

## CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA PRECONFERENCE ASSEMBLY 2024 MINUTES

The Pre-Conference Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held at the Petaluma Veterans Memorial Building in Petaluma on April 6, 2024, with members attending and participating in person and virtually. Jim F. presented the assembly orientation. Chitra S. opened the meeting at 9:00 followed by the Serenity Prayer. Dana K. from District 08 read the AA Preamble; Michael M. from District 11 read the Twelve Traditions, and John A. from District 18 read the Traditions in Spanish. There were ten past Delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (P36 from Area 08), Barbara M. (41), Jim M. (45) David N. (59), Jim F. (59; Area 38), Ken M. (61), Joann L. (67), Teddy B. (9), and Jennifer B. (71). There were five Past Area Officers: Ray W. (P63), Martha B. (57), Michael Q. (63 & 65), Judy W. (63), and Magdaleno O. (69). There was one past trustee present, David N. The Fall Assembly minutes were accepted as published in the CNCA Comments and Comentarios. **Attendance:** (Two-day registered): 527 in person and 189 online.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**DELEGATE – ERIC L.:** The General Service Conference starts next weekend and lasts for an entire week. The Conference will meet for nearly 80 hours over seven days, culminating in a list of recommendations and advisory actions to the General Service Board, which is charged with implementing these. Because of virtual technology, we've already held some meetings but have conducted no business. As an Area, we meet again at the Post-Conference Assembly; that's when I will share with you what happened, how it happened, and why it happened – regarding some of the topics we will discuss this weekend.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – MIGUEL H.:** I continue praying for Eric and scheduled a week off. I will pay great attention to all that today to take notes with our Delegate and Recording Secretary. Something I can suggest is to walk around and shake some hands. You can make some of your life's best friends here. The General Service Office on Treatment and Accessibilities requests sharing from the Fellowship on the experience of alcoholics with neurodivergence, a mental or neurological function from what is considered typical or normal (frequently used when referring to autistic spectrum disorders). The GSO and Patrick Claymore, 2025 International Convention Coordinator, request speakers. Historically, A.A. has invited non-A.A. friends to be panel speakers at our International Conventions. In keeping with this custom, the 2023 General Service Conference recommended that "p to twenty-one non-A.A. speakers be invited to attend the 2025 International Convention. You must complete one online form for each speaker suggestion, for which you have up to a maximum of five. We are looking for speakers who would be very comfortable sharing their professional experience working with Alcoholics Anonymous. We hope you might suggest professionals who could also be considered as possible future Class A Trustee suggestions. The General Service Board will make selections. Please send me your suggestions for non-A.A. speakers t by Wednesday, May 15, 2024. If there is anything I can do to support you or your Districts, please let me know.

**CHAIR—CHITRA S.:** Thank you so much, District 18 Spanish North and District 12 Sonoma, for all your hard work putting this weekend together. This is from Bill W, in the chapter called A True and High and Constant Purpose, in *Our Great Responsibility*: "When I was asked to write a greeting for this conference, I think I used the word family in describing AA for the first time. It occurred to me that we were more than a therapy, more than a group of alcoholics trying to get along in the world. We here in this room are small fragments of a huge and growing family, a fragment collectively designated for the time being as trusted servants for the rest and appointed to a mission that will further our purpose and our destiny." The agenda packets contain the motions, background, and our voting procedure. We will be hearing group consciences on agenda items, and the packet will give you the order in which we will hear them. We will see each other again on May 11th at the Post Conference Assembly in Willits, hosted by District 14 Mendocino. Our traditions say that Group Conscience is how we express our higher power. Thank you for sharing this experience with me.

**TREASURER – CLAUDIA N.:** Our checking account has \$26,630.20, and our prudent reserve (savings account) is \$13,850.22, 1/12 of this year's budget, or approximately 1-month operating expenses. At the end of this quarter, our actual contributions were \$43,269, and our budgeted contributions were \$35,176. Actual expenses were \$32,219; the budget was \$31,704. Actual expenses in last year's first quarter were \$45,460. Contributions through Square/online totaled \$13,172, approximately 30% of total contributions. Please thank your groups and districts for their generous contributions. Today is a great example of where spirituality and money mix as we come together to do the work connecting our groups, districts, and Area to AA as a whole. Thank you for all you do! You can contribute in multiple ways today by utilizing the QR Codes on the buckets online at [cnca06.org/contribute/](https://cnca06.org/contribute/), on Square at the Finance table in the back, and even with cash!

**ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR—JACKIE B.:** I'm grateful to District 12 Sonoma and District 18 Spanish North for their incredible work hosting this assembly, and I especially acknowledge our assembly co-chairs, Elba, and Michele, for their planning and leadership. I have been revising our Assembly Guidelines to align with our evolving practices,

integrating the ad hoc committee's recommendations. Our guidelines are vital in creating a continuity of best practices for assemblies across districts and time. The updated guidelines and bid form will be presented at the ACM this month. We've made so much progress this panel regarding online and in-person accessibility at our assemblies. Assisted listening, simultaneous hybrid interpretation, priority seating on aisles, reserved wheelchair spaces, additional parking spaces for those with limited mobility, and clearly designating all-gender restrooms whenever available are some of our initiatives. Please book rooms for the post-conference assembly in Willits, hosted by District 14 Mendocino, on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Come early to ride the famous skunk train! District 17 Spanish South will host the summer fun assembly in Campbell on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The fall election assembly will be in Livermore on November 9<sup>th</sup>, hosted by District 07 Alameda North and 70 Alameda South. It is so special when we come together as an Area to do the hard collective work of keeping the hand of AA available and accessible to all who need our help.

**REGISTRAR—DREW B.:** This assembly has been and always will be a physical manifestation of our second tradition. Please register! We do digital registration now. If you are online, there is a link to fill out in the chat or link tree. If you are here in person, you can register using your phone. We register at assemblies to help plan for the future, which, in my opinion, is what general service is all about. Our Registration table is at the front entrance of the Assembly because, as Registrar, I feel as if I am the "Area Greeter," which, coincidentally, is my favorite AA group commitment and the one I currently hold at my home group in Pleasant Hill. We are such a diverse area, and we have many different groups with fun and intriguing names. At each area committee, I identify one that has a fun name for a group you might want to check out. Today, the group I picked from District 07 Alameda North is called Dolphin Quest, which meets on Thursday Nights in Oakland.

**RECORDING SECRETARY – SARAH B.:** This time last year, I was scared and unsure of my ability to do this commitment. Would I be able to type fast enough? What if I missed something? What if the minutes were too long? Today, I'm grateful for what I've learned since then and hopeful to pass along my experience and the experience of others by hosting a virtual Meeting Minutes workshop later this month, on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11:30 am. Interpretation will be provided, and all are welcome, especially those currently holding recording secretary commitments, and anyone interested in learning more. Another project I'm happy to announce is a fun game to support Grapevine and La Vina. I'm accepting guesses of the word count for today's business meeting for a chance to win a print subscription, with which you can do whatever you want. Our past winners have given their prizes to the Carry The Message Project. The Fall Assembly minutes are in the December 2023 issue of the Comments and Comentarios on the area website, and the 2023 Pre-Conference Assembly minutes are in the May 2023 issue. If you find yourself looking up old issues of the Comments/Comentarios, you may also be interested in our Area's Motions Book. It's a historical document containing motions acted upon and information about our Area dating back to 1970. You can have your own Panel 71 Motions Book here in thumb drive form, or I can email it to you.

**LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VINA CHAIR – MATT E.** As our area has prepared for this assembly, I've had the absolute privilege of having so many conversations with so many of you, discussing the agenda topics that are coming up this year. I have heard such an outpouring of love for Alcoholics Anonymous and its services in different written forms. I was especially grateful for the sharing session we held last month, where I heard from our La Viña reps about how La Viña has impacted their community and how it saved and continues to save lives. If you haven't downloaded the Grapevine and La Viña apps, you can scan the QR code on the large window shade displays at the back of the room. The Grapevine podcast has been downloaded over 760,000 times, which puts it in the top 1.5% of podcasts globally. Total subscriptions for the Grapevine are up 12% year over year. Subscriptions for La Viña are up 43% year over year.

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

**ACCESSIBILITIES – THOM H.:** The Accessibilities Committee has gone hybrid since the Fall assembly. We continue to have a strong representation from the various Districts in our Area. District 11 will host a workshop on April 20. We decided to have a banner created and are deciding on the design. Currently, we need a recording secretary, this is a great way to learn about what the Accessibilities Committee does. We seek input on how to serve best the districts we support. If you need anything, you can email [accessibilitieschair@cnca06.org](mailto:accessibilitieschair@cnca06.org). Our Accessibilities Committees explore, develop, and offer resources to alcoholics with significant barriers to receiving the Alcoholics Anonymous message and participating in our program of recovery. We want A.A. to be available to all alcoholics who reach out for it.

**ARCHIVES—CAROL H.:** We continue to encourage group histories and are developing a method for accepting online submissions. We are also working with the web committee to get Archive information on the CNCA website. We meet at the Area Committee Meeting at 10 a.m. and every month on the 2nd Saturday from noon to 4:00 p.m. at 193 Mayhew Way, Pleasant Hill.

**BRIDGING THE GAP – JOHN O.:** District 08 Contra Costa will host the BTG forum this fall. Districts are now migrating over to the Airtable system. We have four people interested in attending the BTGWW in Montana this year.

I will attend the H&I conference in Bakersfield on May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. BTG/AA is now a key component, along with other organizations supporting those released from institutions. We are networking with the Central office to answer all correspondence requests.

**FINANCE – JAVIER L.:** I want to introduce the finance committee members: Treasurer Claudia N., Russ A., Leslie W., and David S. If you see them collecting money from the buckets, they are doing their service. The finance committee prepares and presents a budget for the upcoming year, advises, and assists the elected treasurer of CNCA 06, assists all CNCA officers, chairs, and committee members in adherence to the yearly budget, and provides liaisons to the Area standing and sub-committees. The area is responsible for providing the assembly, and this pre-conference assembly costs around \$7600, which is approximately \$20 per person. You will see 7th tradition buckets all around, which is one way to contribute to the Area today. We will begin working with the committees on the budget worksheets.

**INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION – JOSE L.:** We meet via Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Since the last assembly, we have translated approximately 160 documents for Area Officers and Committees, 48 miscellaneous emails, plus the Comments for the months of November through March. We helped with the Agenda Topics summaries and PRAASA Steering Committee document translations. We have been present with the equipment for a couple of unity days, ICYPAA, WACYPAA, standing committees workshops, and PRAASA 2024. The Interpretation Coordinator contacted all the needed interpreters and confirmed availability for ACM Monthly Sharing Sessions, Standing Committees, and the assemblies for the panel.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION/COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY – MIGUEL H.:** The point of PI/CPC is to ensure there is an opportunity for those who suffer from alcoholism to learn there is a solution, “when anyone anywhere reaches out for help”. Over 50% of alcoholics have been estimated to die unaware that there is a solution. PI/CPC gets to know how to contact alcoholism or substance abuse counselors, armed forces officers, unit commanders, or military chaplains, athletic coaches, clergypersons, corrections officers, court officials, educators, employers or employee assistance professionals, health care professionals (doctor, nurse, psychiatrist, psychologist, etc.), judges, juvenile services professionals, law enforcement officers, lawyers (prosecutor, defense attorney), probation or parole professionals, public health officials, and senior services professionals. Thanks to Brent M. for coordinating a table at the American Society on Aging event at The Hilton San Francisco Union Square in March and all those who helped. Some of us attended a 12-step tour of the SF library in February.

**TECHNOLOGY—ANDREW S.:** The Area Committee Members approved the Technology Committee’s guidelines in March 2024. Many contributed their wisdom, experience, and humor to this year-long collaborative spiritual process to create a new Area committee and its “operating instructions.” The Hybrid Team performed a walk-through of the Petaluma Veterans building to optimize equipment placement and bandwidth for today’s best possible hybrid experience at the April Pre-Conference Assembly. The Committee is on target to create a hybrid Area Workshop. We’ve tentatively planned for Saturday, October 26, after the Area Committee Meeting (ACM). We thank the area for approving the purchase of a foldable handcart to move our equipment from storage to vehicles to the ACM or assembly sites. We presented an overview of Text to Vote opportunities at the February ACM. The Hybrid Team launched a two-month reduced capacity trial at the ACM to move in the most prudent financial direction. This trial didn’t affect our online participants or technology services offered at the ACM, but “Chat” was disabled during the morning Committee and Sharing Sessions. If the trial is acceptable to the Area, we can reduce the number of required onsite hybrid members for the ACM every month, reducing travel reimbursement expenses. Committee members shared their frustration at how many members did not get to share at March’s PRAASA in San Francisco. The voices of possibly 75% of those brave enough to come to the microphone went unheard. We are passionate about technology in A.A., giving a voice to the voiceless. We wondered whether an app like Slack or Discord could help at events like these and discussed the possibility of creating an A.A. General Service forum on a popular platform like Reddit. We’d love to hear any thoughts you have. CNCA06 is on the first wave of technology adopters in our A.A. structure, and we are dedicated to increasing communication, enthusiasm, and education through technology. Please attend an upcoming online Committee meeting. Visit our webpage at [cnca06.org](http://cnca06.org) for the link. Our hybrid team includes Duncan, Edgar, and Patrick onsite and Noel, Russ & Jacqueline online.

**WEBSITE—JAMES B.:** The web committee maintains and updates the area’s website, [CNCA06.org](http://CNCA06.org). Our committee meets on Zoom every third Thursday of the month at 5:15 p.m. We have updated and posted the agenda topic background materials and configured and added the group conscious form. We have worked through how to post and update the CNCA comments on the site since the Area changed from a PDF format to a lovely email format. If you do not receive the CNCA comments directly in your inbox, you can sign up for either the English or Spanish version using the form on the website. We began testing an update to the interface of the web site to simplify the interface. Changing the WordPress theme has been more difficult than anticipated because important parts were missing, like the menus. If terms like Plugin, WordPress theme, DNS, hosting, CSS, HTML, updates, and/or website are exciting to you, and you would like to contribute to the Area, we have room for you on our committee. You do not have to be a

technology guru to join the committee. Please contact the web chair and an area officer; they can help get us in contact. Thanks to our committee members Cathy, Jose, and Jeff for their time and effort on the committee.

## **AREA BUSINESS**

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

- That CNCA 06 extend voting participation at the Area Committee meetings and at assemblies to the Chairpersons of Area standing and sub-committees. - *Presented by Carol H, Jacqueline P, John O, Jose L, Thom H – Standing Committee & Subcommittee Chairs CNCA06 Panel 73 at the Area Committee Meeting on 12/16/23*

Presentation: Thom H. presented. This motion was originally presented at the December 2023 Area Committee Meeting (ACM) and is driven by Concept Four's "Right of Participation," which allows a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge (A.A. Service Manual). Chairs of CNCA standing and subcommittees tend to practice the policies and procedures of their committees. This often results in motions that move forward the Area's ability to assist the still-suffering alcoholic. CNCA's past procedures advise that chairs of standing and subcommittees have no vote. A similar motion came before the body seven years ago. It was passed at the Preconference Assembly in 2016 and failed at the Post-Conference.

Questions: **Q:** Which are standing committees and subcommittees? **A:** All those who gave reports today are standing and subcommittees (Accessibilities, Archives, Bridging the Gap, Finance, PI/CPC, Interpretation and Translation, Technology, and Website). There are two kinds of committees. Area Officers appoint Standing Committees to serve the Area (Finance, Tech, Web, I&T). Subcommittees (Archives, BTG, PI/CPC, and Accessibilities) serve districts. There is more sharing, but they still have a chair and still work for the Area but in a different way. // **Q:** How are the chairs of these standing and subcommittees selected? **A:** The chairs are elected by the voluntary members of that committee. // **Q:** What was the sense or feeling of the chairs bringing this motion forward? **A:** A lot of the policies are created by committees and presented to the area, but the committee chairs don't have a vote on the policies they create. // **Q:** How would they vote? **A:** They would have the same vote as DCMs, DCMCs, GSRs, and Area Officers. // **Q:** What are the requirements for being part of a standing committee or subcommittee? **A:** Anyone can volunteer to be a member of the committee (i.e., have never served as a GSR, DCM, DCMC, etc.) Consequently, a chair does not need those qualifications to be elected chair. // **Q:** How many committees exist on the list in the General Service structure? **A:** We're not the Conference or part of the Conference structure. We meet the needs of the area. **Q:** Where did this motion originate? **A:** The chairs of the committees brought it forward. // **Q:** If this were to pass and the chair could not attend a meeting and vote, would the alternate get a vote instead? **A:** As written, just the chair gets a vote. // **Q:** Is there any consideration for having service requirements for the committee chairs, or is it independent of each committee? **A:** There are no service requirements, but they have been participating in current affairs (attending committee meetings and area committee meetings) and have knowledge of and sometimes craft motions brought to the area. // **Q:** Committee members are volunteers. Do they volunteer and are appointed by Area Officers? **A:** Chairs are voted in by the committee members once formed. Area officers appoint standing committee members once they put their names in to say they are available. Subcommittees are volunteers. // **Q:** Who would the chairperson be voting on behalf of? **A:** They would be voting as a representative of their committee. // **Q:** How would this impact the votes? **A:** There are eight committees, so eight more people would be voting. Today, we have 100 people, so eight would be about .8%. **Q:** Do other areas do this? **A:** Seventy other areas are doing this. // Point of information: it's only seven new voting members because the PI/CPC Chair is the Alternate Delegate, who already has a vote. << **Motion to become New Business at the Post Conference Assembly on May 11, 2024.>>**

- That CNCA 06 expand area officer eligibility to Chairpersons of Area standing and subcommittees. - *Presented by Carol H, Jacqueline P, John O, Jose L, Thom H – Standing Committee & Subcommittee Chairs CNCA06 Panel 73 at the Area Committee Meeting on 12/16/23*

Presentation: Thom H. presented. He presented an amendment to add "...who have served as DCMs and/or DCMCs." This motion is also about participation. Through months of loving discussion, area members continue to voice their support and approval of the Area Committee chairs to have full participation in the area's business and be eligible to serve as Area Officers. Of the 93 areas across the U.S. and Canada, 70 include committee chairs in voting and area officer eligibility. From personal experience having been a DCMC and a committee chair, I've learned about processes as a committee chair than as a DCMC.

Questions: **Q:** When was the amendment made? **A:** Just now. When asked to give the presentation, I discovered it was presented this way in 2016. To be eligible as a delegate, you need to be a current DCM or DCMC. For a chair to be eligible as an Area officer, they should have had similar experience as a GSR. // **Q:** Do they have to have been DCMC or DCM from Area 06? **A:** It was not stated, but I assume they would be eligible from other areas. // **Q:** With this amendment, it seems that the requirements for being elected committee chair have changed, making it harder to elect a committee chair. Is that the intention? **A:** This motion is not intended to change the committees themselves. The intent is to have more people available and eligible. Unless the committees' guidelines are changed to match these motions, the chairs will have the same availability to be elected chairs. // **Q:** Why was the amendment made? **A:** Without the amendment, area officer eligibility would conflict with Delegate eligibility (requirement to have been a

GSR). // **Q:** To be eligible to be an area officer, you must be a current DCM or DCMC, but this amendment does not align with that. // **A:** This motion would change that. If someone is a committee chair, they are not a district chair simultaneously, so they must have been a past DCMC or DCM. // **Q:** Is the amendment affecting the previous motion? **A:** No. // I request a friendly amendment to the motion to include GSRs (i.e., past DCM, DCMC, or GSR). // **A:** We decline that amendment because a Delegate must have been a DCM or DCMC. // **Q:** Are GSRs eligible to be area officers? **A:** No. Only DCMCs, DCMs, and area officers. << **Motion to become New Business at the Post Conference Assembly on May 11, 2024.>>**

#### **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:** The Area Chair shared that this motion was voted on at the Fall Assembly and failed. A motion to reconsider that passed, making it an item of Old Business again. **Group consciences:** This is unnecessary. The *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* help individuals and groups. It's not necessary to include the Twelve Concepts. It's not for the average member. // This is unnecessary. We have the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The Concepts are in the *A.A. Service Manual*. The General Service Board is low on funds. There are better things to spend money on. // This is not necessary. In AA, there are enough expenses due to a critical recession. We need to be more prudent in how we spend money. // The wording of this motion is to consider. My group supports exploring and gathering more information on logistics and cost. Having combined literature makes the Concepts more accessible. **Personal opinions:** I didn't know about The Concepts until 20 years of sobriety. That's a real loss. // **Vote by substantial unanimity. In favor:** 131 (105 in person; 26 online). **Opposed:** 108 (91 in person; 17 online) **Abstained:** 11 (4 in person; 7 online). Motion did not obtain 2/3 in favor. No minority opinion was heard, as this item was previously reconsidered. <<< **Motion Failed.** >>>

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- That CNCA continue to provide hybrid functionality for every Area Committee Meeting and each Assembly. – *Presented by District 15, Humboldt/Del Norte at the Area Committee Meeting on 09/23/23*

**Discussion:** **Group consciences:** Our District is in favor mainly for access. Our Area has a large geography. We should be prudent with cost. A strong minority of opinion of what is lost in the language of the heart in hybrid. // Our District strongly believes that this needs to be a policy. There is currently no policy. We've learned and created a system that works well. It's been a long road, but we've made such progress. The motion is not about whether you like hybrid or Zoom or you don't; it's about making sure we provide this for remote communities to be able to attend ACMs and Assemblies. Important to our district because Area meetings are very far away. Many in our district cannot attend in person at all. // My group is in favor of a policy and commitment to hybrid. Our GSR cannot make it to assemblies due to travel concerns. She's grateful to be able to continue to participate. // Our group feels it's necessary for accessibility, not just for those traveling, but those who cannot attend for physical reasons or those whose groups can't afford to send them. // **Personal opinions:** In our district, some meetings have split off and become virtual only. They registered with our area. Perhaps we should consider a virtual Area. // I use a mobility device, and I'm active in Accessibilities. Wouldn't be able to participate without hybrid. Our fellowship has many members active online. This policy would encourage participation. // Having hybrid meetings is important for access. I'm concerned that people will find a reason not to come even if they can come. // This is a tool for remote communities to keep people informed and continue to carry the message. Our program requires sacrifice but sometimes you must make a bigger sacrifice. // Being able to see the captions on the screen is so helpful for me since I have a hearing impairment. I read lips and it's hard for me to read people's lips when they share at the microphone. // I was on Zoom in assembly in Eureka. I felt a large disconnect. If this motion passes, I hope those online can have breakouts and be able to communicate and connect. // Many things we do at District and Area may serve as a model for how other groups implement practices. // I'm a caretaker. I'd prefer to go in person but I'm not able to. I appreciate being able to attend online. // I support the motion. This relates to Concept Four and the Right of Participation for GSRs. My group is online and attracts newcomers from all over the country and internationally. // I'm grateful to be here online. I wouldn't be able to attend if not hybrid. I care for a family member in hospice. We should operate focused more on love and less on fear. // Hybrid is both in-person and online. When we were online only during the pandemic, we disenfranchised people. Please understand if this passes, we are committing to both in-person and online. The idea that we could save money by meeting only on Zoom doesn't apply if we commit to both. // I have sponsees that are caregivers. They want to be a part of General Service, but the hardship of travel expenses and childcare are barriers. Increasing technology isn't the only way to increase accessibility. // // 14:40 I'm concerned about the structure of the motion. What about 10:00 meetings? 11:00 sharing sessions? They're not included in the motion. I'm afraid we left out two very important sharing sessions currently being done hybrid and are not part of ACM. // My group is hybrid. Zoom is good. A woman in the hospital could join the meeting and wanted this available. // Being able to attend these meetings helps me to be a better GSR. // In 1939, technology came out to reach alcoholics in the US and Canada: The Big Book. Now it's 2024 and we're using a new way to reach out to alcoholics.

This is moving us forward. // I'm co-chair of my District's Access Committee. I'm concerned about the other hybrid meetings that occur on the day of the ACM that are not included. Can there be a friendly amendment? // There would need to be another motion. Someone asked this question during the presentation of new business, and the motion-maker declined to add it. // We put in great labor. We reached for the future when the First 100 were visualized. We now see the world through the internet. // The Fourth Edition of our Big Book mentioned "new practices and customs," including "online." Modem to modem and face to face, A.A. speaks the language of the heart. I support this motion. We have members in our fellowship who find their sobriety meeting only online. // Hybrid meetings increase participation and may give us more flexibility in venues. We don't need venues to be as large. // When I got sober, all meetings were online. At my first assembly in 2021, I was asked to be a timer. This is important to continue for new people. Being able to join online allows me to stay in service. // Hybrid is important because I've been able to attend. There is no excuse for not informing our groups. // Many people in our area must travel for work or personal reasons and want to remain in service. Being hybrid opens the possibility of not feeling isolated. // This is about accessibility. For a stretch of my sobriety, I was only able to participate online. I've been to some assemblies in person, but I miss them sometimes. I'm discouraged by the "us versus them (online and in person)" People being online is their choice. We adjusted quickly to meeting online in the pandemic. We've gotten better. I'm happy to participate. // I nearly lost my life to this disease in the pandemic and got sober on Zoom. I'm a single mother and can still be of service. Childcare costs and logistics are difficult to attend in person, but I do when I can. The online component is powerful, I'm sober because of it. // For inclusivity and accessibility, I support this motion. My husband is immunocompromised, so I don't go to big gatherings. I'm active in General Service through being able to participate online. We should make another motion to include all the area meetings. << **Motion to become Old Business at the Post Conference Assembly on May 11, 2024.>>**

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

[[Many members expressed their gratitude for being able to participate in the assembly both online and in person, including expressing gratitude to the hybrid committee, the planning committee for the assembly, others in service at the assembly, and the effort put forth by those delivering their group's conscience to inform the Delegate.]] [[Many members wished Eric well on his trip to the General Service Conference.]] // Saturday: I'm grateful for the accessibility of this location, the captions, and parking, in particular. // There is a 750-word max on the online group consciences form. When are the Christians in A.A. going to listen to those who aren't Christian, especially when it comes to the use of religion in A.A.? // The awareness of inclusivity and accessibility is heard today. I'm proud of the work we do. I'm grateful to be part of this area. GSRs have put in a lot of work. // Thanks to my Spanish-speaking fellows for giving me different perspectives. It proved that language is culture. Think about asking your groups asking more neutral questions to get more meaningful information. // When you Google Alcoholics Anonymous, links come up that aren't A.A. that say they're A.A. I've been reporting them to Google and have noticed that they've stopped coming up in search. // April 12 is the first African American in AA group in Marin. St. Andrew's Church Marin City 7 pm. // In July 1944 of the Grapevine, Dr. Bob wrote about tolerance being like a hub with radiating spokes. We start at the outer circumference and approach our destination through many routes. To say that one spoke is better than others is only true to the extent that it reaches the destination it's intended to. Without tolerance, we might be inclined to think we've found the best or shortest route. // Traditions aren't rules or laws, we obey them willingly because we need to and want to. They bring out a living experience rooted in love. I used to go to Spanish-speaking meetings because there were faces like mine. // Many members didn't get to share at PRAASA in March. The Area Tech Committee is passionate about giving a voice to the voiceless and exploring options to facilitate communication (e.g., Slack, Discord, etc.). // We received \$2,000 in contributions today (Saturday). // I hope that in the plain language of Big Book, that "pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization" will not be changed or removed. // H&I conference May 3rd-5th. A State of Love and Service together with SoCal H&I. // I'm pleased that our group conscience on the trans pamphlet hasn't changed. The first presentation of this pamphlet helped me because I was hiding my gender expression and it helped me come out. // I came out as transgender nonbinary at six years sober. I'm an alcoholic. Hearing group consciences reminded me of page 84 of the Big Book, which states that love and tolerance are our code. // A quote from Bill W. in the July 1965 issue of the Grapevine. The essence of all growth is a willingness to change for the better and shoulder whatever responsibility comes. // I used to have my racial identity tied to my alcoholism, but as I got more time sober, I didn't care as much. Hearing the group's consciences about a proposed pamphlet for Asian American alcoholics reminds me that it's not about me. Those who think it's needed, it's important to them. // The microphone we've been using this afternoon was a purchase approved by the ACM. The investments the Area is making in technology are working very well. // Thanks for registration team. This is the fourth biggest Day One Pre-Conference Assembly in recorded history. In the room, we have 349, and online, 108 for 457 total registered. // I'm excited we have these large numbers, but where are our GSRs? In this county, we have over 400 meetings. How can we make this easier? // The Monterey Bay Area Roundup is Labor Day weekend. Montereybayarearoundup.org. With participation with Al-Anon and the Spanish-speaking community. // When I think I'm unique, I need to reach out and touch others. I'm a new GSR. I'm trying to copy what you're doing and it's working. // The food was amazing. // I've been to a lot of meetings, but CNCA always does its best. This has been a fantastic meeting and a great group to be with. Sunday: The flowers on the tables were picked from the homes and gardens of the members of District 18 and their families. We are being welcomed into the home and community of the

Districts. // District 14 Mendocino is hosting the Post-Conference in Willits. We'll have a meeting with coffee and dessert the evening before. Please join us. // Thanks to the I&T committee for helping us with Agenda Topics. I'd like us to use words that correspond with AA language. Some of the words weren't interpreted correctly. // Thanks for the coloring books and crosswords, they helped me listen. // Thank you to SWACYPAA for selling drinks. // In the past, social media platforms were treated as separate issues. The same happened with changing words. We should handle them like categories. // SWACYPAA thanks those who supported us today by purchasing snacks and drinks. SWACYPAA is August 8<sup>th</sup> in San Rafael at Embassy Suites. // It was nice to hear the groups in favor of creating a pamphlet for trans alcoholics. I love trans alcoholics and am in full support of them. If you want to know more about trans alcoholics, come talk to me. // The first international online convention is in October. Visit [aa-intergroup.org](http://aa-intergroup.org). There was a discussion that people can't access the internet and can't join on Zoom, but you can dial in. Let me know if you need help accessing A.A. and you don't have internet. // I'm sorry we're still having problems with registration. A lot of people online are not getting counted. I am grateful for the constant improvement and attention to helping those of us online participate. I love split screen; please continue at the ACM. // Some people shared about agenda items and how much they may cost. Perhaps people should consider their own practices around money and anonymity on social media, including group contributions and personal contributions. // There is a National AA Technology Workshop on September 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> online and in St. Louis, MO. // The assembly helped inform me on what might happen at the Conference to inform my group. I look forward to the post-conference assembly. // There's a lot to learn as a first-timer. I want to acknowledge other first-timers to the assembly. I'm glad I came. // Thanks to Eric for listening to us. // This has shown me how uninformed a lot of us are about what is in our pamphlets. It's encouraged me to look at the pamphlets we already have. // Thanks to those who asked about the Motions Book and the upcoming Meeting Minutes Workshop. Reminder for the assembly word count competition. // Thank you for your contributions at the Assembly. Our two-day total is about \$2,500. // Registration totals: Day one: 349 in room; online 108 (24% online). Today: 178 in room; online 81 (45%). Two-day total: 527 in person and 189 online (35%). Total two-day registrations: 716. // There is going to be a PI/CPC workshop. We're looking for a location that can hold 15+ people and has some hybrid capability. The event will be hybrid and bilingual. // Special call out for the translators and holding themselves together when we lost audio. It made me feel that we're closer through technology. // I might have caught the GS bug. I come from groups that don't have representation and I'm going to work on fixing that. // The past delegates sang a traditional sendoff song for the delegate to the tune of Tina Turner's "Proud Mary."

*The meeting was closed at 5:30 by Chitra S. with the Responsibility Declaration.*

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Babcock  
CNCA Recording Secretary, Panel 73