

**San Diego-Imperial Area Committee Meeting
March 19, 2020 Minutes**

Meeting held by ZOOM due to a State & Federal mandate of not holding gatherings of more than 50 persons and the personal safety of each Committee Member

Zoom Meeting ID: 255 330 202

Area Committee Meeting

The Area Committee meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 PM to 10 PM. All AA members are welcome to attend. To get an item on the agenda, please contact chair@area8aa.org to begin the process. If required, your specific request or proposal will be directed to the assistance of one or more of our Area's standing committees. The Area Committee meeting and all other General Service meetings are open to all AA members.

Meeting Called to Order

The Committee was called to order at 7:00 pm by Blaine, Area 8 Chair-, with the Serenity Prayer. Followed by the Declaration of Unity. Introductions were offered for any new DCMs, Standing Committee Chairs, and their Alternates. Guests and visitors also stood up. All were welcomed to the Area Committee.

Declaration of Unity: This we owe to AA's Future; To place our common welfare first; To keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come

Roll Call: Bill (Registrar) Not done tonight because of Zoom

Approval of February's Area Committee Minutes:

Minutes are emailed out in both English and Spanish to all DCMs, Chairs, and Officers and their alternates. DCMs and Chairs please send the minutes out to your committees and GSRs. If you are not receiving the minutes and would like a copy emailed to you, please email the area secretary, Renee R. at secretary.area8sd@gmail.com Please keep your information updated with the Area Registrar.

- *It is time effective to submit your monthly report to the Area 8 Secretary via email at secretary.area8sd@gmail.com*
- February's ACM minutes: approved unanimously as written.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl (Treasurer)

- Written report submitted.
- Remind groups who contribute to the Area to include an email address so we can process contribution acknowledgements electronically, and at a lower cost.
- Have your group get or find out what their GSO six digit code is. It will help the incoming Treasurer.
- Please make sure to submit any reimbursements before the end of the year.

Question/ discussion: will rent be paid for this month? Did Jerry submit the cost of Zoom? For however many months of rent we don't pay, can we keep the money to pay for the Zoom charges?

How do we get our checks-fill out check request form and send to Cheryl using US Mail//and districts can pick up money from Cheryl or she can mail them out if requested. There's an embedded electronic check request form on the area website for ACM documents.

February 2020		YTD	2020 Budget 61,860.00	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	4,187.05	9,752.53	61,860.00	3,450.48
Individual contributions:	58.91	1,303.09	0.00	1,303.09
District contributions:	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00?
Total contributions:	4,455.96	14,265.62		4,963.57
Total budgeted expenses:	3,191.60	12,176.05	61,860.00	-49,684.77
Contributions less budgeted expenses:	1,264.36	2,089.57		
Total unbudgeted expenses:	0.00	236.00		
Total expenses:	3,191.60	14,201.05		
Contributions less total expenses:	1,264.36	64.57		
Total Cash Balance: February 2020	17,002.94		25% of budget	
Prudent Reserve Balance	5,000.00			

Question: How do we collect money for AA when we have Zoom meetings. Each group would need to decide that. Venmo is a way to do that electronically.

Chair Report; Blaine H. Friends, obviously a lot has happened around the world since our last meeting. The viral pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives. Alcoholics Anonymous has not been immune to these changes. Many of our groups have been shut out of their

meeting places. The General Service Conference will not take place in New York but rather will be conducted remotely employing the miracles of modern technology. Likewise this meeting is coming to you on Zoom. This worked rather well this past weekend for the first of our pre-Conference workshops. We plan a similar setup for the upcoming assembly. People can participate on a computer, tablet, or even a phone. As they were for this ACM, the instructions for using the Zoom feature will accompany the agenda for the assembly.

We should heed the words of the experts and follow their advice as to how to conduct ourselves in the coming weeks and months. This is not because of fear, but because it is the prudent and responsible thing to do. Our actions will affect not only our own wellbeing but that of our fellow citizens, young and old, healthy or sick. For the time being the hand of A.A. reaching out may well be an elbow. So be it. This too shall pass and we will survive, hopefully stronger than before. One distinct advantage will be the enforced use of technology in the way we conduct our affairs. Although nothing will ever take the place of one alcoholic reaching out to another, we may find that some of our administrative meetings and functions can be carried out remotely, reducing costs and allowing greater participation on the part of our members.

The following items are on the agenda for the ACM but I believe they need special mention and the attention of all involved in the activities of the ACM:

The Finance Committee and Treasurers motions are currently with the groups. Hopefully the additional information provided last month will assist the DCMs, GSRs, etc. in their evaluation. There is no rush as these will not come before an assembly until September.

Following the resignation of our Registrar, Bill S. has admirably moved into that role. We will need to have a special election for the position of Alternate Registrar. Currently that is planned for the May 16th assembly. Bill will be putting together a list of those eligible to stand and that will be distributed when available.

At the February ACM several districts announced that they had a surplus of funds and quite generously sponsored some Area members to go to PRAASA. Thank you! As an Area we would like to keep the \$ working and perhaps “fat” districts would consider joining with “lean” ones to sponsor a future assembly (9/12 and 11/7 come to mind), and/or consider joining with a committee to put on a workshop. Lots of opportunities!

In the interest of improving communication and the sharing of information within the Area, I would encourage the entities which have a presence on the website <area8aa.org>, specifically the districts and the standing committees, to post information regarding their activities. Minutes of meetings, notices, other items that would be of interest to Area members would be a start. Let’s not keep our work a secret!

Delegate’s Report: Jerry S:

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. That is why I keep coming back and sacrificing myself in service to AA. My daily meditations seem to be working, because I can't seem to shake off the magnificent tide of drunks I get to work with today! And boy, the disease is real!

Before we continue, I just want to say thanks! Thank you to so many of you who have been actively juggling, fumbling and stumbling as your new responsibilities in service come into focus. What an exciting time to be sober and a chance beacon of hope for drunks struggling to find their way in! What a blessed time to be of service!

As many of you already know, the General Service Conference is transforming into a fully digital platform. I emailed each of you the GSO Whitepaper that outlines the Board's conclusions and communications on the subject. In brief, I am sure some of you have heard of the township north of central New York that has been completely quarantined. Well, the hotel where the Conference was planned to be was just 1 mile from the epicenter of that quarantine. So yeah ... we won't do that. I am sure that you, like me, have a ton of questions about the format, the process, the logistics, the costs, etc. All I can say is that the new format and the way things will work out is still very much under development. More will be revealed and as soon as I have useful information, I'll pass it on.

And to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety!

What are you doing to keep in touch with your sponsors, your sponsees, old names on that daily call list that you haven't talked to in a few years? How are you supporting your home group members as they struggle to bring the spirit of recovery to an online gathering space? Have you called your group secretary and thanked them for their efforts and offered yourself as a channel of support? Do you know of changes to meeting directories in AA Central SD and NC? Go to their websites and familiarize yourself with the notices regarding meeting suspensions and cancellations.

DCM's, now more than ever, we ask that you stay up-to-date with incoming emails. Every day you should have a window of attention to incoming emails that you might be responsible to push on to your GSRs. Much is changing from one day to the next and we must all do our best to keep the communication channel flowing and free of debris.

The logistics of our next online Assembly will become increasingly more clear as we get closer to the date and time. I will create as many different ways for a GSR to bring the conscience of their group to my attention. Snail mail, email, ZOOM surveys and online surveys. I have a broad idea of how to integrate the broadest level of participation. However, for that peace and ease to come, we must all step out of our comfort zones and enjoy the delicious taste of the unknown and the unknowable. It is our time to look up and remember our purpose, to listen to the beautiful music of our lives recreated and to dance in gray.

It takes a village and we are that village. It takes each of us to be who we are. I pray that you are fulfilled by this purpose as the weight of your cross increases and the course of his journey curves a little towards the cow pasture to the right, over a ditch and into old man's virtual reality.

It will take all of us to help each of us get back on the road to happy destiny. We got this!

Question: Gov just ordered stay at home orders for all of California, so how would we continue to go to at least the door of your home group to meet needy alcoholics. We can still do essential activities, having meetings is saving people's lives, which is essential.

Can we still hold our District meetings via Zoom//there are free Zoom meetings for 40minutes//

Can we use this address to hold Area Committee meetings? Chuck offered to help anyone who needs help with creating Zoom meetings.

This is a great opportunity for the Archives Committee to archive this time in history with the use of technology because of the Covid Virus effect on meeting in person.

Alt Delegate's Report: Monty C. : When I set down to write this report, it was going to much different. Some of the things that I was going to talk about, or mention is on hold or canceled. One of those things is the Spring Round Up. If I asked up you to be a panel or participate in the event, I'm sorry. I did find out that the event was cancelled. I am still waiting to hear if we will be refunded for registering for the event. I will reach out as soon as I hear anything.

Since we meet last month, I attended PRAASA in Tucson. It was a great event. I got to see some people that I hadn't seen in a long time. I got in town on Thursday, went right to dinner and caught the early meeting. The room was filled with passion about AA and PRAASA.

I enjoyed listening to the panels as they talked about topics that are very close to my heart. I attended the Alternate Delegates Round Table that night. I walked in feeling like I was missing something. I was able to talk about how I was feeling and soon come to realize that I wasn't the only person that felt the same way. It boosted me into the next gear. I have been running with that energy every since.

The Alt Delegates have been communicating back and forth about different topics including like zoom and virtually meeting. We all have been working together to make sure the GSR' are informed and what have worked and what hasn't working during this difficult time.

We have set a date for Founders/Unity Day Family Picnic. June 13, 2020 at Harry Griffin Park. The address is 9550 Milden Street La Mesa CA 91942. I will see if we can add the flyer to the website. I will be asking all of the committees to participate in this event. There will be more information to follow.

With everything up in the air, as I am made aware of information, I will pass it along.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service

JoAnn

Two minute Liaison Committee Reports:

- Coordinating Council-SD: Pete-NP
- North County Intergroup: Mike: moving our office in April
- Oficina Central Hispana-SD:NP
- Oficina Intergrup al Condado Norte: NP
- Oficina Central Sur, Chula Vista NO longer active
- GSDYPAA:.
- Native American Liaison: Wolf:
- NSDYPAA- Derrick Cancelled their weekend event this weekend.

Old Business:

- **Audio Equipment AdHoc Committee** JoAnn-someone from North County dropped the ball, but he is willing to help us//maybe table this until we are meeting again//Post Conference Assy May 16 (?)

Michael and Troy are helping JoAnn

- **Military Outreach Tiffany Had** monthly meeting on Sunday//group grew//we had a Zoom meeting//Committee is growing to include Area 9//Karen is building a website for the Military Committee//Immediate Needs//thank you to district 4 and whoever supported my way to PRAASA//it was wonderful
- **Finance and Treasurer Motions Update** These motions are out to the groups and hopefully the clarifications were given out at the last ACM//should be posted on the website//and it will be done by Karen, webservant

Master Calendar: Jo Anne; The master Calendar was emailed out by the Chair. It's posted on the area website. Information is subject to change. See calendar on the area website (www.area8aa.org) for the most up to date information. Corrections will be made by tomorrow. Send any changes or corrections to Joann. Calendar is changing as events are shutting down and we need to add Zoom info on the calendar and get it posted on the Website//Traditions Brkfst cancelled//Roundup postponed or cancelled//Pre Conference workshop this Saturday has the Zoom address on its flyer.

Birthdays: 1 person celebrated a birthday since the last meeting. Karen 13 yrs

Break - Not taken

New Business:

- Pre-Conference Assembly 3/28/2020 Jerry//logistics similar to what we are used to. Business account on zoom has language translation. ASL well coordinated. Losing participation but appears to be an upturn. Help gsr's come to an understanding that this next step is easy to use. Help gsr's to ensure that what their groups want is brought to the area assembly. Business as usual, finding new quirky ways to get everyone interested to make online experience fun. Contact Jerry with ideas.//Monty: Idea to move assembly back one week still being considered?//Jerry: not sure at this point. //Jerry: DCMs send email to gsr's to see if they would be available for the assembly if we push it to april 4th? Need email from DCMs with a response of the feeling of GSRs.//Chuck P.: biggest concern is GSRs have not had time to get an informed group conscience.//Paul: considering doing both during one weekend.//but that really isn't how I would like to do it//people are also able to write their comments on the workbook from the pre Conference Workshops and send it in to Jerry//attending members were reminded about the right of decision that the GSRs have if they don't have time to get back to their groups//Refund from the Reagan facility for Assy will go for ASL for Assy on Zoom//Query your GSRs if they want to push the Assembly back to April 4th//
- Posting Committee & District Material on the Website//entities should post minutes of their meetings//how to post to website, told it had to approved by policy//policy no longer does that//will take care of off line//
- Notice of election of a new Alternate Registrar: Our Registrar, Bill, has moved into the role as David has resigned//we will need an election to replace the alt. Registrar at the May Assy.
- PRAASA Debrief. Particularly first time attendees report back /they /ran out of PRASSA packets how can we get one???// Ted-amazing and spiritual experience. The Roundtables were great, a lot of good feedback. //Tiffany had a great time, loved the round tables. Met with a navy vet from oregon. Bonded on the road trip. Area 8 thank you for sponsoring her trip.// had issues with headsets at PRAASA.
- Districts on notice-Making \$ Work- Workshops, etc.// Several Districts had excess of funds and sponsored members attending PRASSA. Considering helping leaner districts with sponsoring workshops. // Districts should ask GSRs to check with groups on what they would like the District to do. Maybe a District would consider putting on an Akron workshop, or Concept workshop. Digital communication in AA. Districts with extra money in coffers should put them to use. DCMs with no funds should look at this as an opportunity to reach out to other districts. // will be bidding on two assemblies, sept 12th and nov. 7th. // District 18 loved the speakers at PRAASA and Jerry's apology!
- Area Assemblies-9/12/2020 and 11/7/2020

DISTRICT REPORTS (Districts submitted reports digitally or on report form) 2 min. - Odd # districts report this month. Other districts and committees that feel need to give oral reports.

District 1: Brian

***District 2 :**Jeremy L.-

District 3:John:

***District 4:** Chuck: right now wrestling with the same crisis. Most district meetings have been suspended. A lot of online meetings. GSRs have concerns they will not have adequate time to get an informed group conscience for Jerry. // Number of Areas do not allow much time for group feedback, we do the best we can, some Areas practice a lot of Right of Decision. Encourage them to do the best they can with the time they have, get a sense of the group.

District 5: Dave

***District 6:** Natalie: we are going to do a Zoom meeting because we didn't have a meeting because of PRAASA, we had a great experience there//we chain text and have zoom meetings//we make sure each person is ok//concerned about the newcomers at meetings and who will sign slips at the meetings.

District 7: Allison;

***District 8:** Angelina: Not alot going on//we were going to have our pre-conference workshop that got cancelled at Pioneers and the Pre Conference Assy we were hosting, but that got cancelled//I am trying to help out my GSRs and what their meetings are doing//2 are still meeting but the rest are staying home.

District 9: Lorie

***District 10:** Paul K.:We had a visit from Patrick from District 14 and we were going to host the Assembly and all the food planned//we discussed a lot of the agenda items//I got the info out to the GSRs and we had a great discussion

District 11: Linda

***District 12:**Cindy: we had our meeting last Thursday via Zoom//good attendance//disappointed about pre conf workshop being cancelled//getting together with Patrick to do a workshop and also co host an assembly

District 13: Ronnie; NP

***District 14:** Patrick; NP.

District 15: Valentin;

***District 16:** Ted: as DCM I contacted people on the GSR list, 15 show up regularly//who are serious about their service work//I am really big about group participation//hoping the Zoom meetings will go as well//treasurer is concerned about not meeting

District 17: Santiago;NP

***District 18:** Carlos: We were bummed about the pre conference workshop. Were able to attend via zoom, himself and alternate, GSRs understood and gave him Right of Decision. All trying ways to get together and stay in communication as suggested by Area 8. Design a plan to take topics of the Conference to the Groups and bring back their feedback. Also make alternate plans because many plans have been cancelled. All the groups willing to support Area 8, thank you.

District 19: Adrian O.

***District 20:** Flint N:

District 21: Rick;(Wigs) District Summary:

- Terri our Alt DCM opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.
- 8 GSRs were present.
- We had no birthdays this month.
- February's Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved. Balance on hand as of 5 March is \$5,607.98.

Registrar:

- Tom Q will remain as Registrar.

DCM Report:

- There was no interest by GSRs in being on the Spring Roundup GSR panel.
- GSR's please announce the Ad Hoc Committees at your respective meetings.
- The Delegate's Report is available on the website: area8aa.org under "Delegate's Corner"

Old Business:

- Discussion of D-21's prudent reserve is tabled until next meeting.
- The Education Workshop plan has been put on hold.

New Business:

- Hosting a movie night is in the plans. First attempt will be for the ALANO Club.
 - A case of Big Books will be purchased to make available at the movie night.
- Other ideas for expending out District's excess funds will be entertained at the next meeting.
- No guest speaker planned for next month.

Roundtable:

- Excellent GSR Roundtable.
 - Good conversation regards the tole of GSR and best practices on how to take topics to our groups.

Next District 21 meeting will be 2 April, 2020 at the *Peñasquitos Lutheran Church in Carmel Mountain Ranch*. If it remains closed, we will meet via Zoom. Instructions will be sent out to all in advance.

Joke of the Month:

"Brother, brother!"

A penguin walks into a bar, he goes to the counter and asks the barman "Have you seen my brother?".

The barman asks "What does he look like?".

***District 22:** Lynda NP

District 23: Darryl;

Standing Committee Reports:

Accessibilities: Robert

Agenda: John; NP

Archives: John B.; Ask that DCMs try to get me info about your groups who are holding Zoom meetings in order to take an accurate record as to how ARea 8 is reacting to the Covid 19//reach me thru the Area website//archives.area8@gmail.com//be specific but not too many details//which groups are doing Zoom meetings and time frame-as when they started//next meeting will be via Zoom.

CPC: Vito-

Grapevine: Joel NP

IT: Chuck M.

Translation: Richard: having technological issues

***Finance:** Joshua;

Literature: Sasha.: I attended PRAASA//many topics were about Literature moving into a new era//met so many people//we had very spirited conversations with the committee//my dog passed at the beginning of the month and many other AA commitments//they helped me get thru that really hard time of losing my dog//we have been going over our committee reports for the agenda items relating to literature//what can we do with literature and these Zoom meetings//should we have a Literature Zoom meeting?

Since our last meeting we have attended 2(2) events. Rich attended men sponsoring men workshop. I helped him pick up and drop off some literature including the pamphlet display, books and the free literature box. We had literally just had to lay our dog to rest at home. We raced over to meet Rich and I forgot the cash box and inventory sheet.. again.. Luckily the district (who put on the workshop) is reimbursing us for any pamphlets taken. I was a guest speaker at my District 19s monthly meeting. I gave away free materials, we watched a couple PSAs and had a nice discussion about the agenda items and the communications Audit. I attended PRAASA (my district sent GSRs) . Many of the topics were about AA literature moving into the modern era. We heard from people, including people in the Literature roundtable expressing the need for new language in the BB and, also how truly important keeping the message is. I would love to have some spirited discussions about this with the committee as soon as I finish pasting together all of the spirit I heard on this topic. Needless to say, Having AA commitments and events to attend, it got us (my wife and I) out of the house and it helped to move the energy after my dog passed. I feel like things were eased by being in action in this program, that my HP was doing for me what I could not do for myself.. Thank the HPs for service! I've been spending a lot of time going over the Committee members reports and putting them into a document and into a powerpoint for us to present on. The committee works on editing and making our summary report so as to be an easier read/ more understandable for pre-conference workshops and for a possible send out to DCMs. We've been in touch with our Delegate Jerry via email and calls about how to best inform our GSRs so to be able to get a group conscious. Should we host a conference zoom meeting for the literature topics? God knows we have the time..

How well do we feel like we know the background from our reports? Feedback or clarification? Would sending our report to Jerry for DCMs to share with GSRs? Committee consciousness about Agenda items? Should we submit a document with all of our different sentiments?

NCAIC (H&I): Michael H.: NP

Policy: Ernest D.; **Next meeting April 14th.** The First Tuesday of next month. We develop strong fellowship by face to face meetings and want them to continue.

We welcomed a new member – Logan.

Items discussed

- a. Newsletter Chair was our guest speaker. We brainstormed how to reach the struggling alcoholic.
- b. Guidelines on Creating Motions-The following committee is developing a process for what needs to be done in developing and submitting motions. Currently, there are 2 forms posted on the Area 08 website.

- c. Area 08 Pamphlet- The committee is updating the pamphlet. The Committee is considering an online version to reduce printing costs.
- d. The Committee will be meeting using Zoom for the foreseeable future.
- e. Structure and Guidelines still in process.
- f. Guidelines on Planning an Assembly – Guidelines on Planning an Event is still under development.

Newsletter: Jean S. NP:

SD H&I: Gerry G. Meetings attended since last ACM Feb. 20th :

Feb. 23rd – So. Cal H&I Intergroup in Palm Desert, Ca. – where the So. Cal. Conference event on April 3rd to 5th in La Mirada, Ca. was discussed before the current C Virus shutdown and has since been canceled. Naomi H. the So. Cal./Nor. Cal H&I Liaison reported the IVSS or “Inside Visitation Sponsorship Service” pilot program to San Quentin completed 3 of 4 phases with 40 ongoing matches, 21 potential matches, 4 inmates on the waiting list and 65 inmates ready to receive outside sponsorship. For more info go to: www.handinorcal.org/volunter-prisons

Mar. 1st - Provided a meeting at La Cima Correctional facility.

Mar. 5th-8th Attended PRAASA in Tucson, Az. – Attended the Treatment round table as scribe, Corrections round table, joined the ASL banquet table, and more for a very enlightening and inspiring long weekend of service fellowship.

Mar. 15th – Chaired SDH&I Policy/Business Meetings where Budget, the upcoming “Spring into Service” event Sunday May 17th is still on at this time and 6 members attended the Orientation. We are always in need of new volunteers as the list of facilities requesting H&I panels continues to grow. Orientations are 12:00 noon on the 3rd Sunday each month at the Machinists’ Hall 5150 Kearny Mesa Rd and 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday at SD Central Office. Note: Due to the recent cancelation of committee meetings. etc. Orientation at the S.D. Central Office on 3rd Thursdays and 3rd Sundays at the IAM Union Hall have been temporarily discontinued.

Web Servant needed for about 1hr a month.

We would like to announce three upcoming events:

SDSRU H&I Panel April 11th, 10 – 11:30am (Canceled)

SoCal H&I Conference April 3rd – 5th 2020 at in La Mirada (Canceled)

Spring into Service – Sunday, May 17, 2020. 9:30am – 1:30pm.

Location: 5150 Kearny Mesa Rd., San Diego, Ca. 92111 (Not Canceled Yet)

Young People’s (YPAACC): Katharine

Last Minute Stuff Jerry is having another pre conference workshop-go to the Delegate’s corner on the website and there you will find the Zoom on Saturday//starting promptly at 10am

Registrar vote: GSO is still constructing their new portal//at PRAASA it was said that GSO is having a lot of problems//they are 10 weeks behind in registering new DCMs, Committee Chairs and GSRs//so they may not receive their new packets//Bill will try to send electronically next week//Bill does have access to the new portal and he can send the group lists to Districts//GSO are not giving groups new meeting numbers, but give them an additional second number//requesting GSRs emails and phone numbers and names.

Karen has new electronic GSR kits in both English and Spanish//under ACM documents for tonight they are available there//Committee Chairs also have a packet
Cheryl for checks fill out the form on the website//she needs your address to mail the checks to//send electronically to her email.

Closing: Responsibility Pledge and Serenity Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Panel 70 Area Secretary: Renee R. and Alternate Secretary: Cecil L.

Next Assembly: Assembly- Pre Conference Assembly
Stay tuned for announcements