

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA 06 (CNCA 06)
AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
04/26/25

The monthly Area Committee Meeting (ACM) was held using a hybrid format on April 26, 2025 with virtual attendees on Zoom and in-person attendees at the Petaluma Community Center. Drew B. opened the meeting at 12:30 pm, followed by the Serenity Prayer. The A.A. Preamble was read by Mike O. (District 90). Francisco A. (Panel 55 Delegate) read Tradition 4 in Spanish and Star A. read Concept 4 in English. We welcomed 4 new GSRs. There were 6 past Delegates present: Diane O. (Panel 35), Bob D. (Panel 36 Area 28), Francisco A. (Panel 55), Joann L. (Panel 67) and Eric L. (Panel 73). The March minutes and financial report were accepted as published in the *CNCA Comments* and *Comentarios*. Birthdays: 137/8. Attendance: 132 (44 online and 88 in-person).

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE – CHITRA S.: See Alternate Delegate's report.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – CLAUDIA N.: Our Delegate Chitra arrived safely in New York yesterday. The General Service Conference officially starts tomorrow. The Conference will hold its Inventory this year, and Bob W., General Manager, will be part of Chitra's inventory working group. Chitra also serves on the Conference PI Committee, which will meet on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the PI agenda topics, with full Conference discussions later in the week. Elections for two Regional Trustees and the Trustee-at-Large/U.S. will take place on Wednesday. Our Area nominated Jennifer as our choice for the Trustee-at-Large/U.S. Chitra will give her Delegate Report to our Area at the Post-Conference Assembly on May 17 in San Francisco, where we will learn Conference results, including Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations. The International Convention is less than 70 days away—room blocks are regularly updated. Check the housing flyer or email 2025ic@aa.org if you have a convention story to share. Misha from GSO shared PI updates on the "Our Primary Purpose" podcast, Young People in A.A. videos, and initiatives to add A.A. literature to local and e-book library collections.

CHAIR – DREW B.: I like to break the general service year into thirds. The first third focuses on the General Service Conference and agenda topics. The second third is about brainstorming for the future, leading to the Summer Assembly. The final third focuses on local health, marked by the Fall Inventory Assembly. The cap to the first third will be our Post-Conference Assembly in San Francisco, three weeks from today. Minutes and background materials will go out next week for the three items of new business. Our Delegate is in New York, preparing to deliver our group consciences during the Conference.

TREASURER – DAN B.: March was a weak month for contributions. We received \$8,200, while expenses were relatively normal to low at \$11,700. As of March 31, we are within \$6,000 of our Revenue target and \$400 under our Expense target—both very close to plan. Financially, we're doing well, with approximately \$37,000 in our checking account today, though that number will decrease with upcoming expenses. Thank you to District

03 for a wonderful Pre-Conference Assembly! The website crash during the Pre-Conference Assembly served as a reminder of Step One. Yet we pivoted, as always. After passing around the Venmo code, we collected \$4,500, which is \$2,000 more than planned. We're now exploring Venmo for Nonprofits. For now, contributions can be sent via my personal Venmo account. Please encourage groups to contribute electronically at cnca06.org/contribute; checks take longer to process and are more costly. Thank you for supporting our Area's work.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – MATT E.: The Pre-Conference Assembly was wonderful. Thank you, Districts 03 and 19! The Post-Conference Assembly is on May 17 in San Francisco. Please carpool. Talk to me about hosting an assembly in your district!

REGISTRAR – SARAH B.: This month, I began the major task of cleaning up our records by reaching out to position holders to confirm if they're still serving and updating their information. It's given me a deeper appreciation for everyone who has worked to maintain our records. I also started sending confirmation emails to position holders after they registered. Mail merge technology has helped with both tasks, enabling me to send personalized messages that include group names and positions easily.

RECORDING SECRETARY – JACKIE B.: The Pre-Conference Assembly business meeting minutes will be included in the May *Comments/Comentarios*. DCMCs and Committee Chairs will receive the updated motions background document next week from our Chair. A Recording Secretary Workshop will be held online on Thursday, June 5, beginning at 6:45 p.m. with a "Minutes 101" orientation, followed by presentations on "All Tools for Minutes" and "Anonymity and Electronic Distribution and Storage". A piece of history: our first Delegate, Nick N. of Berkeley, was elected in 1950 and served as the Panel 1 Delegate.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – JOSE L.: GSO continues to collect feedback on how A.A. members use literature to carry the message. Ongoing projects include work on the Fifth Edition of the Big Book, with expanded content on the medical and religious views of A.A. currently in development. The Fourth Edition of *Alcohólicos Anónimos* is progressing, with the working group refining translations and selecting new personal stories. Multiple pamphlets, including *A.A. for the Native North American* and *Do You Think You're Different?*, are being updated with new stories, artwork, and translations. The *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Illustrated* video animation is now available in French and Spanish, with the English version under review. Limited books from A.A.W.S. are available online for free as a PDF. A.A. still relies on literature sales to support 12-step services worldwide, and purchasing literature supports both international and local service entities. To request printed Grapevine materials, contact gvrc@aagrapevine.org.

DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT 01 (MONTEREY) – ELENA B.: On May 20, we'll host a pizza party with our Delegate to hear her Conference report—everyone is invited for food, fellowship, and discussion. Hosted by our Intergroup, Unity Day will be on June 8 at Toro Park in Salinas. Our GSRs will staff a General Service Welcoming table to provide literature and resources

to newcomers. We are still unable to access district funds due to bank issues and are exploring other options.

DISTRICT 02 (SALINAS/SAN BENITO) - JUAN T.: We had strong representation from District 02 at the Assembly, with five members attending in person and four joining via Zoom. We're eagerly anticipating our Delegate's return from the Conference and look forward to hearing her report.

DISTRICT 03 (SANTA CRUZ) – RYAN A. (DCMC): Thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, and traveled to Santa Cruz for the Pre-Conference—hosting was an amazing experience. We're planning our Unity Day event on Sunday, June 1. Our BTG Committee had three successful bridges and signed up nine future bridges_exiting treatment. We are discussing the creation of a district website. The Joint Committee on Safety is encouraging groups to send a Safety Liaison. Intergroup is launching an Accessibilities Committee.

DISTRICT 04 (SANTA CLARA NORTH) – JON R.: We had thoughtful sharing from trusted servants about their experiences representing their groups at the Pre-Conference Assembly. We heard a presentation on the General Service app, and a few district members signed up as beta testers for Android. Our visiting Area Officer reminded us that service work continues past the Pre-Conference. We've started discussing the assembly motions. Our Safety Committee is seeking a member with writing skills — contact the Safety Chair or visit district04cnca.org.

DISTRICT 40 (SANTA CLARA SOUTH) – PAM S.: Members shared about facilitating group consciences, understanding Agenda Topics, and provided suggestions for improvements. The Visiting Area Officer spoke to us about attending the Post-Conference Assembly and how to share the Delegate's report with our groups. New translation equipment has improved communication. Thanks to our treasurer for providing coffee service, to our literature coordinator for informing us about Grapevine and La Viña, and to our PI/CPC and SCCYPAA liaisons for keeping us connected.

DISTRICT 05 (SAN MATEO) – JONATHAN L.: We approved a motion to provide up to \$1,000 in reimbursement for active General Service members wishing to virtually attend the main session of the 2025 A.A. International Convention. Our Alternate DCMC and I are working with District 06 to prepare for hosting the Post-Conference Assembly on May 17. Our visiting Area Officer shared insights on what GSRs can expect after the General Service Conference, how to prepare for hosting an Assembly, and the importance of service. We are actively seeking volunteers from both districts for the Assembly.

DISTRICT 06 (SAN FRANCISCO) – DAVID S.: We filled three vacant positions. A visiting officer from Area 02 (Alaska) presented on PRAASA and shared how the strong presence of California Spanish speakers inspired them to explore starting Spanish-speaking meetings in Alaska. After six months of discussion, we approved new travel reimbursement guidelines, which now cover rental cars for those who do not own one. Our Accessibilities Committee passed three motions, including one to reconsider

resubmitting the Agenda Topic for a graphic novel version of the Big Book. We also decided to start an Interdistrict event and will invite our neighboring districts to join.

DISTRICT 07 (ALAMEDA NORTH) – BRIDGET L.: District 07 still has two open service positions: DCM of Subdistrict 04 and Accessibility Committee Chair. We will continue to ask for availability. Our visiting Area Officer spoke on what's next after the Pre-Conference Assembly, as requested by GSRs at our officers' meeting. We had a lively discussion about working with District 20 on an assembly this panel—more will be revealed. Our BTG representative sincerely requests more volunteers. The BTG meeting for Districts 07 and 70 is the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. online.

DISTRICT 70 (ALAMEDA SOUTH) – CHASE C.: Our District page in the General Service app is up and running. Our online Third Legacy Workshop is hosting a 12-week Concepts Study, facilitated by past Delegate Bob D., starting Wednesday, April 30, at 6:00 p.m. Our District has 85 groups registered with the Area, and 39 of those groups have registered GSRs. However, our district meeting attendance doesn't reflect those numbers – we will investigate this further.

DISTRICT 08 (CONTRA COSTA) – CHUCK B.: We are grateful to our visiting area officer, who spoke about their position and shared how A.A. principles combined with past service can prepare us for our next position. A DCM presented an item of new business to improve member safety when sharing information during GSO registration. Our PRAASA scholarship winner gave a report-back on her experience in Alaska.

DISTRICT 09 (SOLANO SOUTH) – BILLIE JO C.: The Pre-Conference was my first assembly. Two GSRs attended with me. The experience has made this commitment more personal and meaningful to me. We are discussing our next workshop and where to hold it. We shared the Media Blitz page with groups in our district, and many were surprised to learn that AAWS had a YouTube channel and that a wealth of information is available online. We will continue sharing this information with our groups.

DISTRICT 90 (SOLANO NORTH) – DEBRA M.: District 90 showed up at the Pre-Conference Assembly in significant numbers. We are planning our summer picnic and the Delegate's Report/Ice Cream Social on June 7.

DISTRICT 10 (MARIN) – FRANK T.: Our April District meeting featured roundtable brainstorming on the Marin GSR survey results, focusing on improving group service participation and expanding groups through our primary purpose. We discussed and rated Big Book page XIX (Traditions in abbreviated form), shared Pre-Conference experiences, and explored how to conduct a group inventory. Volunteers will present on the "A.A. Group" pamphlet next month. We had a safety presentation; afterwards, our GSRs expressed interest in hosting a District safety workshop. We also welcomed new MCYPAA leadership, and a trusted servant touched on PICPC service.

DISTRICT 11 (NAPA) – DUNCAN L.: We discussed and reworded a Napa group's motion to revert a passage in the Plain Language Big Book to better appeal to atheist and

agnostic members of A.A. We had a great showing in Santa Cruz for the Pre-Conference Assembly, with several officers and GSRs sharing their group consciences at the microphone for the first time and showing support to our hometown Delegate as she heads to New York.

DISTRICT 12 (SONOMA) – MAUREEN G.: At our officers' meeting, we discussed how to distribute the work and decision-making for implementing the General Service App. We plan to bring a housekeeping motion to establish the app as a free tool for D12 service members. An ad hoc committee will be formed to design the workflow and recommend service positions to maintain the information. We aim to engage thoughtfully and foster a spirit of sharing. We're also discussing support for GSRs in sub-districts without DCMs and would like to hear from the experiences of other districts. Our Delegate's BBQ will be June 2, replacing the District meeting.

DISTRICT 13 (LAKE) – CHRIS W.: GSRs shared group consciences with our Delegate at the Assembly. BTG remains ready to assist those exiting their confines. H&I visits the men's and women's jails and brings meetings to three recovery programs in our district. 64 A.A. meetings are on schedule each week in Lake County, including two Fire Camp meetings.

DISTRICT 14 (MENDOCINO) – ALEX P.: Unfortunately, District 14 had a scheduling conflict that we were unable to resolve, so there is no report to share this month.

DISTRICT 15 (HUMBOLDT/DEL NORTE) – JANINE L.: We had a good turnout at the Pre-Conference Assembly, with new GSRs sharing their group consciences and longtime members offering valuable service wisdom. Our district is continuing to recruit GSRs, and we have recently filled a vacant DCM spot, although we have lost our Bridging the Gap Chair. Our Accessibilities Chair is sending out the Accessibilities Checklist for groups to review. Our PI/CPC Committee is slowly restarting after being inactive since the pandemic. Overall, the district is excited about General Service!

DISTRICT 16 (SPANISH CENTRAL) – ROSALBA P.: We attended the Pre-Conference Assembly and submitted our group consciences. Our community is excited to hear the responses at the Post-Conference. We continue visiting groups to encourage participation in General Service. District 16 has formed a subcommittee for the 6th Hispanic Forum. We successfully held our first Interdistrict meeting with the five Spanish-speaking districts and District 06. District 16 will host the Post-Conference dinner on May 16 at St. Gregory's Saroyan Hall. Tickets are \$35. We still have vacant service positions.

DISTRICT 17 (SPANISH SOUTH)—ERIC R.: We visit groups without GSRs to help them with agenda topics. We attended the Assembly and participated in the Interdistrict meeting. We also joined District 19's planning meeting for the 6th Hispanic Forum. We have set a date for our anniversary and are grateful to our visiting area officer for their support.

DISTRICT 18 (SPANISH NORTH) – ALMA L.: Our GSRs were present at the Pre-Conference Assembly and enjoyed giving their first group consciences. We continue to learn at our Service Manual study meeting, held every first Wednesday of the month. We gathered a district conscience on the Assembly motions, and some GSRs have started discussing them with their groups. A visiting officer spoke about the four assemblies and their importance. We approved holding a safety workshop. We continue visiting groups, especially encouraging those without GSRs, and are preparing to co-host the Fall Inventory Assembly with District 11.

DISTRICT 19 (SPANISH SOUTH SOUTH)—ADAN M.: Our Visiting Area Officer made a big impact. Our district was pleased to participate in the agenda topics at the Pre-Conference, and GSRs realized the importance of being involved in General Service activities. We have set a date for our District anniversary and are organizing the Hispanic Forum in Seaside, CA.

DISTRICT 20 (SPANISH EAST) – MISAIEL M.: We learned a lot about the Conference from our visiting area officer. We shared reports about the Pre-Conference, and GSRs are interested in attending the next one. Each Wednesday, we visit groups to teach about General Service, encourage the Seventh Tradition, and promote committee activity. Groups are scheduling La Viña and Safety workshops. Our Hispanic Forum subcommittee is active with regular planning meetings.

AREA STANDING & SUB-COMMITTEES, SHARING SESSIONS, AND LIAISON REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITIES—ENRIQUE E.: Today, we heard reports of districts bringing the Plain Language Big Book to local libraries and updating accessibilities information with their intergroup offices. This was followed by a presentation and discussion on how childcare and child-friendly meetings help make A.A. accessible to alcoholics with children. The Accessibilities Committee offers safety workshops for districts and groups using GSO material. If interested, please contact me. Please share the Accessibilities Checklist (SMF-208).

ARCHIVES – ELVIA P.: The District Archives Representatives have been busy collecting group histories. At our workday, we've been sorting through the past Delegates boxes to prepare for digitization. Currently, we're working on Diane O.'s box, creating three piles: keep, maybe keep, and shred. We invite one or two past Delegates to help us review what's important to preserve. Fun fact: In 1988, our Area Archives acquired a high-speed dubber to convert reel-to-reel tapes to cassette. In 1989, we received 300 tapes, and now we're working on digitizing them all!

BRIDGING THE GAP – LYNN K.: District BTG Chairs reported 50 presentations, 104 Requests for Contact (blue cards), 19 new volunteers (yellow cards), and 15 completed Bridges! We still do not have District Chairs for Districts 02, 09, 13, and 15. Four out of the five Spanish districts still need BTG Chairs. We are looking for a Spanish Liaison. In the meantime, our Recording Secretary speaks Spanish and is willing to assist the Spanish Districts. We elected a Literature Coordinator.

COMMENTS/COMMENTARIOS - BLAKE L.: I would like to thank all those who contributed to the newsletter. Special thanks to our Area Officers for their support and to the translators for their service.

FINANCE – JEFF D.: The Treasury report was reviewed and verified. Net revenue was slightly up, with expenditures slightly down. Expenses are expected to rise next month due to the General Service Conference and other events but remain within budget. We will meet the Area-authorized \$3,500 for delegate expenses, but based on actual numbers, the Finance Committee recommends increasing it to \$5,000. A committee budget worksheet is being finalized, and chairs are asked to begin reviewing 2026 expenses. Venmo was a success at the Pre-Conference, and its continued use for contributions is being explored.

I&T (INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION) - LUIS R.: We discussed the need for more radios to meet demand at Area meetings. We worked with an average of 10 documents and delivered translations as quickly as possible. If any committee requires interpretation or translation, please notify us. We are getting ready for the Delegate's Report.

PI/CPC (PUBLIC INFORMATION/COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY) – CLAUDIA N.: Today, we heard how Districts outreach to health fairs, medical institutions, human resources, and first responders. Members highlighted tools from aa.org, like customizable PI cards and pamphlets. One member raised an important point about potentially overlooking the French-speaking community, particularly in the wine industry. Miguel H. will present on using QR codes in English and Spanish at our next meeting on May 24 at 9:00 a.m.

TECHNOLOGY—MEG B.: Wi-Fi issues during the Pre-Conference Assembly caused glitches for online attendees; we now have preventive measures in place. We discussed the challenges of early travel start times for the hybrid team. We got 24 responses to our workshop survey and added two new volunteers. We're preparing for the Post-Conference and an upcoming all-committee chair meeting. Today, I am presenting a housekeeping motion to fund a committee member's attendance at the National A.A. Technology Workshop (NAATW).

WEBSITE – SANDRA S.: The CNCA website went down the morning of the Pre-Conference due to a hosting issue with the database connection. It was restored after a week of work. The site is now updated with information from January through April. We had a volunteer step up to become the sixth member of the committee, pending approval from the Area Officers. We will have volunteers staffing a Web Committee table at the Post-Conference and Summer Assemblies. Area committees are reviewing their pages for updates. If you have any suggestions or feedback for the Committee, please email webchair@cnca06.org.

DCM SHARING SESSION – NICOLE C: Today's focus was on service sponsorship. We covered the types of service sponsorship, reviewed A.A. Concepts 1–12 with practical examples, and emphasized the spiritual principles underlying service roles. Participants emphasized the importance of asking for help, maintaining open communication, and practicing humility. The presentation helped attendees see how service concepts apply personally and reinforced the value of workshops and mentorship. Upcoming topics include how to interpret the Conference Report and the learning curve in General Service.

SPANISH LINGUISTIC SHARING SESSION: Our presenter asked how many GSRs had the opportunity to present agenda topics to their groups and deliver the consciences at the Pre-Conference Assembly. Many hands were raised. GSRs shared about how incredible it was to participate and bring their group's voice forward. Several members spoke about the importance of the GSR's service.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA SHARING SESSION – JOSE L.: We heard a presentation on sowing seeds for a better connection and primary purpose. We gathered in a spirit of unity and growth, celebrating as two members marked anniversaries—a testimony to the transformative power of recovery. Those who joined brought even more energy. The presenter shared meaningful updates, planting seeds for stronger future connections among groups. The energy in the room was collective inspiration and hope.

H & I (HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION COMMITTEE) – JAMES C.: Nothing to report.

YPAA (YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A.) – VACANT

CENTRAL OFFICES – DON Z.: Topics discussed during the ICOAA (Intergroups and Central Offices of A.A.) meeting this month: misconception that Intergroups/Central Offices are not part of A.A.; the distinction between our employment and our 12th step service; dealing with anonymity issues by saying “I work for a small non-profit”; by-laws; local ways to use excess funds, such as lowering literature prices and increasing PI and outreach funding; and Founders Day events. The Grapevine Publisher gave us an update on proposed bulk pricing. The 40th Annual ICOAA Seminar will take place in Memphis, TN, from September 19 to 21.

OFICINA CENTRAL HISPANA – FABIAN P.: The Hispanic Central Office of Northern California is located in San Jose, Santa Clara County. The office comprises 17 groups, including committees on Sponsorship, Public Information, 12th Step List, H&I, Literature, and Grapevine/La Viña. We hold our business meeting on the first Thursday of the month and a unity meeting on the fourth Friday at the group La Alegría de Vivir. In April, the message was carried to approximately 50 people, including 15 women. We will celebrate our 20th anniversary in September.

NCCAA (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF A.A.) – CHASE C.: Our next conference will be in spring 2026 in San Ramon—it's been a while since we've been there, and we're looking forward to strong participation. We'll also be visiting the venue to plan

for the Fall 2026 Conference in Stockton. As the archivist, I came across some great history: the first issue of *The Good News* newsletter was originally titled "You Name It" because it had no name. We've re-uploaded the website at NorCalAA.org. Thank you for allowing me to be of service!

HISPANIC WOMEN'S WORKSHOP: No report

LA VIÑA ANNIVERSARY – JUAN M.: The 29th Anniversary of La Viña will be held July 25–27, 2025, at the Pacific Palms Resort Hotel in the City of Industry, CA, in Area 05 Southern California. The banquet costs \$80, \$55 for children. Registration is \$30 (\$18 registration fee and \$12 event support). We are seeking two speakers per area and three meeting coordinators. Please let me know if you are interested. Districts 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are also warmly invited to participate.

FORO HISPANO – JUAN CARLOS AND CRISPIN: Everyone is invited to attend our next planning meeting. We are gathering and organizing information. All groups are encouraged to collaborate, and discounts are being arranged for those committed to participating. We are also preparing topics for the roundtable discussions and invite anyone interested to share with us. Attention and commitment are important. We are happy to be hosting this forum for the first time in District 19.

AREA BUSINESS

PRESENTATION:

- Pre-Conference Assembly Host District Report – *Andria W., District 03 Assembly Chair.*

Presentation: We got our planning team together and set the dates, and I immediately had my first panic attack—I hadn't thought about interpretation for our seven planning meetings. After a lot of texting, we found an alcoholic interpreter – she was sober but not in A.A. Our first challenge was the budget. In A.A., our power is our people, not money, but food still costs money. Thankfully, our food chair came in \$1,000 under budget. For volunteer recruitment, District 03 made flyers and announcements. Meanwhile, our linguistic districts said, "They'll show up the day of," and they did—in droves—teaching me not everything can be controlled. Food was the biggest job and still a major conversation for future assemblies. Our interpreter, attending her first A.A. event, shared how welcomed and connected she felt. Personally, this commitment helped me through a hard year and deep losses. Service kept me connected to A.A. and to God. By the assembly's end, I was floating on a pink cloud. If you've never considered hosting an assembly, I highly recommend it. Thank you to all who supported us

Questions: None.

HOUSEKEEPING MOTIONS:

- That CNCA fund a member of the CNCA Technology Committee to the (budgeted) 2025 NAATW (National A.A. Technology Workshop) in Cincinnati, Ohio on November 7-9 at a cost not to exceed \$1500 – *Presented by the CNCA Tech Committee*

Presentation: We want to send a Tech Committee member to the National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop (NAATW), which has been held annually since 2014. NAATW focuses on sharing experience among groups, districts, and areas about using technology in service. Attending will help us learn new tools and more efficient practices, while also sharing our own experience. Area 06 has been a leader in A.A. tech, including the development of the General Service App. We sent attendees in 2023 and 2024 and plan to send one again in November. The Finance Committee confirmed funds are available to cover the cost.

Questions: Q: Is it also true that the Area will spend money to send a person from the Web Committee? A: Yes, the Web Committee has a budgeted line item to send one of their members. Our two committees have different scopes of what we do. It's up to them when they choose to submit a housekeeping motion. The Tech Committee is submitting it now because we're ready to start planning. // No objections. <<**Housekeeping Motion Passed**>>

- That CNCA provide one-time ASL interpretation for the 2025 Post-Conference Assembly business meeting at a cost not to exceed \$500." — *Presented by District 08*

Presentation: We are presenting a motion similar to one we brought last year. We have a member from our district who would benefit from participating more fully during the Assembly Business Meeting with ASL interpretation. This motion is specifically for the business meeting portion, not the Delegate's Report, as there is already an Area motion that covers ASL for the Delegate's Report when requested. We estimate the cost at \$500 based on current interpreter rates. The interpreter would provide services via Zoom, benefiting both in-person and online attendees. [Chair clarifies that a request was made for ASL interpretation for the Delegate's Report, and per the previous Area motion, we will have it.]

Questions: Q: Does this mean we will have two ASL interpreters, one for morning and afternoon? A: We will have two interpreters, but for a longer period of time. You can't have just one interpreter; you need two working in shifts. On Zoom, the rate is about \$80 per interpreter per hour, which is half the in-person rate. // Q: Will there be travel? A: No, since they are working on Zoom. // Q: Why not ask for the whole day? A: We are asking to go beyond the motion that already covers the Delegate's Report. This motion extends interpretation to the business meeting, which is the other half of the day. If this passes, we will have interpretation most of the day. Someone asked about making it permanent, but there isn't enough time to submit a motion for the post-conference this year. // Q: Just to clarify, there are four chunks of the day: Business Meeting (this motion), Panel Discussion (no ASL currently), Delegate's Report including Q&A (already budgeted), and

what's on your mind (not budgeted). Is that correct? And by having interpreters on Zoom, we just pay for the parts and no travel reimbursement is required? A: Thank you. Yes, that is correct. // No objections. <<**Housekeeping Motion Passed**>>

- That CNCA provide Spanish-English interpretation for the upcoming online Secretary Workshop on June 5, 2025 from 6:45 - 8:00 PM, at a cost not to exceed \$93.75. — *Presented by District 08*

Presentation: There will be a 75-minute Recording Secretary's Workshop on Thursday, June 5. I'm requesting funds for Spanish interpretation and one of our regular ACM interpreters is available. The interpreter's rate is \$70 per hour. The workshop will begin with a 15-minute orientation at 6:45 p.m., followed by a full hour-long workshop starting at 7:00 p.m.

Questions: No questions. // No objections. <<**Housekeeping Motion Passed**>>

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Paperless *Comments/Commentarios*

Discussion: Last time someone said we need to decide one or the other, but I don't think we can make a blanket statement like that. There are people who need both. // I shared last month about my experience as Comments/Commentarios Chair. We went from 800 to 400 to 34 printed copies. It costs about \$4–\$5 per booklet. From a public health perspective, I thought there must be an accessibility need—but in general service, you need an email to register. If you need bigger print, you can print it at home. I'm still curious to hear from the folks who need paper and understand why. // Are we talking about emailing it in a manner where people can print it themselves? I think that would be terrific. Other places are doing that too. // Last panel, I got the *Comments* in the mail. I'm old school and I liked paper, but now I get it electronically and I feel fully informed. I have a bin full of old papers from two panels; maybe I'll give them to Archives. // It's assumed everyone has a printer. I just got one. // I want to lovingly invite our Spanish-speaking members to share. I recently sent the *Commentarios* as a PDF by WhatsApp to Spanish officers, and it was appreciated. Many Spanish-speaking GSRs communicate through WhatsApp or paper, not email. If we eliminate paper entirely, we risk widening the communication gap or shifting the cost of printing to Spanish-speaking districts. // In my district, about half the members are comfortable with technology and half are not. Some still need printed materials, and we have a GSR without an email address. // The *Comments* and *Commentarios* can be available in the General Service App – as long as there's a hyperlink, they can be added to the Area page. // We're in the 21st century and most members can read on their phones or computers. If someone needs a printed copy, we can facilitate that within the districts. // As Area Registrar, I confirm that to register a trusted servant in Fellowship Connection, an email is required. I recognize that not everyone is comfortable with technology, but service has taught me new skills I didn't have when I started. // GSO publishes three newsletters – *Box 459, A.A. Behind the Walls*, and *About A.A.* – and none are available in print anymore. Moving away from paper

Comments would help catapult people into the digital era by removing the fallback to analog methods. // Maybe what we really should be talking about is whether communicating by email or paper is even still the best method for the Area. //

- Area Officer Visits

Discussion: We always have something for officers to do when they visit, but if they can't come, that's fine too. We appreciate whatever works for them. // Last year, we had a financial crunch, and officer visits were cut for three months to save money. Some were upset. // As a new DCMC, officer visits really helped in the first few months when I didn't know what I was doing. // As a past area officer, visits are the most rewarding part of the job. The question is whether we want visits prioritized even in tough times or left as a stopgap when funds are low. // We love officer visits, but since we are hybrid, we'd gladly have them attend virtually if needed. // Hybrid districts could offer officers the option to attend online during lean months. // Officer visits create a spark in GSRs. We invite officers to dinner too. I served in an area without officer visits before, and it makes a big difference. // I love visiting districts and bringing guests along. If anyone near Sunnyvale wants to carpool for a visit, reach out. // Could having officers visit hybrid districts online and in-person ones live be enough of a stopgap? // In-person visits matter because of the informal conversations. If needed, Zoom is better than losing the visits altogether. // Visits help officers hear directly from groups and keep the Area connected. // Visiting districts helps officers check on the health of groups and learn where help is needed. // Seeing an officer visit showed me there's more to A.A. than just the district. It inspired me to get involved in general service. // Officer visits are budgeted at \$16,000, so money isn't a barrier right now. // GSRs trust information more when it comes from visiting officers, not just their own district. It cuts through ego. // Officer visits are exciting and motivating, even though translation challenges remain. We're improving that. // Missing officer visits reminds us why group contributions matter. It's a good reminder that a dollar doesn't go as far anymore. //

- Communication Platforms in General Service:

Discussion: Bill W. spoke in 1960 about the excitement of new communication methods like transatlantic phones. Our principles stay the same, but how we organize and communicate should keep evolving. I'm open to exploring new ways as long as it doesn't require 24/7 moderation. My concerns are mainly about anonymity, privacy, and moderation. // There is still a lot of suspicion around anonymity and attending meetings online. It's an important conversation because using platforms like Zoom has been a big boom for A.A. // I serve a large, spread-out district. I mostly use email to communicate, but GSRs aren't reading their emails. I'm trying to figure out how to communicate with GSRs and DCMs across a big geographic area while protecting their anonymity. We have a lot of tools, but we don't always use them effectively. // Behind every communication platform in A.A., someone is putting in time and effort. I try to stay open-minded and check out the tools out of respect for that service. Even if a tool isn't for me, it might help someone else. // Information flows up or down the triangle, but most of our current platforms—apps, newsletters, email—only push information downward. We

need more truly interactive platforms where communication can flow both ways. In my district, we're trying a team chat platform like Slack for more interaction. It's been quiet so far, but it offers a space to ask questions easily. // I serve on the NAATW Steering Committee. I'm excited about how technology can help keep A.A. viable and available for future generations. GSO doesn't have a Tech desk to serve groups, and right now, NAATW fills that gap. // We need to meet people where they are. Text messaging is one of the most effective communication tools today. My home group uses Expert Texting where members opt in to receive updates directly by text, and it's much harder to ignore a text than email. //

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Discussion: It doesn't feel safe to me that we decided to provide ASL for the business meeting and Delegate's Report but not for the Conference theme. The theme is "Working Together, Building Trust"—are we building trust with Deaf alcoholics when we don't provide ASL? As someone who is hard-of-hearing, I'm between communities myself, and it makes me sad we aren't doing more for accessibility. // The April 2025 *Comments* and *Commentarios* were uploaded to the General Service app. Archives are also available there. // District 16 is hosting a Pre-Assembly dinner on Friday, May 16. Tickets are \$35 for salmon, beef, or vegetarian plates. Sales close May 10. // Last night I spoke at our district's beginner meeting. It's supported by District 11 and rotates secretaries every six weeks. Sharing on A.A. literature and service after nine years of sobriety gave me an unexpected spiritual experience. // My home group, Love and Service, offers ASL the fourth Sunday of each month at our hybrid meeting. If you know a Deaf alcoholic who could benefit, please share. // I'm moved by the Pre-Conference Assembly report and grateful to District 3 and 19. It's inspiring to see people work so hard and share their experiences. // I sometimes attend online meetings and recently found an Autism and A.A. group. They don't have a GSR yet. Seeing people on the spectrum come into meetings made me realize we need to better support them.

The meeting was closed at 3:28 p.m. by Drew B. with the Responsibility Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B.
CNCA Recording Secretary, Panel 75