



San Diego - Imperial Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous - Area 8

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXIII No. 3 P.O. Box 3670, San Diego, CA 92163-1670 (www.area8aa.org) June 2011

Theme for 2012

"Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age."

Area Chair Newsletter Article

May, 2011

Rafael C., Chair, SDIA

**"MATCHING CALAMITY WITH SERENITY
50% CALAMITY AND 50% SERENITY, NEVER 100%
SERENITY"**

As we continue to practice the three legacies, we will be presented with new challenges. Perhaps, the toughest one is COMMUNICATING with those around us.

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When I came to the program and decided to work it hard going any lengths, I realized I was getting

worse instead of better. After a month sober (I thought by then I should be an old timer!) I was more nervous that when I started and this scared me. I felt there was something wrong with my recovery; I thought I was not "doing it right". I remember I was few months sober when I asked my sponsor "When do we get to the point of substituting calamity with serenity?" He kindly smiled and said, "We do **NOT SUBSTITUTE CALAMITY FOR SERENITY, WE MATCH CALAMITY WITH SERENITY!**" This reminds me that the highest level of serenity I will have is 50%, not 100%. If I have this in mind when I hang out with the people I serve, it will be easier to understand their "nervousness" and hesitance; this way it will be less difficult to practice mutual communication. One of the reasons we suggest a minimum of two-year sobriety is that it will be less challenging to put up with the presence of others sharing the "foreign"

vocabulary of General Service, which can be intimidating at first. I don't know about you, but anything new intimidates me; and when I feel intimidated, I cannot communicate as effectively.

COMMUNICATION is something difficult among alcoholics because we are self-centered people who do not like to listen, we are "addicted to the sound of our voice"; therefore, we want to talk, we want to tell people what to do, not how we do it. When my experience in General Service was limited, I obviously couldn't tell people how to do it; therefore, I spent a lot of time asking people what to do -communication involved "talking a lot", simple listening, reading; certainly, getting a general service sponsor helped a lot. My service sponsor listened to "the sound of my voice" and made me feel important; this increased my trust in me, who didn't know my assets. Gradually, I became more knowledgeable and experienced and became a service sponsor learning to listen a little more and allowing the new people to listen "to the sound of their voice" raising their own trust and making them aware of their assets. Now as the Area Chairman, I listen to those around me and try to do the same thing. Sometimes I do not do it perfectly but I surely try to do my best.

Like in any other aspect of our lives we all want to share our feelings; frequently, we do not want "input"; we wish to share our fears to get them out there so our brain can listen to the fearful ego we all have inside us so we can continue our inventory process. Sometimes afraid of getting "input", "loving suggestions" from the people we share our feelings (which sometimes are not so loving or wise but unconscious sick efforts to control each other – we are not professional counselors, we are a bunch of sick people trying to get better, not bad people trying to do good) we decide to stay silent and isolate. Let us remember that A.A. does not intend to give us everything; however, A.A. is a vast source of experienced people and we need to feel free to continue to share with as many of them possible until we find somebody or several people we can "click". Do not be discouraged, no one among us is perfect, we are not saints; each of us, at best, is 50% calamity and 50% serenity!

Area 8 Officers	
Chairperson	Rafael C. 760-931-1280
Alt. Chairperson	Dean B. 760-274-5309
Area Delegate Panel 60	Joel C. 619-582-6010
Alt. Delegate Panel 60	Tom M. 760-441-8343
Area Treasurer	Ham H. 858-245-7923
Alt. Area Treasurer	Jan M. 858-270-4146
Area Registrar	Michele H. 760-224-6508
Alt. Area Registrar	Anne P. 760-613-5887
Area Secretary	Butch M. 619-980-7985
Alt. Area Secretary	Veronica S. 619-829-5854

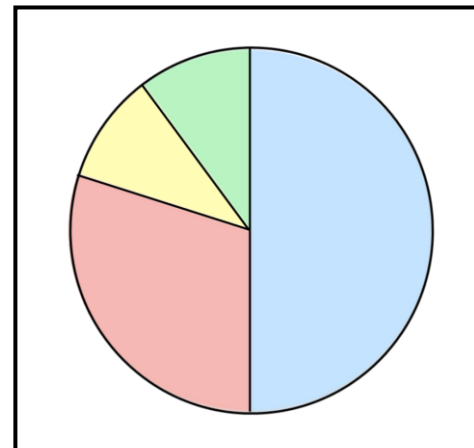
Recordings of all the PRAASA panels and Rod B. Telling his story at the banquet can be listened to at the San Diego Central Office, 7075B Mission Gorge Rd., San Diego, (619) 265 8762.

**Can the fourth tradition shed light on a 7th tradition principle?
Dean B.**

It seems like we have been hearing about pie chart issues that go back to the first meeting between Bill and Bob. Well, maybe that's too far of a stretch, but we certainly have seen pie chart issues debated at home groups, **districts**, **intergroups**, and repeatedly popping up as proposed agenda items for the general service conference.

Questions abound: "Should we show different examples of pie charts?", "Should we add more text to better explain that the charts provided are samples only?", and the list goes on.

(Note: an example of a commonly used pie chart is shown at right. The intent of the chart is to show graphically the amount of contributions being sent to each service entity.)



The other night I was visiting a service committee and 7th Tradition pie chart issues were not on my mind or purpose for the visit at all. The main thing I wanted to share with the group was the importance and value of A.A.'s 4th Tradition which states "Each group is autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups, or AA as a whole". More specifically, I was intending to share more about the "matters affecting other groups" portion, since **this group had expressed interest accomplishing their service work, but at the same time not wanting to "step on the toe" of other service entities in the area. Besides that,** most groups and A.A. members already know about the first half of the 4th tradition which is very often interpreted as "We can do whatever we want!" It's when the 4th tradition is read in full that it might not seem as easy to do as "We can do our own thing no matter what".

I had seen groups do inventories of 4th Tradition, and the similar issues discussed at my home group so I had notes on the 4th Tradition ready to share! I could let them know groups that have done an inventory on this tradition ask themselves something like "How might this action we are ready to take affect other groups or A.A. as a whole?" Sometimes, groups will even call the chairman or secretary of other groups, or even GSO, and ask "how will these actions affect you?" In all the instances where I had seen groups reach out for more information to other groups, a fairly reasonable solution to the question at hand appears. A quick prayer before I give my personal take on the issue never hurts either.

Well, I was thrown a curve ball by the committee I was visiting when they found themselves in a deep discussion on the right thing to do when it came to developing a sample pie chart for their communication with the groups they serve. For a minute I thought the 4th Tradition preparation I had done would not be useful. After all we were now on 7th Tradition stuff!

Naturally, when talking about the pie chart issue they started out by thinking about their own needs first, and planning on showing their own group as "a big piece of the sample pie"!

This was followed by a discussion of what their primary purpose actually was... Was it to get a bigger piece of the pie, or was it to inform groups on the importance determining a pie chart at all? I shared with them that there was an ongoing discussion in the fellowship on similar issues and a variety of solutions had been proposed to better inform the groups that the pie charts provided are samples only.

There was a back and forth discussion by the group on the topic. The leader then acknowledged the original intent was to get "the bigger piece of the pie". He went on to say "but now, after discussing it and learning that it was important to our fellowship not to steer folks one way or another on how to divide the pie chart, he had changed his perspective". The group then agreed to work on a way to better communicate the purpose of the pie chart, rather than to only think about their own financial needs. The sense was also there that they now had an understanding that other groups are impacted when pie charts get adjusted. The meeting then closed with a new group conscience on the subject. And no formal presentation by me on the 4th Tradition was needed, which was all well and good.

Thinking about it later on, I came to realize we had reviewed the part of the 4th Tradition that says "...affecting other groups or AA as a whole..." by working through the concerns of the 7th Tradition Pie Chart issue. After all, the group had identified an issue, it discussed how other groups might be impacted by their decision, and then they reached a new understanding based on all the available information.

As I saw it resolution to this 7th Tradition issue was assisted by understanding how simply moving a line on a pie chart one way will always affect other groups – and what do you know, it was the 4th Tradition in action!

Daydreaming for a minute I envisioned a pie chart full of AAs still suffering, who have a chance to be helped in some critical way by all service entities. Whenever a line on the pie chart is adjusted, it has to affect at least two groups on the chart, especially the group that ends up with a smaller piece after the shift has been made. It made me think... Can the 4th

tradition be the key to a healthy 7th tradition practice?

Next time you look at the pie chart, you might envision the people, groups & services represented by each group of the pie and think "Where else might the 4th Tradition help us find our way?"

In health and service,
Dean B.

The AA All Stars Send A Message Tom M. Alternate Delegate

We don't officially have an All Star position in AA but at the annual Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly our current Pacific Region Trustee Rod B. and a panel of past trustees displayed a depth of knowledge and a quantity of experience not commonly found in one place in AA. The past trustees were given Concepts as topics and each one expanded on the spiritual principles the Concepts are built on. The principles named were right of decision, participation, appeal and petition. This may prove fortunate for Area 8 if there is dissatisfaction with past decisions made by the area assembly or if there is disagreement with any of the General Service Conference Advisory Actions that come out of the 2011 Conference.

The conference may have arrived at different decisions than your group did and our delegate may have supported a position contrary to the position your group or the area assembly supported. How will your group receive this news? Will you be able to explain the process the conference uses to arrive at these decisions? Are you able to explain recent decisions by the Area Assembly? Hopefully there is some information here that will help a GSR with reports to the group.

As GSRs and general servants we will get questions from our groups about why the delegate and the Conference voted against the general sense of the assembly and what they can they do about it if they are dissatisfied enough to take action. The results of the 2011 conference do not bind the next conference to take the same action and some of the same actions can be applied to Area Assembly

decisions.

Madeleine P. past Pacific Region Trustee, summarizing page 15 of the AA Service Manual Madeline said group opinion is not more important than conference opinion. This doesn't conflict with the upside down triangle as long as conference opinion is the result of well developed group conscience in which all participate and all points of view are heard and considered.

The right of decision is granted because frequently during group conscience discussion new information comes forward that was not previously heard or available. Concept 3 grants the right of decision to Joel in voting for the overall good of AA. This concept is based in trust, not only in the trust that our delegate will vote for what he feels is best for AA but also trusting that the other delegates do likewise. We trust that they have given up personal or area perspective for something better, the continued health and welfare of AA. In our Area Assembly business granting the right of decision to each other is equally important.

The right of participation granted in Concept 4 was covered by Jim C. who quoted Bill saying it was one of the four spiritual principles that all the Concepts are based on. How could AA call itself a spiritual program if we excluded people from participating at the level they serve? The AA Service Manual says "the 'spiritual corporation' of AA should never include any members who are regarded as 'second class'". This brings to mind our current search for ASL funding to provide interpretation, we must avoid excluding anyone.

The rights of appeal and petition are the remaining two spiritual principles of the four named by Bill as the basis of the Concepts and they are combined in Concept 5. Ruth J. told us that if you use your right of decision, and you participate but the vote didn't go your way then you have the right of minority appeal. This right is extended to all of us. It includes the group member who feels a group decision is wrong, the GSR wronged by the district or area, the AA member who feels an agenda item at the Conference was not fully aired or that the majority

was wrong. The minority opinion is widely known and cherished in AA and members are usually asked to contribute minority opinion after any vote. We don't have many rules that explain how to file a minority opinion but if an individual or a group disagree with a decision and would like to make a minority appeal bring the opinion to the attention of the delegate. Most likely it can be brought verbally although it is best made in writing so that as the minority appeal moves from place to place the meaning is not lost. Our democracy is strengthened when we all listen carefully to the minority appeal and not dismiss it outright based on who is making the appeal. In Concept 5 we are reminded that even a substantial majority can be wrong.

The whole point of going through the spiritual principles the concepts are based on was brought home by past Trustee George D. who quoted a letter written by Bill in which he advised an AA member that not forcing anyone to conform to practicing a step or tradition in any specific way is allowing that person to practice spiritual freedom.

Spiritual freedom was part of a powerful message delivered by Rod B. at the PRAASA banquet. Weaving the trials and rewards of service into his story of recovery he held the attention of the room for over an hour. The message that I heard was to make sure I am walking the path of recovery because just knowing about the path is not enough.

**Delegate's Informational (Pre-Conference)
Area Assembly
Lions Center, Brawley, California
Minutes of the April 9, 2011 meeting**

Meeting Called to Order

There having been weather and traffic issues traveling eastward across the mountains to the Imperial Valley, and with the new sound system being set up for the first time, the Assembly was called to order at 9:32 am by Rafael C., Area Chairperson, with a moment of silence followed by a recitation of A.A.'s *Declaration of Unity*.

- New GSRs, DCMs, committee chairs, alternates and guests, as well as past delegates and trustees introduced themselves.
- The Twelve Traditions were read in Spanish by Valentine, and in English by Lisa P.

Roll Call, Quorum — Michele H., Registrar

The roll was called by Michele H., Area Registrar, and she declared the requirements for a quorum had been met. We needed 93 GSRs to achieve a quorum, and we had 110 in attendance. Those not in attendance during the roll call were: Alternate Registrar (position vacant at time of roll call); Agenda, NCAIC, Translation; Native American Liaison; East County Intergroup, Oficina Sur Chula Vista, Oficina Central Hispaña and Condado Norte Intergupo.

Approval of January 8, 2011 Orientation Area Assembly Minutes — Butch M., Secretary

MSP unanimous to approve as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Jan M., Alternate Treasurer

- Written report.
- If you have any questions on the written report come back and ask us.

Chairperson's Report: Rafael C.

Rafael's written report is submitted as his official report:

“THE INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE IS A TWO-WAY PROCESS”

Welcome to the Pre-Conference Assembly; I want to thank every one of you for allowing me to serve as you Area Chairman, I feel blessed for this opportunity!

Lately I have been reflecting on the conscience of those groups who become upset with what the area is doing. I believe that the two major issues that interfere with the communication between our group and the Area are ignorance and fear generated by different variables such as:

1. The GSR not fulfilling his/her responsibilities either by:
 - a. Not understanding what is said at the District meetings, or at the Assemblies.
 - b. Not attending District and/or the Assemblies.
 - c. Not reading the reports provided at these meetings.

March Financial Report	March 2011	YTD	2011 Budget	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	2,347.34	8,288.11	37,959.00	-29,670.89
Individual contributions:	95.00	190.23	-	
District contributions:	0.00	134.95	-	
Total contributions:	2,442.34	8,613.29	37,959.00	-29,345.71
Total budgeted expenses	2,884.92	9,629.00	37,959.00	0.00
Contributions less budgeted expenses	-442.58	-1,015.71		
Total unbudgeted expenses	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
Total expenses:	2,884.92	9,629.00	37,959.00	0.00
Contributions less total expenses:	-442.58	-1,015.71		
Previous month ending balance	9,207.10			
Cash on hand:	8,764.52			

- d. Not knowing what to take to the assembly.
 - e. Not knowing what to bring to the group.
 - f. Not knowing what to take to the district.
 - g. Fear of not being allowed to give report to his/her Group to provide the information gathered at this trusted servant.
2. The DCM not providing information at /or attending the District meeting.
 3. The Chair of the Committee not providing information at/or attending their committee meetings.
 4. Area Servants not being available, or not providing information/sponsorship in a timely manner.

Please take a minute to reflect on this and see how each of us can help to improve the two-way communication among all of us to serve our groups in a more effective and attractive manner.

AREA COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Area Structure and Guidelines state that, as Chairperson, one of my duties is to present a full report of Area Committee activities at every Area Assembly.

The Area Committee works as the steering committee of our Area Assembly and it meets the third Thursday of every month. The DCM from your district is a member of this committee. Under Concept X, which states that “every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority”, the Area Committee has certain responsibilities and authorities clearly defined in our Area’s Structures and Guidelines.

The Area Committee Meeting (ACM) occurred thrice since our last Area Assembly. In these ACMs we

continued to hear 60-second reports from all DCMs, Committee Chairs and Liaisons. This practice has proved very beneficial to let the Area Committee know exactly what is going on in our different entities of our area in a timely manner; and everyone has agreed that we make it a regular part of our meetings.

At the January 20 ACM: We discussed the updating of the districts’ map in the Area Structure and Guidelines, had an update on the 4-Area DCM Sharing session; our Alternate Registrar resigned due to the demands of her job and we discussed when would be the optimal time to elect the Alternate Registrar. After the floor made reference to the Area Guidelines that suggest election of officers should be done at the next assembly, a motion was made to have this election in this April 9 Assembly and after some discussion it was postpone for the next ACM.

We had a lively discussion about the need for ASL interpretation at future Area Assemblies, including this one, since our Area has a new GSR who is hearing impaired. The Accessibilities Committee presented information regarding the cost of ASL interpretation, and calculated that it would be around \$ 900.00 per assembly –using two ASL interpreters at \$ 50.00 per hour, per interpreter. The Accessibilities Committee told us that they were working on a motion to ask this amount of money to the Area Assembly. DCMs were asked to inform their GSRs so they could notify their groups about this need, the cost, and etcetera.

We also discussed and agreed that due to the current venue unavailability in April, we will meet in a different location.

At the February 17 ACM: After discussing the Pre-Conference Agenda and acknowledging what the Area Guidelines read about the election of officers, I, the Agenda Committee and our Delegate decided to add the Alternate Registrar election to the Pre-Conference Assembly. This was communicated to the Area Committee members and the motion to have this election was withdrawn –saving time avoiding unnecessary discussion. Our Delegate asked for input about the Pre-Conference section of this Assembly. We also had a more discussion regarding the need to come up with funds to pay special workers who provide ASL interpretation. It was decided that the Area Districts would create a temporary fund to see how much they would collect, Bob E., DCM from District 16 volunteered to be in charge of the money and give report in the next ACM. We also had a motion asking that the ACM approve \$450.00 towards this expense, after some discussion, the motion was postponed for the next ACM.

At the March 17 ACM: Bob E., District 16 DCM updated us regarding how much he had collected to help pay special workers providing ASL interpretation:

District 16.....	450.00
District 21.....	90.00
District 5.....	45.00
Anonymous donor	148.43
Anonymous donor	151.57
Porter Hall Step Study.....	26.00
Progress Not Perfection.....	<u>45.00</u>
TOTAL.....	\$956.00

We discussed a motion presented by the Accessibilities Committee asking that the Area Assembly approve \$ 900.00 for certified ASL interpretation in each assembly starting in June 4; after much debate, Accessibilities decided to withdraw the motion and bring it back next month once reworded.

A motion asking that the ACM approve \$450.00 towards ASL expense was postponed for the next ACM.

As you see, we have had a very busy start at the ACM!

COMMENTS ON TODAY’S ALTERNATE REGISTRAR ELECTION

I would like to remind all of you who are eligible. Page 10 of our Area Structure and Guidelines read:

IX. ELECTION OF AREA DELEGATE, ALTERNATE DELEGATE, AREA OFFICERS AND THEIR ALTERNATES

- A. The Area Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Officers and their Alternates are to be **elected by Third Legacy Procedure**. This procedure is to be read prior to elections.
- B. **All currently serving Area Committee members, Alternate Area Officers, and those who have served within the past twelve months who are present are eligible** to stand.
- C. If there are fewer than two nominees available for office, nominations may be taken from the floor.
- D. All currently serving members of the Area Assembly PRESENT shall have voting privileges. Absentee ballots or proxies shall NOT be valid.
- E. Suggested **qualifications** will be **those recommended by the current "A.A. Service Manual."**

While in PRAASA, I asked Nick M., Area 9, Panel 48 (1998-1999) Past Delegate, if he could help us chair this election and he kindly agreed. I want to welcome him and all the officers from our sister areas 5, 9 and 93 who traveled a long way to help us with this election.

PRAASA

PRAASA was a big hit, again; Hawaii put a great show and the participation was as exciting as always. I particularly enjoyed meeting a lot of new people, including GSRs from different areas. I also enjoyed sharing experiences with other Area Chairs and our Alternates in both late evening roundtables. They were full of good information that the brand new Chairs appreciated. I appreciate the participation of everyone that attended. Thanks for making such a great effort, especially for those who did not received any funding –for some it is a great economic sacrifice that undoubtedly comes with twice as much reward.

GSDYPAA AND NSDYPAA

GSDYPAA and NSDYPAA asked me to provide a letter to support their bid for 2012 International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA). It is customary for our Area to support the bids of our young people entities; therefore, I have sent both a letter of support in the name of our Area.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE AREA ASSEMBLY

Orientation Assembly in January 8, sponsored by Districts 13 and 2, was in San Diego. We had great attendance. We had a busy and exciting program where the more experienced servants oriented the incoming ones; we have a total of 26 speaker topics! Thanks to all for you participation!

We discussed and voted on a motion to spend up to \$1,550.00 to buy new PA system for the area. The motion passed and I hope we will soon have a much needed new system.

We also elected our new PRAASA 2014 Chair; JP will be the Chair for this PRAASA. Thanks to Jim H., and Sallye M. for making themselves available for this position, too.

We also received bids for September and November Area Assemblies; Districts 6 and 7 will be the host of the Big Day Assembly in September, and Districts 11 and 22 will host the November Election Assembly. Thanks for volunteering. I encourage other districts who have not been involved to reach out to these ones and offer their help; in AA we do everything together in order to feel part of the whole –AA as a whole.

Thanks to all who helped to make this event to become a reality.

UPCOMING ASSEMBLY

Post-Conference Assembly in June 4 will be at “The Centre”, in San Diego.

Big Day Assembly in September 17 will be at the Mission Valley United Methodist Church.

Elections Assembly in November 12 will be at the Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla. I have been in contact with Rod B., our Pacific Region Trustee, and he has agreed to visit us to chair our November 12 Area Elections. He said he will manage to give his trustee report while we collect ballots. He has had a busy schedule and has done a great job. Those who attended PRAASA were fortunate to have him speak.

Dean, our Alt. Chair has updated our Area’s Master Calendar; please review it and make an effort to attend as many as possible of the multiple workshops our districts are organizing this year.

TODAY’S ASSEMBLY

We will continue to hear 60-second reports from DCMs and Committee Chairs, as we did it in the previous Assemblies.

We will have an election for a new Alternate Registrar.

We have a very exciting program where we will inform our Delegate about the items that will be discussed at the upcoming General Service Conference; I would like to remind you that we all are here representing our groups and have the responsibility to listen and participate during the entire day –please don’t miss the afternoon session.

The following are oral comments not included in Rafael’s written report:

Our next area committee meeting will be in Poway, due to the unavailability of our current location. We have about \$500.00 in reserve for ASL interpretation at an upcoming assembly. In the meantime we will work on the motions and see what the groups want to do. Nick M. and Linda C. will be helping us with the ballots for the election of the Alternate Registrar.

Keynote Address: “We Are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let It Begin With Us” — Tom M., Alternate Delegate

We are responsible for A.A.’s future, let it begin with us is the 2011 General Service Conference theme and those of us here today get to step up to take our turns at guiding A.A. into the future. Before we go off into the future I think we should look at the recent past. Since mid February when we began holding the Pre-Conference workshops many of you have been starring in episodes of GSR Survivor where you felt like you’re on an island wrestling with a group that grudgingly gave up meeting time to listen stone faced and unresponsive while you present General Service Conference agenda items. Or maybe an A.A. member who thought he was Johnny Cochrane wanted to argue the finer points of A.A. policy and finance with you. Or you arranged a business meeting to present the agenda items to your group and no one showed up. What is important is that you tried to stimulate interest in General Service.

If anything remotely like this happened to you then YOU ARE MY TYPE OF PEOPLE! Hopefully your group was more receptive than my examples but let me say to all of you, whether you felt you were successful in collecting input from your groups or not, Thank you for your service

to A.A. and being responsible for helping guide A.A. into the future.

Bill wrote "the area assembly is the mainspring of the conference structure- the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself." The word mainspring means the chief motivating force. So at today's assembly the role of the GSR is to provide conference input that our delegate will use to motivate his decisions at the General Service Conference. Hopefully, some of today's sharing will help shape a group conscience discussion during the Conference. One or more of the items that we share on today may be altered by the Conference Committee that considers it which means the item we talk about today may not be exactly what is discussed on the conference floor. In this case Joel may draw on a comment that an individual in this room makes either in roundtable discussions or from the microphone. So please use this opportunity to have the voice of your group heard, tell us what your group told you.

If your group did not consider an agenda item that is being discussed at your round table you are welcome to participate with your individual opinion. However, remember that The A.A. Group pamphlet cautions that all pertinent information be studied, all points of view heard, and to place principles before personalities in the process of finding a group conscience. The pamphlet somewhat diplomatically states to be wary of "dominant opinion" which I take two ways; to avoid blindly going along with the large majority if I have a different point of view and it reminds me to not to dominate group conscience discussions.

In the 12x12 the first line of Tradition 1 is "The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has." Today, as we communicate group wishes through the structure of A.A. we share in the privilege of being a small part of a great movement but it comes at a price, we give up personal time and lay aside personal ambition. I can't work effectively with you if I want something from you and when I am having trouble working with you it is always because I want something from you. My job is to surrender my desires today, to let go of my way so that we can do things our way.

Our past chair Leonard Blumenthal said none of us is as smart as all of us, we can be unified but have diversified perspectives on A.A. issues. How do we achieve that type of unity? By remembering to make decisions that will keep the hand of A.A. extended to those who wish to grab hold of it. As we do our jobs in helping guide A.A. into the future let's remember that lives are at stake,

there are still drunks both outside A.A. and in our rooms that need to be reached and they may die without this program. That is the ultimate reason we are here, to keep our hand extended.

So as the day progresses and we get hungry, angry, lonely, or tired remember what Bill wrote in A.A. Comes of Age- Our common welfare comes first, personal recovery depends on A.A. unity. Pride, fear, and anger- these are the prime enemies of our common welfare. "True brotherhood, harmony and love, fortified by clear insights and right practices, are the only answers."

Election of Alternate Registrar — Nick M., Past Delegate Panel 48, Area 09, Mid-Southern California

Nick instructed the Area Assembly on the procedures for the election, as well as who is eligible to vote and to stand for election. Current and past trusted servants from Areas 5, 9, and 93 assisted in distributing, collecting, and tallying ballots, and recording vote counts. Utilizing the Third Legacy Election Procedure outlined in the *A.A. Service Manual*, and with regard to our recently revised Area Assembly Structure and Guidelines on how we conduct elections, the election proceeded as follows:

Six eligible members made themselves available for the position. Each gave their sobriety date and a brief service history.

Monty C. was elected on the second ballot. Details of the election are as follows:

Area Assembly Election Tally Form April 9, 2011						
Alternate Registrar						
Name	Ballot					
	1 (gold)	2 (blue)	3	4	5	Ha t
Guy R.	17	4				
Art S.	18	9				
Monty C.	70	119				
Patrocinio C.	20	11				
Alan R.	7	1				
Carrie E.	20	2				
spoiled ballots	1	4				
Total votes	152	146	0	0	0	0
One-fifth	30.4	29.2	0	0	0	0
Two-thirds	101.384	97.382	0	0	0	0

As of this election — and for the remainder of the term — your panel 60 (2010-2011) Area Officers are:

Delegate:	Joel C.
Alternate Delegate:	Tom M.
Chairperson:	Rafael C.
Secretary:	Butch M.
Registrar:	Michele H.
Treasurer:	Ham H.
Alternate Chairperson:	Dean B.
Alternate Secretary:	Veronica S.
Alternate Registrar:	Monty C.
Alternate Treasurer:	Jan McD.

Panel Presentation on Conference presentation/discussion topics

Practicing our Traditions in a Digital Age — Joel C.

When I received my loving invitation on my Blackberry to share “Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age,” I had just left a family funeral. My nephew-by-marriage had passed away, and the whole family was gathered in support of my niece. She had gone through a period in her late teens and early twenties when she was a total hellion. During that period, she had attended an A.A. meeting with me where she identified as an alcoholic and shared experiences that any alcoholic would relate to. Her four year marriage seemed to stabilize her, but with her husband gone I’m worried about her. I fear that in her grief she may start drinking and return to her old ways. Our Conference Theme, “We Are Responsible for A.A.’s Future – Let it Begin With Us,” really resonates for me. I’ll do all I can to be responsible for A.A.’s future, so that A.A. will be here for my niece if she ever needs us. And if the Digital Age makes it easier for her to reach out to us and for us to be there for her, then so much the better.

One: Unity. Let’s acknowledge that the Internet is potentially the greatest unifying communication tool in history, giving us the ability to communicate across geographic boundaries and to connect with people whom we may never meet face-to-face, and let’s commit to using the Internet responsibly as a unifying force for our whole Fellowship.

Two: Group Conscience. The Digital Age makes participation easier. The week of my nephew’s funeral, while traveling to his memorial service my cell phone helped me join the group conscience of a service committee that I would have missed

otherwise. This type of convenience is especially helpful in areas with remote communities.

Three: Welcome! We’re glad you’re here. The same day I received the invitation to give this talk, I also received an email with the subject line “Newcomer.” Jocelyn, an A.A. member from Maine, had contacted a fellow Southern California area delegate before moving to San Diego. He sent her a warm, welcoming message, a link to our Central Office website and cc’d me. I followed up with another welcoming message offering help. Later that day, through another email, I was able to welcome the first deaf GSR in our area.

Four: Rule 62. How can we take ourselves seriously when long-forgotten friends are posting pictures of us from our high school years in various states of debauchery?

Five: Carrying the Message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Serving on the Conference P.I. committee, I constantly consider ways to use our Digital Age to carry the message. Here’s a great idea from the General Sharing Session of the November 2010 “Quarterly Report from G.S.O.” (p. 3), regarding the aa.org Web site: “Have a woman or man telling their story of hope and recovery in an anonymity protected way to help the newcomer accessing the Web site.” We are always at our best when we carry the message through our personal stories. I’d love to see this suggestion put into action.

Six: Cooperation without Affiliation. Let’s be sure as we develop our “killer apps” to deliver our A.A. content digitally that we keep this principle in mind.

Seven: Self Support. Make your annual birthday contribution to G.S.O. through the “A.A. Member Contributions Online” tab on the aa.org Web site. I made mine that way, and it felt good!

Eight: Non-professionalism/payment for special workers. I’ll just pose a question here: Should we be paying our area webmasters a fee for their services?

Nine: Benign anarchy. Isn’t that what the Internet is? Here’s Bill on anarchy: “I think that the idealist who first advocated the concept felt that if only men were granted absolute liberty, and were compelled to obey no one, they would voluntarily associate themselves in the common interest” (As Bill Sees It, p. 50).

Ten: No opinion on outside issues. Okay, a grey area. A.A. doesn't have any opinion on outside issues, "particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion" (Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th ed., p. 565). I can have an opinion on such issues as an individual; I just can't share them "in such a way as to implicate A.A." We usually exercise an abundance of caution about this, restraining ourselves in the interest of unity. But on Facebook, it seems to be a whole other matter. Why is that?

Eleven: Complete anonymity at the public level. A no-brainer. The Internet and social media are public. Tradition Eleven applies. See the "A.A. Guidelines on the Internet."

Twelve: Anonymity and humility. Again, a question: How can we best use social media, which tends to have an air of "Look at me!" about it, in a humble way? I don't know, but for the sake of A.A.'s future, let's see what we can do to lead the way.

Humility — Accepting the Group Conscience — Mike M., GSR, District 2

Humility to my understanding meant not thinking less of myself, but thinking of myself less. The 12 a 12 states it amounts to a clear recognition of what and who we really are, followed by a sincere attempt to become what we could be. And Shen used in the context of my service as a GSR it is paramount that I remain a humble, and thereby effective, servant of the group and of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Any miniscule amount of humility and acceptance proves to me that I am not always right, and my inability to agree with people typically comes from my inability to understand them, and that is entirely possible for us all to be right. Like any classic alcoholic I am stubborn and want my good. But the best needs to take precedence over the good. Best is the place where it isn't about me. It is about us.

What is the group conscience: The concept has been a part of A.A. Function from its earliest days. Our co-founder, Bill Wilson, often told the story of how in 1936 the first A.A. Group in New York City turned thumbs down on his chance to accept a job as lay counselor at Town Hospital. Despite his dire straits, the group thought his acceptance would compromise the principles of the new movements, and Bill reluctantly heeded the conscience of the group.

The concept was formally defined with publication in 1946 of Tradition Two: "For our group conscience there is but one loving authority- a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." This tradition is used in the AA principal basis as well for the development of the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

How does it work? The group conscience is relied upon at all levels of service- the group, district, area and General Service Conference, as well as service committees. A decision must meet two principal criteria in order to qualify as a group conscience: First, the decision must be made only after complete knowledge and through discussion of the question at hand; and second, any decision made must meet the requirement of substantial unanimity.

When should it be used? Just which matters demand a group conscience are dictated by the gravity of the question before the group. Generally speaking, any matter of policy or financial consideration meets the requirement of a group conscience. Lesser matters, such as determining the time of a meeting or that most important matter concerning the brand of coffee to be used or who brings the cookies, would require only a single majority vote. Obviously, anything affecting A.A. as a whole, or any group in particular, would require a formal group consideration.

What if it turns out to be wrong? This can and does happen when we were too hasty in our decisions or we make a mistake. But most of the mistakes we've made in the past have been quickly rectified with through a process of trial and error or A.A.'s built in right of minority appeal. We are so fortunate to be part of a fellowship that is free of dogma and absolutist leadership. We have prospered with the principles of the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service where lesser fellowships would surely have failed. This happens only in a movement that is secure enough to allow each of its members to define their own God; and focused enough not to try being all things to all people, but to rely instead on the single purpose of carrying the message to alcoholics who still suffer.

My acceptance of the group conscience, and my conveyance of it to the district and the area, adds yet another facet to the jewel of my own recovery by allowing me to practice much needed humility. And

hopefully these actions will help carry the message to future generations of alcoholics or the alcoholic who still suffers just outside of these rooms.

The Hand of A.A. — Inclusive, Never Exclusive —
Georgene N., GSR, District 8

Since earlier this year I've been serving my home group, the Chula Vista Friday Night 4 minute speaker meeting. In early January District DCM, Jane G., who is here with her growing tribe of GSRs of which I am one, suggested that I participate on Area 8's Accessibilities Committee. So here I am. How many times in my sobriety have I heard and I quote: 'When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible. So here I am.

Today I've never felt happier and more productive in AA: I'm making small general service contributions. I was once a GSR in Chicago for about three heartbeats. Since January 1, I have been privileged to be an active member of District 8's GSR team as well as a participating member of Area 8s forward moving Accessibilities Committee comprised of persistent, fun and loving individuals. Since at least 2004, this committee has continued to develop awareness about AA member with special needs for basic AA meeting and literature accommodations and to help raise funds within the guidelines of our 12 Traditions.

Today more AA members and groups are voluntarily participating I am and contributing to these successful basic accommodation which include meetings to for homebound or hospitalized AA members, Braille AA, Literature for the Blind; Wheelchair Accessible specifications and guidelines for AA meeting places; the Sign Language Fund (ask us about our gold can please) which supports AA. Groups and member in carrying the message to deaf and hard of hearing alcoholics; plus ASL interpreted videos of AA literature.

Today there are seven Sunday through Saturday ASL interpreted AA meetings in the San Diego area support by both hearing and deaf AA members. All these basic accommodations can be adoptee do or implemented or support by your AA group, district and members. I hope you'll stop by our Accessibilities Literature table today and ask for more information. Alan R, is the current Chair of the Area 8 Accessibilities Committee. Many others have

been involve3d: Don R, Joe C., Steven N., Jerry C., and Suzaane R. to name a few. Thank God the hand of AA had remained inclusive never exclusive.

As stated in our General Service Off AA Guidelines entitled "Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs " As one deaf AA put it, "I'm just an alcoholic like everyone else here. I have the same need to be a worker among workers and not be singled out for special treatment. If you can just make the program available to me, Ill do what I have to do to work it."

Today, thanks to God's grace and your willingness, hard work and cooperation Area 8's Brawley Pre-Conference Assembly is making ASL interpretation available to San Diego's first deaf General Service Representative from District 6. At last our deaf AA community is represented at the A.A. general service level. We are truly blessed. Please put your hands in the air and help me welcome our first deaf GSR, Art M. Thank you all, and may God continue to bless us all in our sobriety.

Round Table on the General Service Conference

Workshop Topic:

"How to increase participation in A.A. — striving for self-support in all our affairs"

This year's theme for the General Service Conference is "We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future — Let It Begin with us." The Assembly participated in round tables to discuss the Conference Workshop Topic, "How to increase participation in A.A. — striving for self-support in all our affairs," and to develop a collective conscience of our area about what this means to us and our groups.

Standing Committee Assignments

- Accessibilities: Arthur M. (6); Kathy G. (12); Jim L. (3)
- Archives: Carol H. (2); Wes B. (5)
- CPC: Michael B. (TBA)
- Finance: Tricia G. (11)
- Information Technologies: Dustin (23)
- Literature: Brent C. (14)
- Newsletter: David S. (21)
- Policy: David F. (5)
- Translation: Jaime U. (18); Richard B. (3)

Lunch Break

Rafael reconvened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by a recitation of the *Serenity Prayer*.

While the Assembly had lunch we were treated to a "Mini-A.A. Speaker meeting." Peggy O., a GSR from District 9, and Phyllis H., a GSR from District 11 spoke, each telling her recovery/service story.

Delegate's Report: Joel C.

Joel's written report is submitted as his official report:

I want to start today by thanking every one of you for the service that you provide to your groups and to the area. It is because of the efforts of all, and of the GSRs in particular, that the Ninth Tradition works. All of you help to keep our area assembly directly responsible to those it serves through your participation here today and throughout the year.

Activities of our General Service Office

- The **eBook initiative** was approved by the A.A.W.S. Board in December. The focus is to make A.A. literature available for sale online in electronic book (eBook) format. To ensure that A.A.W.S. retains *full control* of the eBook publishing process, GSO will develop its own capabilities for the sale and distribution of A.A. literature published in eBook form. GSO will also develop custom software called the *A.A. Mobile App* which will be used on handheld mobile devices to allow purchased copies of A.A.W.S. eBooks to be downloaded and read. Individuals seeking to purchase A.A.W.S. eBooks will be able to do so through GSO's A.A. Website (www.aa.org). The initial roll-out is scheduled to take place early in the 4th quarter of 2011, with the Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. Now I know some of you are saying, "Hey, wait a minute. What are you talking about? I already have the Big Book on my phone." It's true that because we no longer hold the copyright to the first 164 pages and they are in the public domain, there are outside enterprises that have put the Big Book out for download. So, if you have the Big Book on your phone right now, you didn't get it from Alcoholics Anonymous. For those of us who prefer to get our A.A. literature from Alcoholics Anonymous, we just need to be patient a little bit longer and wait for our General Service Office to move forward on the eBook initiative, an initiative that was launched to serve our whole Fellowship well.
- Volunteers are needed to do Twelfth Step work through the **Corrections Correspondence Service**. This service helps suffering alcoholics who are incarcerated by pairing them up with an A.A. member on the outside to write on an individual basis. A memo from A.A. staff member Jim M., who sits on the Corrections desk, notes that, "Many incarcerated alcoholics who request this service will be newcomers and will not be familiar with the A.A. way. Instead of a vehicle for sharing experience, strength, and hope, initially many may use the C.C.S. to try to cultivate a more traditional pen-pal relationship. Remember, just as we once were, these newcomers may be very needy emotionally and financially. So, A.A.s should try not to be discouraged by someone who, in the beginning, writes for all the wrong reasons. A letter gently explaining what an A.A. member can and cannot offer will most often be followed by a more appropriate response from an incarcerated alcoholic looking for A.A. help." If you want to participate in the Corrections Correspondence Service, send your full name and address to the Corrections Desk at G.S.O., Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 459, NY, NY 10163 or send an email to Corrections@aa.org
- Planning is under way for the 2011 Additional **Pacific Regional Forum**, to be held in Woodland Hills, CA, the weekend of August 19-21. This is a great opportunity to become more connected to A.A. as a whole by interacting with our G.S.O. staff members and trustees. There is no registration fee, but advance registration is encouraged to help with the planning of the event. Registration forms and hotel information are available here today.
- I recently received the **quarterly contributions report** for our area from our General Service Office and forwarded it to the DCMs. The percentage of groups from our area that made contributions to GSO in 2010 was 43%, the same

as in 2009. We were just under the U.S./Canada average of 44% in 2009; I don't yet have the U.S./Canada figures for 2010. Groups that contributed helped to make it possible for our General Service Office to provide a new group kit to every new group that listed itself with GSO, provided assistance in the translation of literature in countries where A.A. is relatively new, and made it possible for the staff at our General Service to answer thousands of inquiries from A.A. members on subjects ranging from group histories to the Traditions to requests for Corrections correspondence (see above for more details on that last one). All of these activities help the alcoholic who still suffers in one way or another. Is your group one of the 43% that contributed? If not, remember that participation is what's important, not the amount of the contribution. Even if your group can only send in \$5 or \$10 once a year, that contribution still helps to carry the message, and it helps to connect your group to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

- The deadline for submissions for the **update of the A.A. and the Armed Services pamphlet** has been extended to July 15, 2011. The trustee's Literature Committee is seeking stories from A.A. members. Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced. Please attach your name and address on a separate piece of paper. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please send your sharing, by July 15, 2011, to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, or e-mail: literature@aa.org. This is vital 12th Step work, and with the large number of members of the military in our area we have the experiences that are needed for this pamphlet, as well as the newcomers who would benefit from it. Please talk directly to individual A.A. members who got sober while in the service or as veterans and ask them to send in their experience, strength, and hope.

- There is an **opening for a new staff member at our General Service Office**. See Box 4-5-9 for information about qualifications and how to apply. The deadline for applications is April 15th.

A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

- There's a wonderful **article on sponsorship** in the March issue of the Grapevine by Roxanne R. of Valley Center, CA, one of the cities in North San Diego County. I'm sure a copy of it will go into the collection that our area archives committee has created of every Grapevine or La Viña article written by a member from our area. Thanks, Roxanne, for being part of our local A.A. history!
- Although the Grapevine ended 2010 with a deficit, it would only take 4,500 new print subscriptions to **close the budget gap**. That's only 48 new print subscriptions (at \$26.97 for one year) or 65 new digital or audio subscriptions (at \$19.97 for one year) per area. If you don't currently have a subscription, please see our Grapevine/La Viña committee.
- Upcoming Grapevine issues will include special sections on **Working the Program at Work, A.A. on the Road, and A.A. in Prison**. La Viña also has an upcoming issue on A.A. in Prison, to be followed by the special 15th Anniversary Issue.

Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly

I attended PRAASA the first weekend in March, and it was one of the best that I've been to. The delegates' roundtables helped me by giving me an opportunity to connect with my fellow delegates and to share and review some of the guidance passed on to me last year about how to prepare for and participate effectively in the Conference. I was reminded to attend the Conference in the spirit of serving Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, and to listen as though I have no opinion, share my truth, and vote my conscience (good advice for all of us here today, as well).

One of the reasons it was such a great PRAASA was because of the choice of topics for the panels and the excellent preparation of the panelists. Here are

some of the highlights of presentations that pertain to the agenda items that we will discuss today:

- A presentation was given on **using new media technology to deliver the Grapevine and La Viña**. The presenter did some terrific research and found that Grapevine subscriptions have declined from 26% of worldwide A.A. membership in 1955 to just 4 ½% today. The presentation also included statistics on the explosion of the use of new media technologies in society at large over the last five years. 85% of us have cell phones, and 35% of these phones have apps. By the 3rd quarter of 2011, it is projected that 49% of phones will be smart phones. So the presenter concluded that there is a need to make our meetings in print available via new technology, and that efforts are already under way to do so through the digital subscriptions mentioned above. As she put it, "Our 'Meeting in Print' is becoming a 'Meeting in Media.'"
- There was a lively presentation on communicating about self-support, which relates to both the agenda item on the **Self-Support pamphlet** and the idea of **creating a finance workbook**. Some of the information in this presentation that I found valuable includes that the cost per member of the group services provided by our General Service Office is just \$6.46 per year, but GSO only receives an average of \$4.50 per member. The net result is about a \$2 million shortfall per year, which is made up for by profits from literature sales. Here's another interesting tidbit from the presentation: the value of \$1 in 2011 is only 47 cents when compared to 1984, yet many people still only put \$1 in the basket. Going back even farther, today's dollar is only worth 8 cents when compared to 1948
- The presentation on the proposed **policy on full faces of actors in videos** was very thoughtful. The presenter noted that, "The issue regarding full face video is a conflict between the videographers and A.A. principle of anonymity. They like eyes because eyes tell stories. When I

walked into my first A.A. meetings I saw hope in their eyes. They were not judging, they were soft, gentle and caring. There is a very great possibility that we may not be able to represent this in a video." The presenter described work being done in his area on a new video for the Young People's Video project, and how the first version probably went too far in showing too much of the members' faces; the staff member on the public information desk is working with the members who submitted the video to provide suggestions on how to revise the video to do a more effective job of protecting anonymity. The overall sense that I got from the presentation was that as long as we are careful and thoughtful, we can find a way to provide the sense of "hope in their eyes" and still respect our anonymity Traditions at the same time.

- The presentation on **what to tell family members about protecting the anonymity of A.A. members they may meet** noted that the issue of anonymity was one of the things that prompted the separation of the early A.A. members from the Oxford groups. The presenter placed a lot of emphasis on the bedrock principle that the only person who can decide about who to disclose their A.A. membership to is the individual A.A. member. He also noted that although we ought to ask our loved ones to respect and protect the anonymity of A.A. members they may meet through us, we can't control our loved ones, and they are actually free to do what they want. Sounds to me like this presenter really has turned it over!
- The presentation on **allowing A.A. Grapevine, Inc. to accept contributions** had a lot of humor. If nothing else, the presenter noted that being asked to do this topic led her to subscribe to the magazine! Most of what the presenter talked about parallels the summary that you have in your Pre-Conference Assembly handout. There was also a good reminder that the A.A. Grapevine reaches a lot of people – through pass-alongs of issues, it is estimated that each issue is read by 250,000 people. Whether or not

accepting contributions is a good idea, it's clear that many of us find the magazine to be an important part of our recovery.

- The presentation on the **update of the pamphlet, The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs** described the existing pamphlet and the recent history of the proposed revisions since 2007 and noted that the amount of time we have taken on this revision really isn't all that long, because "A.A. years are the exact opposite of dog years." We do things slowly and deliberately in order to get things right.
- My favorite panel, as always, was the **past trustees' panel**. Each presenter spoke on some aspect of the Concepts, and there is too much good stuff in this one for me to summarize it. I think that it would be great if one of our districts would do a workshop where we could listen to and discuss the presentations on this panel. On another note, I was sad that Dr. John Chappel, a past non-alcoholic trustee who visited our area often, wasn't there to participate in the panel because he was gravely ill. John's thoughtful contributions to this panel in years past have always been a highlight of PRAASA for me. John passed away a few days after PRAASA, and I sent a card to his wife, Val, on behalf of our area.

If you have never been to PRAASA before, start saving now for the next one, which will be the first week of March in 2012 in Bellevue Washington. I hope the description above gives you a sense of how valuable this event can be.

As I make my way to this year's General Service Conference, I am grateful for the support and encouragement that I receive from so many of you. It is a blessing to be serving you. Thank you for my sobriety. If anyone needs to contact me, please call (619) 582-6010 (home), (619) 987-9895 (cell), or email me at Delegate@area8aa.org

Conference Agenda Items

The items have been presented to the GSRs at pre-conference workshops and sent to the groups. Today, discussion was held at several tables on the ten topics.

While table recorders reviewed their notes in preparation for making their reports, the Assembly heard Committee, Liaison Committee and District reports.

District Reports

District 1: No report.

District 2: Pat: Requesting prayers for our DCM, Carole, who has been ill. Saw an A.A. video at last meeting. Discussing a workshop, possibly in the format of a talent show.

District 3: Guy: Discussed what to do with excess groceries left over from last Workshop (cookies, chips, sodas, & water). Discussed the concept of workshop vs meeting vs seminar. Discussed next District 3 workshop: Theme Selected: 1, 2, 3 Workshop; Tentative Date: 24 September 2011; Where: Escondido Alano Club; Time: 1:30 to 4:30; Assigned duties to GSR such as Get Venue, Ask Questions Collection, etc. Continue discussions on Native America Meetings in District Three, Inactive or Non- GSR meetings in District Three, etc...

District 4: Larry: Participating in Sponsorship and Traditions workshops with other districts.

District 5: Mike: Secured location for Delegate's Report area assembly at The Center on University Avenue, and for the two workshops mentioned in District 4 report. Service Manual Study the fourth Monday of the month at St. David's Church, 5050 Milton Avenue, San Diego.

District 6: Shelley: Excited to have Art, our deaf GSR here today. Working on the sponsorship and traditions workshops.

District 7: Rich: Butch conducted our Registrar election. Sallye spoke on Newsletter for the District.

District 8: Jane: Moved location and start time of our meeting. Had twelve GSRs including 2 new at last meeting. Had Women Sponsoring Women workshop and had 200 women in attendance; used less than \$200 in district funds, holding a Secretaries Workshop, and a General Service workshop.

District 9: Art: Hosting today's assembly. Have four GSRs present today. H&I Committee member, Tom, is attending a panel in a correctional facility today.

District 10: Joe (Alternate): No report.

District 11: Al: Held General Service Workshop. My GSRs did it all. Want to do it again next year, and working on plans for the Election Assembly.

District 12: Dixie: We continued discussion of our budget and continued discussion of the ASL translation. No one seems against it. We are just concerned with the high cost, and what other programs that may suffer

from this high cost. Because we don't want H&I or anything else to suffer. But we are all puzzled as to how to cover the cost.

- District 13: Tim: Two new GSRs at the district meeting, one of them here today.
- District 14: Monty: Had 11 or 12 GSRs. Working on Sponsorship and Traditions workshops. Offered support to a group which hosts a meditation workshop.
- District 15: Nicolas: We had 25 people at the last District meeting. Working with all groups and GSRs every Friday. Have a General Service Committee sponsoring a workshop in June, exact date to be announced. Fifth Foro in August. DCM working on report for PRAASA and will give it to the groups. Will hold elections for a new H&I committee.
- District 16: Bob: Co-hosting today's assembly with Districts 4 & 9. Hosting Women Sponsoring Women in August and the Labor Day Picnic.
- District 17: Santiago: We are working on the service round tables. Just restarting the district service. As a new member of this district, we are reorganizing so we can work with the community.
- District 18: Patrocinio: Holding a Traditions Workshop at Grupo Renovacion in San Marcos on the 17th of April from 8:30-12.
- District 19: Jennifer: Co-hosting post-conference Assembly with District 5.
- District 20: Paul: Had two new GSRs, one of whom is here today.
- District 21: John: Finally passed our Structure & Guidelines. Working on a workshop with GSDYPAA.
- District 22: Ken: Rafael & Bob E. came to explain ASL to our district, we're pretty excited to contribute to this. Visiting dark groups. Had two new GSRs.
- District 23: Dustin (Alternate DCM): Had two new GSRs, elected alternate DCM and treasurer. Reviewed agenda items, discussed Labor Day Picnic, co hosting with District 8.

Standing and Ad-hoc Committee Reports

- Accessibilities: Alan: Big deals: Meetings To Go; Gold Can (have seven meetings a week in San Diego with ASL, and one in Carlsbad on Thursday night); Art from District 6 is here with us today.
- Agenda: Not present.
- Archives: Carrie: Have new listening station at archives display room at San Diego Central Office, almost up and running. Collecting group histories. ROOTS is November 20 at Torrey Pines Christian Church. Need speakers with 30+ years who got sober in San Diego.

- CPC: Gonzalo: Elected a nearly full committee, with seven members. Took the GSO booth to the Convention Center for a health association event.
- Finance: Paul: Eleven active members, with a twelfth assigned today. Treasurer and Alternate working on draft of proposed budget. Will map out budget presentations to districts, to go through July. Treasurer will present rough draft to Finance and hope to have presentations begin in May.
- Grapevine/LaViña: Met today at lunch. Thanks for the new members.
- Information Technologies: Roxane: Alt Chair put up a mock website using a publishing agent called WordPress. Working out security issues for posting of documents. Webmaster working on security, hope to have new site up this summer, old one to remain up in the meantime.
- Literature: Jessica: Have flyer about the A.A. in the Armed Services update. Pick up a flyer and bring it to your meeting.
- NCAIC: Not present.
- Newsletter: Gary (Alternate): Rewriting our guidelines. Usually meets at assembly but will reschedule to our usual location and time. Welcome to new committee members.
- Policy: Linda: We are working on 2009 major motions. Worked on bullet points for GSR manual.
- SDIAC: Meet third Sunday. Spring Into Service on May 15: sandwiches and speakers.
- Translation: Not present.

General Session On Conference Agenda Items, Part I

The Assembly went item-by-item through the list of ten Conference Agenda Items that were sent to the groups and discussed in the roundtables; heard summaries of the roundtable discussion and recommendations (if any); and allowed for open mic sharing on each item, taking a sense of the meeting where needed.

- A. Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book.,**
reporters: Michael M., Mario.

Summary and recommendations (if any):

More for than against. Many emotionally against changing Big.Book. For: many won't get past three paragraphs. Front of B.B. more inclusive. Not changing only adding to B.B. No changes need to be made, many read it before they come to A.A. Good to have a change. Leave it as is, preamble in many pamphlets. One GSR

suggests the change be made because the cost is minimal. Leave as it, has not hurt A.A. as a whole.

Open mic sharing:

- Helpful to have in book, helps if we have a meeting without a format.
- Place on dustcover; already in the Foreword to the First Edition. It's a mail order textbook, not a description of the fellowship. Already in the Grapevine. Describes the purpose of the fellowship, does not warrant altering our basic text.
- Desire to stop drinking — likes the change from "honest desire" in foreword. Other person disagreed wholeheartedly, and wants to keep the word, "honest."
- Don't put on dust cover, it's often discarded.

Sense of the meeting:

Include Preamble in front inside pages of B.B.: strong majority in favor, but not total unanimity.

Why not to add it?

- Redundant, already in the book, don't change the book.
- Creates a precedent to change B.B. Slippery slope.
- Creates a mixed message.
- I fear that the blank page at the front will be occupied by the preamble.
- If the Conference wants it in the B.B. it should be just before the personal stories.
- Preamble should say "we ought to be" self-supporting...
- Old timers don't want a change, younger in sobriety (10 yrs or less) wanted it in.
- Blank first page indicates that the newcomer knows nothing about staying sober.

Second sense of the meeting: Include Preamble in front of book: now closer to 50/50.

- B. Review the revised draft pamphlet "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.",**
reporter: Parker

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Reversing order: majority felt it would prevent confusion. New title improve: Current name good, but suggestion to add "prescription" before "medications." Feedback: Add a story about medical marijuana instead of "street drugs." Valuable, consistent? Good to have pamphlet that shares experience of A.A. members.

Open mic sharing:

- Conscience of We Agnostics: Randall's story is disorganized but he did get clean and sober in the end. Want "medications" to come before "other drugs."
- Revision is overdue. Proposed sequence makes sense. Need more stories of those who take anti-depressants and anti-anxiety medications.
- Would make a difference if the pamphlet were not read in its entirety, so mix up the story topics as they appear in the pamphlet.
- Randall's story sounds like he was on drugs at the time he wrote it. It doesn't belong there unless he couples it with use of alcohol, he should bring it up with his sponsor, and it's an outside issue.
- Yes to reverse order. Add question: how do prescription drugs and drugs affect my sobriety in A.A.
- As a sponsor this pamphlet is very desirable. Ask for alternative to these prescribed drugs.
- My group is totally against the pamphlet in the first place. We are not doctors, why are we trying to tell people what to do about medications?
- Sequence makes a difference. Meds are important — yes, it's A.A. and we're not trying to cure people who take too much pain medication, but that was their solution. They are often in A.A. because they have a stronger chance of recovery in a stronger fellowship. Pamphlet is outdated, need to update the stories. We are not straying from our message or purpose
- Don't need to revise, delete it; doesn't pertain to alcoholism but to drug use.
- I take fourteen doses of meds a day. I had to drive someone to a psych facility because he was told by A.A. members that he was not sober if he was on prescribed medication. One of our most valuable pamphlets.

Sense of the meeting:

Reversing order improves pamphlet: majority but not substantial unanimity.

Points A., B., and C., valuable: substantial unanimity

- C. Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies such as but not limited to smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products.,** reporter: Joe.

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Anonymity not at risk. Yes on change and on broader audience; positive support. Non-support without accountability re: money. Logic of supporting it (in a gainful fashion). GV is not Conference Approved lit. Be mindful of identity theft.

Open mic sharing:

- Do as a read-only, worried about integrity of our material (think circle and triangle). Don't want to lose our material.
- Most favored putting online. Put it online and make it free to everyone.
- Concerned about third party making money on us. Amazon purchases are tracked, anonymity. Increased cost of third-party sales.
- Concerned about selling purchaser lists. What prevents the vendor from selling our names for a profit?
- Will broaden our audience. Most non-incarcerated people purchase their stuff online these days.
- Will reach more alcoholics. Leap into next century, we're past due.
- Don't change the GV, don't sell to any media format, but donate them if needed.
- Concerned with the update of the GV website — this should be first effort. GV has black cover but the digital distribution would be "uncovered." Try through the website first.
- Could third parties sell for more or less than we do? A: Vendors not getting a bulk discount.

- Can we combine with a Big Book app for a joint purchase, don't use outside distribution source? A: eBook would be through A.A.W.S. only, but this is GV material. Can we get benefits without using other vendors? If we have it available online is this a redistributable item.
- How can we guarantee we will not be spammed? Can remember when drunk junk became popular. I trust AAGrapevine.org to keep my anonymity, not the material world. This decision should not be made in one year. Better to have the GV be less visible and maintain our principles.
- Post office is not safe. I got all forty-one of Santee's GV magazines in my mailbox.
- We can purchase B.B. from other online vendors now, what is the difference?
- Google is already offering our GV. You can either read a page online or can purchase the magazine if you wish to read more. [this is more likely than not a link to the www.aagrapevine.org website.]

Sense of the meeting:

Permit to make change: majority in favor, but not substantial unanimity.

- D. Consider permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund.,** reporter: Bob and Gilberto.

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Anyone who would vote yes should get a subscription. Should encourage La Viña subscriptions instead. If AAWS can accept contributions the Grapevine should too. Agreed, but on a group basis only. Merely a business decision. GV too important to fail, save it any way we can. Should be allowed. GVs are given to younger A.A. members.

Open mic sharing:

- Robbing Peter to pay Paul, taking money from the A.A. pocket, changing it from the left to right side. If the GV started in yet another

independent economic mode it's a slippery slope.

- Only so much money, going to one or the other. Still, we voted that they should be allowed to take contributions.
- Active members thought the GV should not be taking contributions; cut expenses first, less fancy cover, don't publish as frequently.
- An invaluable tool for people in prisons, OK with contributions. Recommend appropriate restrictions and guidelines so there is no ambiguity about this change. If GV can receive max donation, will the general fund still be accessed in a shortfall year?
- Central office manager: Not asking all of us to do it, just opening the door to those who wish to offer contributions to the GV. A.A.W.S. accepts contributions from the groups, used to offset publishing income. Since the GV doesn't make expenses from subscriptions they price their books and special items higher. If we open the door for this we should also be able to reflect that in literature prices.
- GV only met budget in 37 of 60 years. Will continue to be a burden to GSO unless they can accept contributions.
- If we accept contributions we might not need to offer GV merchandise for sale by third party online vendors.

Sense of the meeting:

Should be allowed to accept contributions: substantial unanimity in favor.

- E. Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates.",** reporter: John E.

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Evenly divided on full-face. Those against were adamant. Want a disclaimer. Under no circumstances should any "famous personalities" be used. Deaf perspective: need to see full face to get message across. Full face should be discontinued. Perhaps use a cartoon or an "avatar." Want to return to shadowed faces.

Open mic sharing:

- Anonymity ideal cannot be diluted like this. Goes to promotion.
- Unanimously in favor of current policy, trust the Board. But not showing faces reinforces negative stigmas of alcoholism.
- Why would we employ actors when we could use A.A.s? Why put a face on A.A.?
- Bad idea to show faces at all. The videos are cheesy anyway.
- Draft policy is well written, go with it.
- Full faces should not be used. Don't change a thing.
- Deaf GSR: I understand you suggested closed captioning, but a lot of deaf people don't read English. They may not stay tuned, but if they watch a deaf actor who is signing it will hold their attention.

Sense of the meeting:

Need to have a policy on faces of actors? Substantial unanimity in favor.

Support stated proposed policy? Substantial unanimity in favor.

- F. Consider revisions to "Understanding Anonymity" which include text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers to the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?",** reporter: Paul k.

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Six points brought up; need to address concerns on facebook; addresses need not be used to use full names; when accepting a new friend advise them to protect your anonymity
The use of cameras in phones. Be cautious of who is in the background of photos.
From the description you have been given....
Sponsor names should be avoided, member should explain to family and friends before their death.
Are there any additional aspects that need to be addressed. What are they?
Family members can be proud of our membership in A.A. and sometimes want to talk

about it. They should be cautioned about speaking of our membership in A.A.

Open mic sharing:

- The whole questions is off base, it is about privacy.
- My personal experience is that in social networking people are just not aware that people can see what we post. There are ways to filter; learning what your security settings are should be a suggestion in the pamphlet. There is a lot a learning to be done.
- I communicate through e-mail but that is it. I tell my friends that I do not won't mention of A.A. in my obituary.
- References to anonymity, I don't . If we could have a service piece to A.A. members that would be useful. It should be prominent. It should be upfront towards the beginning.
- Regarding how it is decimated it should say on print or online.
- I represent free at last. Both are open meetings. The newcomer walks in we talk to them. Its about 36 principals. I am involved with internet. It is our responsibility to give this information to the newcomers. Our anonymity is important. If you don't won't anyone to know don't go to open meetings. It is very important.

Sense of the meeting: No sense of the meeting taken.

- G. Consider revisions to "The A.A. Fact File",**
reporter: Blaine

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Provide information on our programs. We were asked to consider an update. What sorts of facts should we provide? What specific revisions would you suggest?

The general scope is pretty good. There is antiquated historical information. It terms of specific revisions, the group felt we would update the language and mention new technology and the internet and include the long form of the traditions and explains a lot of why we do things the way we do and also include the concepts. We felt it important to make it available in a print version. It is available

at conventions for review. If you go to the A.A. website you can access but can prints out.

Open mic sharing:

- Label these off sized pages
- I thought it was well written, everything after 1956 is not recorded in this file. Also new countries since 1956 should be recorded. Also Big Books printed in different languages, when large prints was started, the number of A.A.'s present at the conventions, last convention for Bill and Lois and our area, Jim B. and his interaction with Bill W. and also Jim' mother. We would like to have those facts.
- The preamble
- Valuable to get the A.A. fact file into the hands of media professionals.
- Routinely update fact file after every international convention.

Sense of the meeting:

No sense of the meeting taken.

- H. Consider two alternative suggestions of ways to revise the pamphlet F-3 "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" forwarded from the trustees' Finance committee.,**
reporter: Mike

Summary and recommendations (if any):

One third of the group felt that the pamphlet was best left alone. We should note in the pamphlet MG 15, MG 96 and F96 and other existing literature on how to distribute group monies.

Open mic sharing:

- Sixteen wanted the second alternative, one wanted to leave as is.
- I suggest that in the re-write more time is spent on how to make an informed conscience on the money. Groups should not be locked into a percentage but should look into current needs. I would like to see a better education.
- The blank pie chart first. We can choose to do it any way we see fit. We can make our own.
- I agree with the idea of having a blank pie chart first and educating the group treasurer; the group can make a choice other that what it

originally decided. The group can decide to add more if needed to any entity. We did this in a group. I would like to have some statement that it is possible to make a choice and to change that choice if necessary.

Sense of the meeting:

No change. Substantial unanimity in favor of change.

How many would like to bring the blank in front? Substantial yes.

Moving the pie chart and adding the verbiage? Substantial unanimity in favor.

- I. Consider a request that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition.,** reporter: Phil.

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Not worth the time or money. GSO shouldn't dictate. Too many things to too many people. Duplicating information already in A.A. pamphlets.

Open mic sharing:

- No generic finance workbook. A.A. Group pamphlet has what we need. No 2 districts/areas would have same need or do it the same. Each needs unique guidelines stemming from Traditions and Concepts.
- Too aggressive. Would benefit from knowing how money is used, but the advice is to wide-ranging to be useful.
- Keep it simple: no workbook.
- Has been needed for many years, treasurers are often at a loss for guidance. A lawyer would be a good consultant for opening an account.
- Was initially in favor, then I investigated existing A.A. literature and found it already in there.
- Use "suggestions" instead of "guidance" — for setting up bank accounts, etc. Omit 5, keep 6, and perhaps keep 7.
- Keeping it simple also means making information available in one publication.

- Don't spend the money to do this.
- This workbook would be available to anyone in the U.S. and Canada. We here in the SDI have a small geographic area and might not need to use this. This proposed publication is too inclusive. Might be confusing to districts that have no intergroups, and vice versa. Could be more confusing than less. If we let a group struggle a little to find its own group conscience on money we help them to grow spiritually. Group material is readily available. Information also available in the yellow sheet guidelines.

Sense of the meeting:

Develop workbook as proposed: substantial unanimity against.

- J. Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities," including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.** reporter: Diane (for David).

Summary and recommendations (if any):

An A.A. member has a B.B. study in a correctional facility and found that there is no mention in the pamphlet of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Wonderful to hear how people are so concerned about alcoholics in correctional facilities. Majority were in favor of this proposal, although some felt that inmates would not take the time to read the pamphlet. Seven people preferred example 2 (simplest); some in correctional facilities don't know about A.A. or even what the B.B. is (might be a bible or something...). To whom is this pamphlet directed, inmates on the inside, or panel members visiting the facility? If the latter, he could help bridge the gap for the inmate to learn more about our Program and Fellowship.

Open mic sharing:

- As a former resident of a mental health facility, I had no knowledge or understanding about A.A.
- Step study meeting example or Big Book study was favored by my group.
- H&I Director: This is for starting groups in correctional facilities. It's to give the A.A. member advice when they are heading into a

facility, what to be prepared for. We do have book studies. Using a different format allows the focus to be on the Program, their experience with sobriety — more like a meeting on “the outside.” That has evolved through shared experience of our panel members. We are in support of the third alternative.

- Any reference to the B.B. in any flyer or pamphlet in this system would be helpful and give the inmate needed direction.

Sense of the meeting:

Change is necessary at all? Substantial unanimity in favor.

Example 2 was more favored than 1 and 3.

General Session on Conference Agenda Items, Part II

— A Panel of past delegates was asked to meet and discuss the following four items, and make a presentation to the Assembly:

Consider a request that the trustees' Conference Committee meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda and the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions to address matters concerning the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy., reporter: Sallye M., past delegate panel 48

Summary and recommendations (if any):

After looking at the background material and discussing the merits we came to three conclusions.

1. As half of the members of each of the two committees (Agenda and Policy) would be first time conference attendees, it would be inappropriate to have them discussing with those more experienced with the conference procedures and to have them instrumental in setting the agenda and policy for the conference.
2. If a delegate would like an item be discussed that does not appear on the formal agenda or would like a change in policy, that delegate can initiate a floor action to be considered by the full conference.
3. The Trustees who have been discussing the possible inclusions to the agenda have the experience and background to set the agenda and policy of the conference and we believe

that they ought to have the “right of decision” and the “right of participation” as outlined in the Third and Fourth Concepts, always remembering that we trust our trusted servants.

Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself., reporter: Sallye M., past delegate panel 48

Summary and recommendations (if any):

Wow, we found the plan incredibly detailed and extremely comprehensive, almost, too comprehensive.

We had some doubts that any thorough discussion could be accomplished in the amount of time allowed in the plan. We were in agreement that if more time could be carved out during the conference week without intruding on any of the main work of the delegates the inventory might get the attention it deserves. As per cost, the amounts given were not excessive and we would encourage the conference to consider giving the decision on whether the report on the inventory is included in the final report or in a separate report to the General Service Staff office which would determine which option would be the most economical.

Discuss request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustees' Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the Conference., reporter: Sallye M., past delegate panel 48

Summary and recommendations (if any):

In discussing this matter we had a couple of conclusions.

That the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee addresses its agenda and makes recommendations to the full Conference (as does all the Conference Committees), any advisory actions that come out of the conference are then the responsibility of the Trustees' Conference Committee to facilitate them with the General Service Office Staff and the Trustees. We find that the over the years the Trustees Conference Committee' have always faithfully completed this responsibility.

We feel that no great improvement on the current policy and their resulting conclusions would benefit the fellowship and the conference itself.

In considering the Trustees and their Committees we urge the Conference to remember the long form of the Ninth Tradition. The concluding sentences state "They derive no real authority from their titles, they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

Review report from the General Service Board regarding Concept V Appeal to the General Service Conference.,
reporter: Sallye M., past delegate panel 48

Summary and recommendations (if any):

The Area 8 Past Delegates suggest that:

A Minority Appeal should be submitted to the Chairperson of the GSB and the GSO staff Conference Coordinator on or before the 15th of January. It would then follow the course of a conference agenda item.

At the beginning of the Conference: After the "mechanics of the conference" are explained, the appeal should be read to all conference members, and copies of the appeal along with associated background (including a majority opinion and report) be distributed.

Discussion of the appeal and any action would occur just prior to the first conference committee report, not after committee reports, to avoid consideration being postponed or discussion cut short. Prior to discussion the conference would decide if it will consider the appeal (or not), in the same way it makes this decision for a floor action.

The process should be reviewed with conference members at the time the report is given. There should be opportunity for members serving at the time of the appeal to have input into the process to insure fairness to all concerned.

We ought to place our trust in future conferences, giving them their right of decision and participation.

Items of interest that were not sent out to the groups

Literature

Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support or "green card" to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool.

Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that "the trustees" literature committee develop's literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous."

Consider a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office.

Policy/Admissions

Discuss request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference agenda items [the request is to move it to November].

Public Information

Consider that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey. Consider a revision to "A.A. at a Glance" [the revision would add a reference to the Internet to the section "How You Can Find A.A. In Your Town"].

Literature projects in development

Various committees will review progress reports or receive drafts on the following literature projects, and some drafts may come to the Conference for final consideration: "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" update; Seventh Tradition stories project; Spirituality/atheists/agnostics project; "A.A. and the Armed Services" update; "Living Sober" update; recovery pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs.

Open mic sharing:

- Q: Concerning a Conference Inventory, is there a recurring schedule?
A: This is the first one, and there is no plan for a

repeat — no Conference action is binding on a subsequent conference.

- Q: Are the items explored by the past delegates just streamlining procedures?
A: No.
- These are some of the most challenging items I've ever had to deal with at group level, perhaps they could be made clearer.
- Literature — reconsider action on spirituality pamphlet: We have an abundance of agnostics; they were somewhat offended at the characterization of atheists and agnostics in the background material.
- Policy & Admissions: How can you expect us to give you a group conscience in the time allotted, especially with the number of items? Move forward on changing deadline to November. We'd have a more democratic Alcoholics Anonymous.

Ask-It Basket

- Q: to Chair: The calling out and chanting for certain servants during voting... can future election chairs admonish the assembly to refrain from this?
A: All candidates deserve equal respect. Please remember this in November.
- Q: Could we get the Twelve Traditions long and short form into the pocket Big Book?
A: Joel: I'll check with the publications director as to whether they can do this on their own authority or if requires a Conference Agenda item. If the latter, I'll ask the group that's interested in this to propose it.
- Q: Is it OK by the Traditions and Concepts to conduct GSO business during an A.A. meeting?
A: Tom: Everything in A.A. is done by group conscience. If your group wants to do this, their conscience is the final authority.
- Q: At the Conference, you (Joel) take into consideration our area, and vote for A.A. as a whole. Does the same principle apply to group and GSR decisions?
A: Joel: Quoting the A.A. Service Manual: The GSR has the job of linking their group to A.A. as a whole... Delegate not a "representative" of their area, voting on behalf of A.A. as a whole... It seems there is a difference between the authority of a group vs. that of a GSR or a delegate. My service sponsor said I, as a GSR, should bring my group's input to the assembly, but if I hear something at the assembly that my group was not aware of — and if they would have had a different view with that information in hand — then I have a responsibility to vote as they would have had me. Then I must report back.
- Q: How can a DCM or GSR get a hold of policies and guidelines (Area)
A: Posted on the area website: area8aa.org

- Q: What's the difference between money collected in the H&I green can and seventh tradition contributions sent separately?
A: H&I Director: All funds from Green Can goes directly to purchasing literature for institutions. Seventh Tradition receipts go towards purchasing literature AND administrative expenses. In 2010 76 cents of every dollar of Seventh Tradition monies received went to purchasing literature. The meeting rent is our highest administrative cost. The Area website has an H&I tab. There is a monthly report tab on the left to show our financial information.
- Q: Why is it important to have a service sponsor? I'm not sure what to do...
A: Veronica: It's been really important to me. When I became a DCM I had to plan an area assembly with no knowledge or experience. I had a good friend in general service walk me through the initial steps. I still call my service sponsor all the time.
A: Dean: I find the line about common sense vs. uncommon sense has been clearer to me by using a service sponsor.

Closing

Rafael closed the meeting with the Declaration of Unity.
Respectfully submitted,
Butch M., Secretary
Veronica S., Alternate Secretary

A.A. Resources	
GSO NY	aa.org
AA Grapevine	aa grapevine.org
AA Central Office	aa sandiego.org
Area 8 San Diego-Imperial	area8aa.org
North County Intergroup	nosdco-aa.org
ACYPAA 2010	acypaa2010.org
Oficina Central Hispana	619-280-7224
Oficina Intergrupala Condada Norte	760-758-6905
Oficina Intergrupala Sar, CV	619-473-0288

June 4 2011 ASSEMBLY
THE CENTER
SAN DIEGO
Area8aa.org CALENDAR And ADDRESS

Beginning of financials Submitted by Ham H. APRIL 2011

		April Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	2011 Budget	Variance with Annual Budget
A.	Group Contributions	2,107.78	10,395.89	37,950.00	-27,554.11
B.	Individual Contributions	190.00	380.23		
C.	District Contributions	0.00	134.95		
		2,297.78	10,911.07	37,950.00	-27,038.93
A. Delegate					
	01. General Service Conference	0.00	1,200.00	1,936.00	-736.00
	02. PRAASA	0.00	807.82	1,161.00	-353.18
	03. Mileage Reimbursements	57.13	306.53	1,485.00	-1,178.47
	04. Copies, misc.	155.54	489.34	1,070.00	-580.66
Total A. Delegate		212.67	2,803.69	5,652.00	-2,848.31
B. Alternate Delegate					
	01. PRAASA	0.00	0.00		0.00
	02. Mileage Reimbursements	50.16	79.16	1,114.00	-1,034.84
	03. Copies, misc.	3.29	8.98	54.00	-45.02
	04. So Cal H&I Conv.	226.00	226.00	226.00	0.00
Total B. Alternate Delegate		279.45	88.14	1,394.00	-1,305.86
C. Chairperson					
	01. PRAASA	0.00	0.00		0.00
	02. Mileage Reimbursements	212.57	626.20	1,790.00	-1,163.80
	03. Copies, misc.	129.17	377.40	1,011.00	-633.60
Total C. Chairperson		341.74	1,003.60	2,801.00	-1,797.40
D. Secretary					
	01. PRAASA-Regional Forum	0.00	0.00		0.00
	02. Mileage Reimbursements	0.00	65.83	802.00	-736.17
	03. Copies, misc.	0.00	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Total D. Secretary		0.00	65.83	1,002.00	-936.17
E. Registrar					
	01. PRAASA	0.00	0.00		0.00
	02. Mileage Reimbursements	109.71	225.33	910.00	-684.67
	03. Copies, misc.	0.00	23.61	300.00	-276.39
Total E. Registrar		109.71	248.94	1,210.00	-961.06
F. Treasurer					
	01. PRAASA	0.00	0.00		0.00
	02. Mileage Reimbursements	84.10	84.10	850.00	-765.90
	03. Envelopes, postage, misc.	0.00	0.00	850.00	-850.00

	04. Budget & mo. finance report	0.00	44.00	400.00	-356.00
Total F. Treasurer		84.10	128.10	2,100.00	-1,971.90
G. Other Officers expenses					
	01. Delegate's Mailogram	0.00	0.00	18.00	-18.00
	02. PRAASA Tapes	75.00	75.00	140.00	-65.00
	03. Delegate Int'l Convention 2010	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total G. Other Officers expenses		75.00	75.00	158.00	-83.00
H. Standing Committees					
	01. Accessibility	127.93	197.93	1,050.00	-852.07
	02. Agenda	0.00	146.10	436.00	-289.90
	03. Archives	121.22	413.35	1,573.00	-1,159.65
	05. C.P.C.	271.15	663.40	1,270.00	-606.60
	06. Finance	0.00	120.00	982.00	-862.00
	07. Grapevine/La Vina	0.00	120.00	1,100.00	-980.00
	08. Information Technologies	0.00	0.00	540.00	-540.00
	09. Literature	46.00	246.84	620.00	-373.16
	10. Newsletter	131.34	248.34	950.00	-701.66
	11. Policy	0.00	246.93	914.00	-667.07
	12. Spanish Translation-Written	64.24	311.24	1,100.00	-788.76
Total H. Standing Committees		761.88	2,714.13	10,535.00	-7,820.87
I. Ad Hoc Committees					
	01. Remote Nations	0.00			0.00
	02. Area Inventory	0.00			0.00
Total I. Ad Hoc Committees		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J. Area Literature					
	02. Grapevine/ La Vina Committee	0.00	-100.00	100.00	-200.00
	03. Literature Committee	0.00	-65.16	100.00	-165.16
Total J. Area Literature		0.00	-165.16	200.00	-365.16
K. Area Events					
	01. DCM Sharing Session	0.00	0.00	300.00	-300.00
	01a. DCM S.S. prep. mileage	0.00	125.20	200.00	-74.80
	02. R.O.O.T.S.	0.00	0.00		0.00
	04. Unity Day	400.00	-150.00	250.00	-400.00
	05. DCM Training Workshop	0.00	178.55	200.00	-21.45
Total K. Area Events		400.00	153.75	950.00	-796.25
L. Area Administration					
	01. Area Assembly Rent	500.00	1,000.00	2,500.00	-1,500.00
	02. Area Assembly Flyers	0.00	0.00	125.00	-125.00

	03. Area Assembly GSO visitor	0.00	0.00	970.00	-970.00
	04. Area Comm. Mtg. Rent	30.00	30.00	360.00	-330.00
	05. Area Comm. Mtg. Supplies	2.99	44.64	140.00	-95.36
	06. Area Workbooks	0.00	215.64	255.00	-39.36
	07. Bank Service Charge	0.00	0.00	75.00	-75.00
	08. Bank Check Printing	0.00	0.00	114.00	-114.00
	09. DCM Manual	0.00	0.00	60.00	-60.00
	10. GSR Orientation Kits	0.00	286.39	525.00	-238.61
	11. Liability Insurance	0.00	1,178.00	1,178.00	0.00
	12. Liaison-Imperial County	0.00	0.00	800.00	-800.00
	13. Tax Preparation	0.00	0.00	350.00	-350.00
	14. Storage	0.00	1,056.00	1,080.00	-24.00
	15. Oral Interpretation	480.00	1,205.00	2,960.00	-1,755.00
	16. USPS P.O. Box Rent	0.00	0.00	65.00	-65.00
Total L. Area Administration		1,012.99	5,015.67	11,557.00	-6,541.33
M. Capital Equipment					
	01. Computer Operation and Main	0.00	0.00	80.00	-80.00
	02. Computer Supplies	0.00	10.86	150.00	-139.14
	03. Equipment Operation & Maint	0.00	37.99	70.00	-32.01
	04. Website Hosting	0.00	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total M. Capital Equipment		0.00	48.85	400.00	-351.15
		3,277.54	12,180.54	37,959.00	0.00
		-979.76	-1,269.47		
N. Non-Budgeted Expenses					
	10-09 P.A. system	0.00	1,383.74	1,550.00	166.26
Total N. Unbudgeted Expenses		0.00	0.00		0.00
Area 08 Contribution to the GSO					
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		3,277.54	12,180.54	37,959.00	0.00
		-979.76	-1,269.47		
		8,227.34			
		7,247.58			

NEWLETTER COMMITTEE

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