

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA POST-CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 2023 MINUTES

The Post-Conference Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held at The Donworth Event Center in San Francisco on May 13, 2023, with members attending and participating in person and virtually. Chitra S. opened the meeting at 9:30 followed by the Serenity Prayer. Assembly orientation was presented by past delegate Jennifer B. The AA Preamble was read by Theresa M. from District 70, Vanessa from District 07 read the Twelve Traditions, and Lourdes from District 40 read the Traditions in Spanish. There were eight past Delegates present: Teddy B. (Panel 69), Joann L. (P67), Bob D. (P36; Area 08), Jennifer B. (P71), Barbara M. (P41), Diane O. (P35), Ken M. (P61), and Padee M. (P63). There were eight Past Area Officers: Amy M. (P71), Magdaleno O. (P69), Michael Q. (P63 & 65), Martha B. (57), Margarete V. (P57, 59), Ray W., Augustine (P61, 63, 65), and Judy (P63). There was one past trustee, Billy N. The minutes from the Pre-Conference assembly were accepted as published in the CNCA Comments and Comentarios. **Attendance:** 274 (208 in person; 66 online).

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE – ERIC L.: I have sent out to DCMCs information about AA's financial health, a spreadsheet detailing what happened to each Agenda Topic, and information about the participation of online groups in the General Service structure. DCMCs should be forwarding that information to their Districts.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – MIGUEL H.: The most recent issue of Box 459 includes a call for applications for a Non-trustee appointed committee member on the Trustees' Literature Committee. I deeply appreciate the hard work from Districts 16 and 06 to put on this assembly.

CHAIR – CHITRA S.: Now that agenda topics are finished, we are learning two leadership skills: communication and group conscience. General Service information comes in the form of emails from our Delegate and Chair and is sent to DCMCs and Committee Chairs. They pass the emails on to their committee members, officers, and GSRs. The GSRs then relay the info to their home groups. Each month, in the CNCA Comments, we publish a section called Area Motions. These motions can be brought to your home groups, districts, and committees, and you can lead a group conscience and bring it to the microphone at an Assembly or ACM. Concept Four asks us to step up and participate.

TREASURER – CLAUDIA N.: As of today, our checking account has \$30,011.17 and our prudent reserve, which is one month's operating expenses, has \$13,001.17. As of the end of April, our actual contributions were \$51,416.73 and our projected contributions were \$40,668.32. Our actual expenses this quarter were \$65,939.26 and our budgeted expenses were \$53,100.29. Payments made early for multiple assemblies, contributions to the GSC, and changes in our rentals for the ACM were responsible for most of the increases. Please be sure to let your groups and meetings know CNCA has changed its address. 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. Today you can make contributions by scanning the QR Codes on 7th tradition buckets, placing cash in the buckets, using Square at the finance table, and online at cnca06.org/contribute/

REGISTRAR – DREW B.: In the service manual it says, "It might be helpful to think of general service as a kind of dialogue or communication between the groups, the trusted servants working on their behalf, and the General Service Office and General Service Board as they all manage the Fellowship's affairs." When you register, you begin that process of communication across our fellowship. Our registration table is at the front entrance of the assembly because, as registrar, I'm the "area greeter." When I am greeted or get to greet someone at a meeting, the expression of love and service happens inside the simple gesture of telling someone hello and welcome. So please give some love to your local meeting greeter and your local General Service greeter: your District Registrar.

RECORDING SECRETARY – SARAH B.: Our pre-conference assembly business meeting minutes were 6,514 words of love and service. I'll now be holding a competition to guess the word count for the minutes. Whoever gets closest to guessing the word count without going over will win a prize. Please submit your guess to recordingsecretary@cnca06.org by the end of the month with the subject line "word count competition." You must be present at the next assembly or ACM to collect your prize. For reference, the 2022 post-conference assembly minutes were 5,243 words. Also, I formatted a live table of contents into the digital motions book, such that when you click on a heading or subheading from the table of contents, the document jumps to that page. You can also set the view in Acrobat or Preview to see a side panel with the table of contents.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – JACKIE B.: Thank you for coming to the outer sunset of San Francisco, my hometown and home neighborhood! We are trying out a few new things at today's assembly. QR codes on tables and hyperlinks in the chat will take our attendees to a CNCA linktr.ee landing page, where you can easily find the agenda packet, registration link, 7th tradition links, area website, and more. We reserved five accessibility parking spots on top of the

CA Handicap Parking spots, and we are projecting closed captions on the screens. The Summer Assembly will take place on Saturday, August 12th in Eureka, CA. strongly recommend booking your rooms now.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – MATT E.: We're going to hear today from our area delegate about the first few chapters of the Plain Language Translation of the Big Book. This is not a replacement; it is a translation. Please ask the delegate your questions about the chapters he read at the conference. Express your concerns. Be informed. It is critical that the full group conscience of AA is involved in our process of finding ways to make sure that the message of recovery can be brought to all who need it, in a way that is accessible and relatable to them.

AREA STANDING & SUB-COMMITTEES

ACCESSIBILITIES – THOM H.: The accessibilities sub-committee is looking into how to support the Hispanic Women's workshop so they may have a voice in the Area. We discussed ways to create sub-committees within our sub-committee. The more research we complete, the more questions we find. This investigation is creating a lot of interest in the areas of linguistics, and remote communities. At our next meeting on May 20th online, we will receive a full report from the Deaf Access Project, which will be beneficial for moving ahead with new projects. We received a heartfelt letter from an AA member who is deaf and stressed the need for access to in-person ASL meetings. The Accessibility committee has been asked to provide input for input with the updating of the Assembly guidelines and YPAA has asked for input on making ICYPAA as fully accessible as possible.

ARCHIVES – CAROL H.: The Archives Committee is working together to understand how to determine what has been accumulated for their districts and what to do with it. We have several projects to start, one of which involves inventorying what we have in the storage room, the display room, and the room off the "tape room." During the June workday, we will be viewing the National AA Archives Workshop web page for instructional and informational purposes. Our workdays are on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 193 Mayhew Way, Walnut Creek from noon to 4:00.

BRIDGING THE GAP – JOHN O.: The BTG District Chairs have been very busy building the teams. We have approximately 230 active members. That number will increase as more districts still need to finalize their rosters and send their volunteer totals. Lake County will be hosting the BTG Forum on Saturday, October 21, 2023. We will be losing a very key member of BTG, Grant V., as he is relocating to Southern California. He will be truly missed. We wish him well.

FINANCE – JAVIER L. (FOR DAVID N.): Not much has changed since our report at the pre-conference assembly. We are presenting a motion to the Area Committee Meeting later this month which suggests a couple of clarifying changes to the Expense Reimbursement Guidelines. The changes have a net zero budget impact. We'll start the process of drafting the proposed 2024 Area budget in May. Each finance committee member has been assigned to one or more of the area standing and sub-committees to help them determine their financial needs for next year. Please continue to inform your groups and group treasurers about our PO box address change. The deadline for closing the old box is November 30th; we need all groups to be using the new address before that date.

INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – JOSE L.: In our monthly meeting we discussed how many portable radios are working and how many are failing. We also talked about how many we needed in the pre-conference assembly since we ran out of them. We will be making a motion to ask for the purchase of new digital radios since analog radios have more problems. We have two new members of our committee: Jose F. from District 18 is our translation editor and James H. a position member. Our interpretation coordinator collaborated with the setup for ASL at the post-conference assembly. To date, around 120 documents and 30 emails have been translated, including the Comments/Comentarios each month.

PI/CPC – MIGUEL H.: Public information provides information about what AA is –and what it is not – to the public, either directly or via the media. Our cooperation with the professional community provides similar information to professionals who meet problem drinkers in a professional capacity. According to our Triennial Membership Survey, 59 percent of our members said they were referred to AA by medical and mental health professionals. Our Area PI/CPC committee is preparing the participate in the American Psychiatric Association 2023 in San Francisco May 20-25. This is the first post-pandemic in-person big event we'll be participating in. In April, we had a presentation about displaying and what materials are appropriate for the public vs professionals. Our committee meets the third Saturday of every month at 9 AM and everyone is welcome.

TECHNOLOGY – JACQUELINE P.: The committee is working on defining our guidelines, jobs, policies, and procedures to present to the area for approval. The committee presented a motion and answered questions at the area committee that our hybrid team is reimbursed for their travel; the motion is still in discussion. The hybrid subcommittee identified that most of the glitches at the pre-conference assembly were related to interpretation; we have done several run-throughs before today's assembly to ensure it runs smoothly. The committee received an estimate of \$8,200 from a professional company to produce the Assembly. Your Hybrid Team trusted servants are producing our gathering with their love, service, and prudent spending on the necessary equipment. Please complete the survey about the hybrid

functionality of this assembly. It will be sent out to DCMCs by the area chair. We especially want to hear from members attending online. We are reaching out to area officers and committee chairs to assess how the technology committee can help streamline communications, file storage, and our cloud capacities. The committee is curious about what the area might need for a workshop on technology. We welcome feedback at techchair@cnca06.org. We have a place on our committee for passionate A.A. members who are excited about technological growth in our area.

WEBSITE – JAMES B.: This year there were approximately 131 group consciences for agenda topics submitted with 121 in English and 10 in Spanish using the form on the website. Liz joined the committee to fill the position of a tech person. She will assist with WordPress, plugins, and keeping the host up to date. We are creating a checklist to ensure the repetitive tasks are documented and tracked making it easier to ensure something doesn't get missed. We upgraded WordPress from 6.1 to 6.2. Please use the "contact us" form on the area website and pick a website chair (or email me at webchair@cnca06.org) with any feedback you have.

PRAASA 2024 – TEDDY B-W: We have signed the contract with the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, the venue for the event on March 1st – 3rd 2024. We have a logo, badges, and bookmarks. We have over 80 volunteers signed up so far. Email praasa2024@gmail.com if you'd like to serve on one of the committees. Our budgeting process is underway and we are in the process of receiving a pass-it-on from the PRAASA 2023 host committee. The motion for future PRAASAs to incorporate a virtual component was not discussed at PRAASA 2023. Noting this, the PRAASA 2024 Steering Committee discussed the matter and reaffirmed its group conscience that any decision to include an online component for the event exceeds the authority of the host committee and is a decision to be made by PRAASA at its business meeting because this affects other PRAASAs and PRAASA as a whole.

ICYPAA – CRYSTAL AND JUSTIN: The 73rd International Convention of Young People in AA will be in San Francisco from September 1-4th at the Marriott Marquis. It was last here 11 years ago and 4,419 people attended. The theme is "To watch loneliness vanish." Registration is \$35. It's one of two conferences recognized by GSO. As a district, you can sponsor newcomers to go. Our next business meeting is in Vacaville; you can also join us on Zoom. We have 33 available service positions and encourage you to participate.

Hispanic Forum (Foro Hispano) – CHARLIE: The event will be Sunday, October 22nd, from 8 am to 4 pm at the location of the Carpinteros 713: 1050 Mattox Road, Hayward, CA 94541. District 20 is hosting. We expect at least 200 people. We will be visiting linguistic districts to share information.

AREA BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS:

- 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*

Discussion: Group consciences: Our group unanimously supports this motion, there should be no difference in translation from the Spanish version. // "Como nosotros los concebimos" isn't wrong. What makes sense in one language doesn't necessarily make sense in another. // We want to keep it simple. The step says as we understood him. // Eleven disagrees with changing the phrase from conceive to understand. Conceive is understandable. One person said we don't understand everything, but we can understand God. // Conceive is deeper. We want to keep it as is. // Five members agree that conceive should be changed because a religious program tells you how to conceive but we have a personal relationship with God and spirituality. // We should study this more. Conceive comes from within you not from outside. Understanding comes from your mind which is a different act. We should leave it. // Eight members didn't have an opinion because we weren't the people to decide that, but we were honored. Prayers are sent to Spanish-speaking members as they make this decision. // My group felt that we don't have the expertise and it should be left strictly up to Spanish speakers. **Personal opinions:** Changing this would take money. It's not about the money, but it is something I've considered. I don't think the change is needed. // Conceive has a spiritual element; understand is too simple. It doesn't make sense to change it. // I'm a credentialed teacher of Spanish. Based on my knowledge of Spanish, the wording shouldn't be changed.

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

Vote by substantial unanimity: Yes (15) / No (68) / Abstain (32).

Minority Opinion: My vote for this motion is more about passing the motion on for a greater discussion for AA as a whole rather than agreeing with the change. **There was no motion to reconsider. <<< Motion Failed. >>>**

NEW 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: We are curious about what format, there is not enough information. It's General Service biased. Concerned about this writing being combined with Bill W.'s. Is this necessary? We should stay focused and limit motions. // One person against. He said we have it in book form, it's redundant and costly. The majority were in favor because not enough people know about the concepts. The combination would provide better exposure to the concepts. The more we know the better. // There is no need for a combination. One member mentioned that having them combined could confuse the newcomer. // Most had no interest in talking about this. Nobody cares about the concepts because nobody knows what they are. Those that participated were in favor. A minority opinion was that we should add a footnote in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* book (12X12) on where to find the concepts in our literature. // The group is in favor of including the twelve concepts in the 12 X 12. It's a good way to teach newcomers that they have a voice in AA. The concepts are confusing, seeing them earlier can build familiarity. // We are in favor because the committee is only being asked to consider literature and existing literature wouldn't be replaced. // We are in favor, but we don't want to add it to the existing 12X12 book. Our district's lack of familiarity with general service may be related to a lack of participation in general service. This literature could increase participation. // If more GSRs understood the concepts, they would be less afraid to step into General Service. // My district thinks this is a good idea. // Many in our group are in favor because it can help and support new trusted servants to get familiarized and be informed. // My group was in favor but was concerned about changing the 12X12. One person against said it would spark curiosity to have it in the back of the 12X12. **Personal opinions:** I'm opposed because there is material like this that already exists in Central Mexico printed in 2006 with the three legacies. It's only available in Spanish. It belongs to the archives. // General service introduced me to the concepts, and it's improved my ability to serve. // It seems like a good idea because sometimes our groups have people for whom the concepts are unknown. // If I was introduced to the steps, traditions, and concepts when I was new, I would be less intimidated by them. This would help me convey information to the group as a GSR. // Our program is based on three legacies, and they are principles. I would have been more apt to get involved in GS earlier if I had been exposed to the concepts. // It's a good idea because it lets people know that the concepts are there and there's a chance that people will read them. I'm in a 12 and 12-step study each week and it's probably the least attended. I keep finding things in it I've never read before. When I asked the group about this motion, they were really confused. Their biggest concern was whether it would take away the original 12X12 but generally did not have an opinion. // It would create an additional understanding of general service and the concepts are an introduction to service and could help them understand the twelve traditions, which are also part of service. // It's important to have them together because a lot of people have never heard of the concepts. If they are using the 12X12, they would see a section and it wouldn't be foreign to them. // I think having all in one book is a great idea. I was not introduced to the concepts until I was involved in general service. // I like it as a separate publication, but I don't think it should be added to the current 12X12 because it would increase the cost. I'm a member of a book study that goes through about 20 AA-approved books. We dropped the service manual because it was kind of long and there wasn't much interest, but we kept the concepts. Many people say it's dry and want to drop that too. // Not knowing about the concepts is like not having all the ingredients for a cake; it doesn't make for a good cake. I want to do anything and everything to stay sober and I think that includes educating people about general service. // I didn't know what to do as a new GSR. I think it's a great idea to have this. If I had a hand on all three, it would have helped me be more knowledgeable walking into general service, and probably would have done it sooner. // I found the concepts at a concept study group before a district meeting. They were very dry and difficult to understand. If they were presented at an earlier stage, I wouldn't have been put off by it. I'm against adding it to the 12X12 because it would be complicated and expensive. // It's important to remember that we're not all geeks. As newcomers, we're told to keep it simple, and the concepts aren't simple. My sponsor told me more will be revealed. There is other literature like the twelve concepts illustrated. That's sufficient and doesn't need to be included with the steps and traditions. It's easy to get overwhelmed so we should introduce general service gradually. // I didn't know about the concepts until I was in general service. I was in general service for a while before I learned about the warranties. // This would be helpful for translation into other languages for countries that don't know about general service. // My understanding is that this would be a separate publication. I believe the concepts are difficult to understand, but it's an in-depth view of the service structure which is very important and spiritual. I'm in favor of this. // I want to clarify that this motion is not requesting a change in the 12X12, it is requesting a new piece of literature. // This isn't the first time we've asked the Conference to do this. It takes time for things to get approved. This would bring discussion to all of AA, and I think that's worth it. // I'm in favor. I didn't understand the 12 steps or 12 traditions, but I had a service sponsor that helped me understand. // We're spending a lot of money changing the 12X12 which makes people uncomfortable, so I think this is a good idea. // I would be in favor of a special edition combining the 12, 12, and 12. For example, there is a special edition of AA Comes of Age, a special edition of the original Big Book replica.

<< **Motion to become Old Business at the Summer Assembly on held at Redwood Acres Fairground on August 12, 2023.** >>

SHARING ON GRAPEVINE AND LA VIÑA

Teddy B., non-trustee director for the Grapevine/La Viña board, shared updates for the Grapevine/La Viña mobile app,

and Magdaleno O., advisor on the La Viña editorial board, shared about the editorial board and his service there.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Our area passed a motion to request a pamphlet for the transgender alcoholic, but it was not put on the agenda. There are people interested in further discussion on this. In July, the Literature/Grapevine/La Viña sharing session at 9 am of the ACM will discuss the need for a pamphlet for the transgender alcoholic. It's an open meeting. Please let your groups and districts know and invite them to attend. // We collected \$965 today, including online. // It bothers me that the bathrooms at the assembly are marked men and women/nonbinary. As a nonbinary person, I would like to have a choice of what bathroom I'm most comfortable with. Both bathrooms should be inclusive. // I feel we rushed our decision to vote on our old business. We needed more discussion. There were a considerable amount of people abstaining. I also wish that there were more English-speaking members sharing their input. When we discuss literature, we should include everybody regardless of language. // Today there were 274 attendees, 208 in the room, and 66 registered online. There were more online than those registered, so we're trying to find a way to make the link to register more apparent. // After listening to the delegate's report, we appear to not be changing enough with the times. I was struck by how many of us are older in the membership survey. It's encouraging to see the Conference looking at race, encouraging diversity and more inclusivity. // Thanks District 16 for hosting. Thanks to our past assembly coordinator. Over the last 2.5 years, we've had all linguistic districts host an assembly. // I appreciate the unity of Spanish and English-speaking cultures in our area meetings, and I think it should also occur at the group level. In the South Bay, we've started a bilingual hybrid meeting, it's on the meeting schedule. Please come visit. // We're excited to host the summer assembly and the summer assembly dinner. // I was thinking about the lack of younger people on our membership survey. The pamphlet Too Young was written in the 70s but it's not being updated but put in video format. We need to think about what we're doing to carry the message. The onus is being put on young people to design their own literature, and I'm not a graphic designer.

The meeting was closed at 5:12 by Chitra S. with the Responsibility Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B.
CNCA Recording Secretary, Panel 73