The 36 Principles for My Recovery." // My district is in favor. // My group favors a book with the 36 principles. // My district favors this motion for previously mentioned reasons like the accessibility of the Concepts to a wider part of the fellowship. There were concerns about the prudence since the Literature Committee is overloaded with changes and new literature presented, as well as the cost and amount of person-power to make it happen. // Ninety-nine percent were in favor. Combining literature will raise a question of what the Concepts are and provide an opportunity to hook them into general service. One person said it's a waste of literature. // Our group is up for change; it's a great teaching mechanism. // In my group, nine were in favor, two were against, and one abstained. Someone asked, "Why can't we just use the pamphlet?" Perhaps a separate book for the Twelve Concepts would be more efficient. Another opinion was that the Concepts were already in the big book. A final question was, "How would this be used at meeting level?" // Some favored combining literature, but most found it unnecessary and redundant. There were questions about cost, and some shared that it's already in the AA Group pamphlet. // My group was split. A couple of them didn't know how to vote because they weren't familiar with The Concepts. Some shared that the Concepts are too complicated for newcomers, and they wouldn't be interested in hearing about them. Some were concerned about the cost of producing a new book, and someone shared that the Concepts are already in the Service Manual and other literature. // Many members in the meeting were unaware that we have 12 Concepts of World Service. I read them to the group. Since they weren't aware, the voting was unanimous in favor. // We read the Big Book in my group. The consensus was that the Twelve Concepts are already in the Big Book, the Service Manual, and pamphlets. However, there could be some benefit if a plain language version of the Concepts existed. // Chitra took a sense of the room and determined the body was ready to vote. **Motion passed by substantial unanimity.** 125 in favor, 34 against, and 5 abstentions. The minority opinion was heard. This feels like a vanity project and doesn't seem necessary. Our job is to create literature that helps people get sober. I appreciate wanting people to be introduced to the concepts. They're already published in the Service Manual. We're in tight shape financially. Is this the best use of group funds? // I agree with what was just said. Additionally, I feel strongly that my heart goes to whether it's what we need or want. I want this as someone in General Service for a long time. As a new person, who would grab this literature in a meeting? This would be a considerable amount of money for our current financial situation. // I'm against producing this literature. The Twelve and Twelve book was hard to understand. Our triangle is designed for a reason. Once we learn unity and recovery, we go into service. Our books are written the way they are because they're working. // I opposed the motion because not everyone is prepared to look at all three simultaneously. It's too much for a newcomer. The expense is important, especially since the Concepts are available elsewhere. Yes, people in General Service want people to know about concepts. We should be careful not to use our desire to bring people into General Service as a reason for the expense. // I'm against it because we make changes for a need. It's not necessary if we already have it in a book. // Our group thinks we already have the literature, and this isn't the best way to get the message across about the Concepts, especially our financial position. Maybe there's a more cost-effective way to get it out. // Financially, it is not a wise expenditure. It would dilute the power of our 12 and 12 to make it so broad. // If you read the Concepts without the Service Manual, you'd have to go to the Service Manual to understand it anyway. // We want more people in General Service, but we get lost on the principle of attraction over promotion. Our Big Book says none of us makes a sole vocation of this work. Nor do we think its effectiveness would be increased if we did. Elimination of drinking is just the beginning. A much more important demonstration of our principles lies in our respective homes, occupations, and affairs. // We'd be spending more when we need to save money. **Motion to reconsider passed by simple majority. << Motion to remain Old Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly on April 6, 2023. >>**

## **AREA INVENTORY**

What role does the Area have in supporting Districts and Groups?

- Area officers visit districts each month, but there is a disconnect between Area and groups. Could be a position to visit groups who don't have representation and offer support.
- There could be a link between the registrar and DCMCs to inform the DCMCs about who is registered.
- Some districts don't have a lot of support within the district and could benefit from partnering with other districts or the area.
- One asset is the Pre & Post-Conference Assemblies.
- The area operates as a sounding board; the area can combine initiatives to present a common message.
- An area is a support system; we have trusted servants.

- The area can function to get us out of our bubbles and hear what matters to different districts.
- Officers have been wonderful in communicating and facilitating discussions and helpful models for future servants.
- Officers help train GSRs for future Area Officers.
- Why don't officers visit districts online so we can save on travel expenses?
- Assemblies make General Service real, and we know that others care and are heard.
- Area could provide district/area maps to groups so they can see how they are related to the Area.
- It's a fundamental role; I think about what officers will visit us, and it's helpful when officers share what is coming down the pipeline. I really appreciate the agenda topic summaries. The delegate's report is very important.
- Area doesn't have authority over groups, but it's important that all members are included.
- Keeping the GSRs informed is very important, as well as keeping the Area informed on what's going on in the group.
- There was a PI/CPC workshop, and it was helpful. Area could put on more workshops throughout the year, not just group conscience time. Workshop idea: how to run a group business meeting.
- To assist in the formation and discussion of ideas from each group and/or district.
- Without the Area, all I would know about is my group. The Area facilitates carrying the message because there will be people behind me ready to serve.
- Our Area is unique in developing Agenda Topic Summaries, other areas use our summaries, the summaries are very valuable.
- We do a bad job of communicating, and it is perceived that we are a religious organization; I think communication is still very poor. With so many groups not having a GSR, it impacts groups financially supporting. I think it's because of the changes to literature. GSRs are more likely to stay sober; let's share that.
- Safety is an important topic; the Area can help provide information and take action to make sure that AA is safe. I want this Area to empower groups and districts to take action to make AA safe.
- Not everybody in AA is comfortable with digital platforms. We don't mail as many communications anymore and some people would benefit from that.
- The Area does the work that the districts can't do themselves. The Area can help with Spanish-speakers
- I asked an area officer with support for our local safety committee but nobody showed up or asked how it went and was discouraged from proposing an Area safety committee. The summaries are not the only context for agenda topics.
- It would be helpful to know specifically how the districts can support the Area.
- It's important to transmit information to districts and groups.
- There is consistency in the Comments & Comentarios. Maybe we could have written reports from each district so that we find themes that are happening across the Area.
- It is vital that the Delegate participates in New York, and I appreciate the videos and information that he gave to us. Maybe if the officers came directly to groups, that might be helpful.
- Area supports the districts and groups and being willing to listen to the proposals from the groups.

How do we ensure we gather an informed Group Conscience?

- The chair does a great job; she takes the time required. I wish we had more support to districts and groups on how to facilitate an informed group conscience. When done well, you can feel the love.
- At the post-conference assembly, I made a number of announcements at a local group so people other than GSRs know. I make a GSR announcement every week. Maybe I can make announcements about what I think the group conscience is and get feedback.
- The area shares information that we can share at our groups.
- Keeping the chain of communication to districts open, area officer visits, and reading the background materials for agenda topics. The Area gives information to the DCMC and they keep the GSRs informed.
- The Area sends us Comments via email and papers and there are a lot of fliers. Officers can visit groups to help inspire groups to have GSRs.
- I try to tell my group what a group conscience is. Attending assemblies allow me to have an open mind. When I hear your whys and why nots, it reminds me that AA is not all about me.
- The district is a vehicle for the groups. A lot of times the information is hard to understand.

- Our districts have agenda topics workshops which is nice, but having a more formal Pass It On. Maybe agenda topic sharing sessions would be helpful.
- I emailed the agenda topics to my group members and had them decide what they wanted to talk about. I didn't know that not all of our thoughts on the agenda topics are discussed at the General Service Conference.
- It is my responsibility as a GSR to provide my group with information, I take as much information as I can get from the Area and then bring that information to my group so they can understand what we are talking about x2
- Some of the summaries are still confusing. It is a huge burden on our officers and maybe we can spread out the responsibility across the fellowship. Sometimes, the topics on their own are confusing.
- Ask the group if you have an informed group conscience before you leave the topic.
- Providing our homegroup full access to information, I can impact that information by using my "old-timer" knowledge, not manipulating the information. The majority opinion is not always correct.
- Agenda topic workshops are awesome; the more we share our information as openly as possible, the better.
- The Area is also a group. Subcommittees could also have a vote. They have responsibility, but no voice.
- I have to be well informed so that I can share that information. We can make our service attractive so that other people remain interested and informed.
- It is still ok to ask for help, especially from DCMs and service sponsor. I shadowed DCMs in getting consciences and that was helpful.
- Make sure you have time, don't rush it. I liked how I could submit the group conscience even if we ran out of time. I could let me group members know they can email me their thoughts if time is limited.
- I could use a year-long DCMC college course; we can observe other districts' agenda-topic workshops to get more information.
- Make sure we speak to be understood and listen to understand.
- The Area could help us understand what it means to get an informed group conscience.
- I am so glad to see the unity with the Spanish-speaking & English-speaking fellowships.
- The standing committees can help with agenda topic summaries.

How can the Area operate prudently while considering the Groups we serve?

- You can't manage what you don't monitor. We have 140 groups but only 12 GSRs. We are being severely underrepresented. Each district could report how many meetings and how many GSRs there are and we can use that data to help inform us.
- Our district has a finance committee & a budget which are very helpful.
- The ACM is 3 hours long. We're often left an hour or less to discuss motions. We should dedicate more time at the ACM to discuss business and not long reports.
- The officers put a lot of time in and so do many others here, a monthly breakdown of income and expenses would be helpful.
- The district and officers should keep the groups informed.
- Sometimes we don't give the time required to talk about items and finances, there is a lack of communication.
- I have a hard time keeping track of the budget when discussing topics at ACM. It would be helpful to have real-time updates on the budget when considering financially supporting groups/committees.
- If we are not prudent, we won't survive. We could have more cost & benefit consideration.
- I have faith that it will work out. Groups are authorizers, so increased transparency to share with groups. Maybe a short document. The groups treasury reports should be clear as well.
- We've been spending too much money. We could save money by making things online. Sharing information is helpful.
- Bring the financial concerns and needs to the groups.
- I'm this assembly's treasurer, and these assemblies are expensive. We're spending \$12,000/year on assemblies. We can save costs by having food donated.
- The financial reports from July-October are not available on the website. Even the info that I could find, the items are very unclear so I'm not sure what the money is being spent on.
- There is personal responsibility, we each have a part to play in creating support. I think we need a code of conduct in AA.
- We're financially not OK. Our district can support the area and GSO. We can put it out to the fellowship that the Area needs more contributions. We can have people bring their own food and cut \$2,000 on food.

- This is a useful discussion. We have a hard time keeping service positions, and we can spread out the resources. We have to either cut back on resources or costs.
- It's not just about money. We have spent a lot of money lately, and we focus on it. We focused on \$50 on coffee. We can be more prudent on how we make decisions.
- Do we know the difference between a want and a need? In the next two months, we'll have the opportunity to look at our budget. We can stop officer travel for a month. We also can throw assembly on Zoom, but most of us don't like that.
- The groups and GSRs don't always have accurate information.
- How we respond to safety is a prudency issue. Groups are struggling, and we should talk about safety directly.
- Our treasurer stated that we have one month of prudent reserve. We might want to expand our prudent reserve.
- Inclusivity and translation are important.

Why are we Hybrid? Access or Equity? What should the Area's role be?

- We have a pandemic, and it's not over yet. COVID still exists. The access part is really important. How can we connect with those of us who can't attend in person? The people online want to participate. I know the technology is expensive, but I think we can make things better. Last panel I attended online only, and it was very different than being in person.
- Being hybrid is accepting life on life's terms. Having online access allows greater participation.
- I'd like to offer a poll to the members online and in person about why people choose to participate in the way that they do.
- There are about 85 people online. We do participate, and we do care. Area is critical to sharing information, and I want to keep an online option.
- Area's role is to provide access in person or online.
- I used to think that hybrid was no longer needed, but my opinion has changed. It is important for access, but I feel more connected when I am in person. At a previous assembly, I participated online, but it was hard because the audio was spotty. It would be helpful to facilitate online breakout rooms to increase participation and discussion.
- It is not equitable, but it provides access. Hybrid can save us money.
- It's the times we live in. Being hybrid is required. Zoom should be a necessity. Area should keep us informed.
- I've changed my mind on this issue, a lot of meetings in our district are hybrid. Have we increased participation through Zoom? How are we leveraging this accessibility? Is the tech helping more people get involved? Are we being responsible in how we encourage participation? We should encourage people to put in the work.
- When I hear equitable, I think of the picture of 3 boxes of different heights with kids looking over a fence. Different people need more or less boxes. Virtual/hybrid meetings provide that access, and there are tweaks that need to be made. This assembly has been a good online experience. We can be equitable & accessible, not only or.
- Who are we leaving behind without this tool? I've only been able to participate in person for nine months, and Zoom has allowed me to participate fully as a GSR. This location is small and hard to maneuver a wheelchair around. We've been making strides, and more can be done, and I hope we keep Zoom.
- The Area should be comprehensive. Some people live far away or have other challenges.
- I am a strong proponent of in-person, but Zoom has been a God-send. Zoom has been helpful for groups.
- I meet with my sponsor & sponsees online. I've been more connected because of online service. I have health issues, and I can participate online. We did breakout rooms for lunch at an online workshop, and it was nice. Access is love.
- I was at home, and after hearing you all this morning, I came to participate in person.
- A lot of groups are hybrid and have found it more accessible. We can make changes to allow online engagement.
- It's important to allow people online to vote. The area should unite the people on the screen with the people in person.
- It's unlikely that accessing it online is more expensive; it's just that the cost has shifted to the area. People online should consider participating in the 7th tradition because of the cost it takes to provide the online option. Each person has to be mindful about what is most helpful for them.



- Going hybrid has allowed me to participate. I feel like I'm a part of the group when participating online. It's nice that our district meeting is online as well.
- We need to be hybrid. If we stop providing Zoom, we would make things inaccessible. It's our responsibility at GSRs to participate.
- I'm passionate about the life I got from AA. We can't have equity without access. I'm learning about how general service facilitates 12th-step work. I attend hybrid meetings and appreciate them.
- The Area has been trying to help connect people. My first meetings were on Zoom. It was completely different in person, and I could interact with the officers and different people. For me, meeting in person is preferable.
- We used to say vote with your feet. We can see the evidence of a need for hybrid by the amount of people who show up online. One hundred ninety-six were registered in the room, and 76 were registered online. We haven't been keeping records long enough to compare. A summer assembly was in Eureka in 2018. The total registrations were 270 people. Last summer, there were 227 people in the room and some more online, over 300 in total.
- Monty looks handsome.
- At my group, they wouldn't let me give my report over the phone. Since the pandemic, more people with different schedules can participate. Zoom is a tool to share the message. Please continue supporting being hybrid.
- I'm learning a lot from the Zoom assembly. There would need to be a bigger room if everybody attended in person.
- I didn't like doing Zoom, but I'm glad it's hybrid. Speaking in person is more powerful, and I'm able to be more connected in person.
- This is a continuing discussion. My opinion keeps changing. Time will tell if online meetings help keep more people sober. Is the cost of hybrid sustainable? There are three tech members that participate in each meeting, and that adds cost.
- I can pay more attention on Zoom and gather more information. The Area could suggest some etiquette on how to participate on Zoom.
- I'm in general service because I want to make sure AA is relevant and available for the next generation. The digital door is open. Can we close it? The technology committee assessed the cost, and it was cheaper to provide travel reimbursements than other options. We do hybrid with trusted servants; they are not hired as vendors.
- I can't judge people who are here or who are online. If they are online, there is a reason, and they know what works for them. A lot of people participate online for the first time. God has given us this tool and allowed us to use it. Our unity is more important than money; each person has to be responsible.
- There is a lot of support for hybrid. I'm sober because of it. I can't attend crowded rooms, and I'm grateful to be able to participate online.

How do we grant our trusted servants sufficient authority to match their responsibility?

- Every month, there are 3-8 housekeeping motions related to finance, and it makes it hard to get effective answers. We're talking about increasing the decorations budget, and people are dying on the streets.
- We have to remember that we're all volunteers.
- I'm grateful to have balance between authority and responsibility.
- We should have confidence in our trusted servants.
- Giving the servants autonomy is important to allow them to serve.
- In our district, we're considering allowing committee chairs a vote. We're not currently calculating quorum. We can look at who is present and if it's representative of the upside-down triangle.
- Concepts are a series of delegations. There will always be a tension around us allowing people to do the job we elected them to do. Often, the servants don't know certain aspects of the job.
- The ad hocs have a lot of responsibility but no voting right so they are not fully participating.
- It affects all of us. The Area doesn't have a charter or position descriptions; we have a tradition.
- When we elect our servants, we trust them.
- It depends on the job at hand. They should match, or the trust will be broken.

Have we risen to the challenges of service? Where have we fallen short?

- I came here because I wanted to get things done and it's more important to learn how things get done. What needs to happen happens. We're learning by trial and error. We are rising to the challenge.

- Thanks to the Area Officers x3
- We haven't risen to the challenge. Every committee is having a hard time filling positions. A lot of people are not being of service. We should ask the new person what their service position is. If you're in service, you're in gratitude. Go back to your groups and ask people what service they will do.
- I wish more people would participate. It's time to include people on Zoom better.
- We did an excellent job of rising to the challenges of the pandemic. We can do a better job explaining why general service is important.
- There is a lot of applause and cheering and it makes it hard for people to participate in the minority opinion. It might discourage people from sharing their thoughts.
- Our membership survey shows that AA is 2/3 male, 87% white, the over-60 population is rising, and the under-20 population is falling. We need to keep the doors open and expanding. We don't have a national database for registrars, and we should. We just got a Grapevine app, and we can use tech to communicate directly with groups.
- More emphasis on the service structure. Get to know each other as humans.
- We have made a lot of decisions to continue the business of the Area. We haven't taken care of finances.
- The Spanish-speakers have a voice, but there aren't other groups represented who speak different languages. They are suffering, too.
- We are struggling to fill our service commitments. Where have we failed, not how have we failed. Not representing our districts.
- AA as a whole had risen to the challenge. That doesn't mean we can't do more. We should encourage service with newcomers.
- The Area has not fallen short. There is a lot of inclusion with the Spanish-speaking community, and people who speak Spanish serve as officers. Some people told me that I couldn't be of service because I don't speak English, but it's not true.

#### **WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?**

When I think about how successful our Area has been, I think about our transition from online to hybrid. We fall on many things, but we succeed in many ways. Thank you for being here and sharing. // I'm learning a lot as a new GSR. I recently learned that my district does not have an accessibility committee for deaf/hard of hearing alcoholics. I've learned how to make a motion. Regarding hybrid capability, H&I brings meetings to people who can't attend a meeting, and hybrid does the same for homebound people. My home group has officially made it on the meeting schedule. // The Pre-Conference Assembly is in Petaluma on April 6th and 7th, 2024! // Thank you to the Hybrid team, on-site and on Zoom, for your service. // All are invited to the 49th annual alcahthon in San Mateo County. Visit [alkothonsmc.com](http://alkothonsmc.com). // Today's contributions were \$1188. // We've held steady at about 30% online participation since transitioning from online-only to hybrid. // Thank you to the assembly committee for a fantastic job! It came in under budget! // I've chosen to be a GSR because I'm curious about what's going on with other groups. It feels different from before the pandemic. Fewer people are volunteering for service. // It appears that more people are online than registered. More emphasis on online registration would be helpful to make sure we have accurate numbers. // I was struck by the suggestion that we do something with apps to improve communication.

*The meeting was closed at 5:21 pm by Chitra S. with the Responsibility Declaration.*

In love and service,

Sarah B.  
CNCA Recording Secretary, Panel 73