

CALIFORNIA NORTHERN COASTAL AREA (CNCA 06)
FALL ASSEMBLY MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2025

The Fall Assembly business meeting of CNCA was held at Napa Valley Expo on November 1, 2025, with members attending in person and virtually. Assembly orientation was presented by Madeleine P. Drew B. opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m., followed by the Serenity Prayer. The A.A. Preamble was read by Tim K. (District 07) in English, Gaby G. (District 17) read the Twelve Traditions in Spanish, and Evan J. (CRUZYPAA) read the Twelve Concepts for World Service in English. There were nine past Delegates present: Bob D. (Panel 36 Area 28), Barbara M. (Panel 41), Woody R. (Panel 50, Area 07), Madeleine P. (Panel 52, Area 18), Jim F. (Panel 59, Area 38), Ken M. (Panel 61), Raymundo L. (Panel 65), Joann L. (Panel 67) and Eric L. (Panel 73). There were five past Area Officers present: Judy W., Magdaleno O., Margarete V.A., Michael Q., and Miguel H. The 2025 Summer Assembly minutes were accepted as published in the October 2025 CNCA *Comments* and *Comentarios*.

Registered Attendance: 352 in total. 244 voting members (175 in-person; 69 online) / 108 non-voting (94 in-person; 14 online).

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE – CHITRA S.: The trustees' Literature Committee is seeking recovery stories from all transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming members in the A.A. structure of the United States and Canada. Your new issue of Box 4-5-9, GSO's newsletter, is now available at aa.org. Also available is the newly revised and expanded "Markings on the Journey" video in three formats, now including rare full-color home-movie footage of A.A.'s co-founders. David R., our Director of Publishing, will be retiring after nearly twelve years of service at the General Service Office. A.A. World Services, Inc. is now seeking a new Publishing Director to lead the department in New York City. Last panel's inventory led to the creation of a General Service app, distributed through the motions process and supported by district contributions. Members also questioned why Committee Chairs didn't have a vote—motions changed that, too. Today, let's ask: what's not working? What could we do better? Then walk through fear, go to the microphone, and kindly describe the problem as you see it. Concept Four reminds us that we are responsible for creating a safe space to speak and listen. Be brave, share what's on your mind, and let the Area percolate and find a solution together.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – CLAUDIA N.: As your Alternate Delegate, I support our Delegate and also serve as Chair for our Area's Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community committee. In 2024, the Conference approved developing two new pamphlets: one for Transgender alcoholics and another for Asian and Asian-American alcoholics. The trustees' Literature Committee is seeking story submissions from A.A. members whose experience reflects those identities. If you identify, your voice is needed. Please consider submitting your story by March 31, 2026.

These pamphlets will only succeed if they reflect the diversity of our Fellowship. I look forward to hearing all your voices today as we reflect on what's working, what isn't, and where we go from here. Whether you're new to General Service or experienced, your participation matters. When we show up and participate, we bring our gratitude forward, and our love for A.A. shines.

CHAIR – DREW B.: Today is the final assembly of the year! We've put the principles from our service manual into action, applying them in our group decisions and conversations. Today, we have three items of business: one old, one new, and one presentation of new business. The old business passed at the Summer Assembly, but we voted to reconsider it, so we'll take one more swing. Today's area inventory is a time for honest reflection. Together, we explore what makes CNCA strong and how we can further strengthen it. Districts are mirroring this process, and GSRs will take these tools home to inspire their groups. Throughout our journey, we have learned to listen deeply and value our collective wisdom, which has changed how we approach challenges. Together, we ensure A.A. remains a beacon for the still-suffering alcoholic. In exciting news, our Area newsletter, the *CNCA Comments*, is now fully digital. Subscribe at cnca06.org to receive updates straight to your inbox. Let's continue to build a community that listens, learns, and leads.

TREASURER – DAN B.: Through September, we are doing well financially. Income year-to-date is \$116,000 from groups, districts, and 7th Tradition collections at ACMs and Assemblies. Expenses total \$113,000, which includes officer, assembly, committee, and administrative costs, resulting in approximately \$3,000 in net revenue. Our current checking account balance is \$25,000. The 2026 budget was presented at the October ACM and is available in the General Service App under the Area Business section. Please email treasurer@cnca06.org or finance@cnca06.org with any questions before the vote at the next ACM on November 22. Today, we will use Venmo to collect 7th Tradition contributions. We are exploring a Venmo for Nonprofits account. The cost of this assembly is approximately \$7,000, comprising \$4,000 for the venue, \$2,000 for food, and the remaining amount for tables, chairs, coffee, utensils, and decorations. Assemblies are expensive but worth it, and those of us who attend – including on Zoom – have a responsibility to support them. Individual contributions can be made at cnca06.org/contribute or via [Venmo](#). Treasurers can submit group contributions at cnca06.org/contribute or by check.

ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR – MATT E.: Welcome to Napa! Districts 11 and 18 have done an incredible job. Today is our final assembly of 2025, and if you think it might be fun to host one of these events, you're absolutely right. Three out of four assemblies in 2026 are already booked, and a district bid for the remaining assembly is expected soon. I'd love to work with your district to bid for a 2027 Pre- or Post-Conference Assembly so we can help set up Panel 77 for success. If you're thinking about it, email assemblycoordinator@cnca06.org and let's make it happen.

REGISTRAR – SARAH B.: Recently, I've focused on an essential inventory in our Area: cleaning up our records and connecting with trusted servants. This work has strongly

reminded me that I am building relationships, not just updating fields. My inventory process involved two key findings: Fact-Facing (identifying some disbanded groups) and Fact-Finding (celebrating eight new registered groups). Since we last met, I have helped register new groups, including the “Plain Language Big Book Study” and “QR – Queer Recovery – Code” groups, reflecting a vibrant growth in our Area. I deeply appreciate the service of our DCMs, DCMCs, and District Registrars, and I would like to formally welcome our two new registrars: Ambrosia (District 15) and Ian (District 90).

RECORDING SECRETARY – JACKIE B.: On this Day of the Dead, I want to honor two beloved members and now ancestors of CNCA: George D. and Orrin C. As Recording Secretary, I maintain the CNCA Motions Book, our historical record of Area business since 1977. To receive an electronic copy, recordingsecretary@cnca06.org. George D. was our Panel 25 Delegate, and according to the Motions Book, in 1976, he read “a GSO bulletin announcing that all A.A. groups would soon be assigned numbers.” Just three days before he passed, I spoke with George on the phone about the first computers at GSO. He recalled a terrible backlash: “Each group is a spiritual entity! How dare GSO reduce us to a number?!” George explained that GSO was simply trying to modernize the organization of group records to improve communication. Bill W. often said, “In my Father’s house, there are many mansions,” and I imagine George and Orrin on the porch of one of those mansions, just two drunks talking, excited to see what we do with the legacy they left us.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE/LA VIÑA – JOSE L.: As we close another year in service, I’m reminded that our literature remains one of the most powerful ways we carry the message. Whether it’s a Big Book given to a newcomer, a *Daily Reflection* that speaks to the heart, or a Grapevine story that reminds us we’re never alone, each page is a living expression of spiritual awakening. This year, the Grapevine and La Viña continued to shine as “our meetings in print and online,” reminding us that recovery is universal and that the language of the heart connects A.A. members worldwide. Let’s continue encouraging our groups to subscribe, share stories, and use literature in meetings, workshops, and sponsorship activities. As highlighted in the recent letter from the publisher, the future of Grapevine and La Viña depends on our action today. We must rally our members to subscribe, share, and support. Encourage them to visit the Grapevine store, explore the rich resources available, and make a purchase that goes beyond the material — it’s an investment in recovery, unity, and service.

AREA STANDING & SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITIES – ENRIQUE E.: This year has been a great opportunity for our Accessibilities Committee to learn how to open doors and create better chances for those who need us most. With district participation, we’ve grown stronger and gained tools to increase inclusion. Our next workshop, “Accessibility and Safety for A.A. Groups,” is scheduled for November 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in San Jose, hosted by District 17 Spanish South. For helpful resources, including the [Accessibility Workbook](#), email accessibilities@cnca06.org.

ARCHIVES – ELVIA P.: The Summer 2025 issue of [Box 459](#) has an article titled “Preserving Our History: The Power of Our Seventh Tradition.” It shares how the GSO Archives digitized over 10,000 pages of Bill W.’s correspondence using a new scanner. Similarly, the CNCA Archives Committee recently digitized a past Delegate’s archival documents in half the time it would have taken before we got our new scanner. Thanks to Seventh Tradition contributions, both the GSO Archives and your Area Archives continue to preserve A.A. history. Please join us at our December Open House in Walnut Creek.

BTG (BRIDGING THE GAP) – LYNN K.: BTG is a 12-step committee that brings presentations to rehabs, detoxes, hospitals, and jails to let people know A.A. is there when they leave. We connect them with a volunteer, or "bridge," who takes them to a meeting upon their release and answers their questions. We've made hundreds of presentations and over 100 successful bridges. I feel lucky to chair this amazing committee.

FINANCE – JEFF D. (READ BY RODRIGO Z.): The Treasurer’s Report for September was reviewed and found to be accurate. Net revenue year-to-date currently exceeds projections, though the report does not yet reflect expenses from today’s Assembly. The final version of the 2026 budget has been reviewed and will be up for disapproval at the November ACM. After that vote, the Committee will begin work on the 2027 budget. Please email questions or feedback to finance@cnca06.org before the upcoming vote.

I&T (INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION) – LUIS R.: This is the fourth assembly of the panel, and it has been a great learning experience. Our seven-person committee provides simultaneous interpretation for each Assembly and Area Committee Meeting, as well as document translation using the AI software DeepL. We can also provide sign language interpretation upon request and with the Area's approval. Thank you for allowing us to serve with love and gratitude for what A.A. has given us.

PI/CPC (PUBLIC INFORMATION / COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY) – CLAUDIA N.: PI informs the public about A.A., while CPC educates professionals who work with alcoholics. We provide information about where we are, what we are, and what we can and cannot do. As part of our CPC work, we staff booths at events across our Area. In October, we attended the Employee Assistance Professionals Association event in San Francisco, where we networked and shared resources like the Meeting Guide App and QR codes for A.A. literature. Later this month, we’ll have a booth at the Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. Our committee meets monthly in Petaluma before the ACM – please join us at our next meeting on November 22. We exchange ideas and share tools, including posters, QR codes, and more.

TECHNOLOGY – MEG B.: The Tech Committee celebrated a great turnout at the bilingual "Tech in Service" workshop co-hosted by District 20 Spanish East. Request the audio recording by emailing tech@cnca06.org. We established area-owned @cnca06.org email addresses for Area Officers and Committee Chairs, a massive step toward information stability and improving the "Pass-It-On" process. Today features

text-to-vote technology for the election of our candidate for Pacific Regional Trustee. Visit the Tech table for a demo on using QR codes for service. The committee invites your feedback on current technology needs in your home group and district.

WEBSITE – SANDRA S.: The Web Committee is working to streamline content and improve navigation on the Area website cnca06.org. For major updates, we've decided to post changes first to our WordPress "sandbox" testing site before going live on the CNCA 06 website. We're also creating a language toggle; to preview it, visit cnca06.org and click on "Sitio Web Español." The website was recently updated with October information. Magdaleno is working with the Spanish Districts to understand their website needs. If you have any questions or requests, please email webchair@cnca06.org.

WEBSITE AD HOC – DANICA R.: The Website Ad Hoc Committee was formed to recommend improvements to the CNCA [website](#), [calendar](#), and [Linktree](#). We gathered over 200 responses to the Area survey and researched 20 other Area websites, resulting in preliminary recommendations for the Website Committee, some of which they have already implemented. We're currently interviewing trusted servants who use the website to better understand how it supports their service. Thank you to everyone who participated. We appreciate your input and look forward to making the site more useful and accessible for all.

LIAISON REPORTS

YPAA – EVAN J.: I serve as the Chair of CRUZYPAA (Santa Cruz Young People in A.A.). ACYPAA Summit is taking place this weekend in Sacramento. Summit marks the halfway point to the annual ACYPAA (All California Young People in A.A.) conference. There's a vampire ball tonight and an 11:00 p.m. marathon meeting. On November 15, we're hosting a bonfire at Seabright Beach.

NCCAA (Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous) – Devlin F.: The history of CNCA is closely tied to NCCAA. The first Area 06 Delegate, Nic N., was elected at the 1951 NCCAA Conference in San Francisco. NCCAA is a traveling conference that rotates through cities in Northern California each spring and fall. Past locations include Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, Stockton, Fresno, Modesto, Monterey, Santa Rosa, and Foster City. If your district or intergroup is interested in hosting a future conference, bid information is available at norcalaa.org. The next conference will take place in San Ramon on March 20–22, 2026, and will feature speaker meetings, panels, and workshops. Our friends in AI-Anon and Spanish-speaking A.A. will have their own rooms and programming. Every A.A. group in Northern California can send a group representative, known as a "delegate." Visit norcalaa.org to register, volunteer, contribute, or suggest panels and workshops.

AREA BUSINESS

ELECTION

- Third Legacy Election of CNCA Nominee for Pacific Regional Trustee –

Facilitated by Madeleine P., Past Pacific Regional Trustee

Results: Eric L., 76th General Service Conference Nominee for Pacific Regional Trustee

PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

- That CNCA submit to the General Service Conference a motion to change the phrase “Power greater than themselves” from page 165 of the Plain Language Big Book back to the original phrase “unsuspected inner resource” from page 567 of the “Spiritual Experience” in the original Big Book – *Presented by District 11 Napa*

Presentation: This motion comes from Napa’s Freethinkers Group. They noted an inaccurate translation in the “Spiritual Experience” Appendix of the *Plain Language Big Book* (PLBB) that limits the Big Book’s accessibility to atheists and agnostics. The original line, “With few exceptions, our members find they have tapped an unsuspected inner resource,” was translated as, “Most A.A. members discover that a Power greater than themselves has helped them make this change.” The group objects to this translation because it alters the original meaning, rendering it not only inaccurate but also creates an obstacle for atheists and agnostics by removing one of the few passages in the Big Book aligned with their beliefs. They propose restoring the phrase “unsuspected inner resource” in the *Plain Language Big Book*. The revised passage would read, “Most A.A. members discover that an unsuspected inner resource has helped them make this change.” This version retains the original meaning while adhering to the plain language style.

Questions: Q: How many people today use language like “unsuspected inner resource”? How would changing it back align with the accessibility purpose of the *Plain Language Big Book* (PLBB)? A: This motion intends to increase accessibility. That phrase is commonly used in the secular community. // Q: Is this sentence from a personal story? A: No, it’s from Appendix II. // Q: I thought we would have to wait two years for changes to the PLBB. A: We were advised that Areas can discuss changes during these two years and that when an Area votes on a proposed change with substantial unanimity, it carries a lot of weight. // Q: Why do you want this change? A: The translation change in the PLBB completely shifts the meaning from describing inner growth to an external power. // Q: Did any newcomers bring this motion, or was it from established members? A: This was brought to a group member’s attention in a social media group for secular A.A. members, who brought it to their secular homegroup in Napa for discussion. // Q: Does this change make the language simpler? A: If simplifying the language excludes part of the membership, then it’s doing a disservice. // Q: Have you thought about expanding this motion to include the definitions in the glossary? A: No, this motion is only to change that one phrase in the PLBB translation of Appendix II. // Q: In the original version published in the Big Book, it refers to both higher power and inner resource. Are you asking that both be included to represent believers and secular members? A: No, our motion is to simplify the line but keep “inner resource.” // Q: What is “Secular AA” and how does this motion affect the wording of

Step 2? A: Secular A.A. is the community of alcoholics in A.A. with a secular spiritual orientation. We have our own conference, ICSAA, like how young people have ICYPAA. This motion is only about the Appendix, not Step 2. // Q: Is this sentence a special phrase to secular A.A. groups? A: Yes, this phrase is especially meaningful to secular members. Changing it is as significant to us as changing the wording of the Serenity Prayer. // Q: Would this motion cause conflict? In the Hispanic community, we are used to the term “higher power”. A: We’re glad the phrase higher power works for some atheists and agnostics, but “inner resource” is vital to another large part of our community. // Q: Do you have an accessible phrase to replace it? A: Our group suggests “unsuspected inner resource,” but we hope other secular groups will send in their ideas, too. // <<Motion to become New Business at the Pre-Conference Assembly on April 11, 2026.>>

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Remembering George D., Past GSO General Manager and CNCA Delegate, Panel 25 – *Presented by Bob D., Area 38 Delegate, Panel 35*

Digest: Early in my sobriety, I went to a Saturday meeting at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and ran into people who had what I wanted – George and Jim. They took me to the first gay meeting, the Fell Street Group. Everywhere I turned, George seemed to be there, always pointing me toward what was available in A.A. He carried me through those first six months of sobriety. George came from that old-time sponsorship style that didn’t shove; it invited. For someone like me, whose first reaction is to run, that gentle approach meant I stayed. In the old days, we called newcomers “pigeons”, and I’m grateful I was one of George’s pigeons.

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?

The Love and Service Group is hosting the 3 Legacies Conference next weekend, featuring many of our past CNCA delegates and current Class A Trustee Karrie Meyers as speakers. // The Grapevine is the living record of A.A. members around the world today. The Grapevine is in trouble; you can’t contribute to it, but you can subscribe. I urge you to buy subscriptions and place them in libraries and doctors’ offices. // District 10 Marin will host the Pre-Conference Assembly. Districts 11 and 18 did a wonderful job today, and we have big shoes to fill. // I was reminded today that it is important to register so we have accurate election numbers. // District 18 did an amazing job with the food and came in under budget! // Big thanks to the amazing CNCA tech team. Everyone is invited to this month’s National A.A. Technology Workshop (NAATW). It is a hybrid conference, and you can register at naatw.org. // Thank you for giving me a voice today. I’m excited to get involved with Bridging the Gap. // I came from a family that didn’t talk about thoughts and feelings or ask for help. I’m grateful for General Service, where the minority opinion is not only heard but welcomed. // Thank you to those who attended the first Tech Workshop of Panel 75. Email techchair@cnca06.org to request the audio recordings and slide shows. // Area 58’s PI/CPC Committee put stickers in Big Books and placed them in little free libraries. I think this is a great way to invest our Area

funds to help the suffering alcoholic. // Thank you to everyone who came to last night's Halloween dance and A.A. meeting. We are grateful to Madeleine for speaking. // Innovation in A.A. starts with the group. // You are invited to the 51st annual alcathon in San Mateo County, taking place on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. // The Area has averaged about five Carry the Message subscriptions per Assembly. // Tomorrow, November 2, the 6th Hispanic Forum will take place in Seaside, CA. // Thank you to our interpreters, Manuel and Mateo, and the tech team for their hard work today.

The meeting was closed at 4:47 p.m. by Drew B. with the Responsibility Declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B.
CNCA Recording Secretary, Panel 75

Disclaimer: AI tools were used to help with transcription, editing, and proofreading. A trusted servant reviewed and approved all final content to make sure it's accurate and follows A.A. principles.