

The San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly's 12-Step Work in 2019

This report details the full Year-End Report in Appendix I (see attached spreadsheet, "Appendices I & II"). The information supports GSRs who wish to report to their groups on the 12-Step work activities of the San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly (SDIAA). While the area's structure and most of its work stays the same year-to-year, this report details all 2019 activities. It provides our local membership a review of the work performed with their contributions and invites their participation in all future work.

SDIAA is a service committee established under Article 6 of the Conference Charter and Tradition Nine.¹ It is solely supported by Tradition Seven contributions for the purpose of participating in the world affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you General Service Representatives!

Those of us who serve understand the great sacrifice you make in gratitude for your sobriety.

You link your home group with the whole of A.A. You transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts; through you, the group conscience becomes a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship," Just as you rely on your group for help in your personal recovery, the A.A. groups rely on the General Service Conference in maintaining the unity and strength of our Fellowship — our obligation to all the alcoholics of today and tomorrow. It's up to you to keep two-way communication going between your group and the Conference. (Adapted from: G.S.R. General Service Representative, P-19, pages 1 and 2.

Link to pamphlet: https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-19_gsr.pdf

Article 6. of the Current Conference Charter

Area Assemblies, Purpose of: Area assemblies convene every two years for the election of area committee members, from which are elected delegates to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Such area assemblies are concerned only with the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.⁵

⁵ Area assemblies still meet every two years in order to elect a delegate to the General Service Conference, but they typically meet far more frequently in order to conduct ongoing area business.

The Service Manual, pages S106-S107

General Service Representatives (GSRs) are the most prevalent service position in our structure — One vote for each group. Your service to your group to gain their participation in A.A. as a whole is what made possible all the work listed in this report. All members are encouraged to attend any general service meeting. Their voices are always welcome; however, in respect of the service structure, it is usual that voting privileges are held by those holding a service position relevant to the specific meeting.

SDIAA: Custodians of AA Tradition

----- 2019 SUMMARY -----

In 2019, SDIAA received \$52,054.57 in Contributions and paid \$51,132.98 in Expenses, a difference of \$921.59. The year opened and ended with a bank balance of over \$20,000, which includes a reserve of \$5,000.

2019		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		52,054.57
TOTAL EXPENSES		51,132.98
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS LESS EXPENSES		\$921.59

----- CONTRIBUTIONS -----

SDIAA receives contributions from AA groups, districts, service entities, and individual members. All funds support the coordination of local 12-Step work and participation in the year-round cycle of the General Service Conference (GSC).

See **Appendix II** for the list of groups contributing in 2019.

2019		
Group Contributions		48,248.30
Individual Contributions		3,098.25
District Contributions		688.02
Miscellaneous Contributions		20.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$52,054.57

Registrar's Report:

- Total number of weekly meetings listed in central office directories is just over 1600
- GSO shows 906 groups listed with GSO active meetings/groups
- Total number of meetings/groups contributing to SDIAA in 2019 was around 450
- A generous estimate for the number of GSRs is 230

At this time, GSO continues the implementation of a new enterprise-wide system, which includes the module holding group data. Great improvements are expected once implementation is completed because each Area Registrar will be able to directly manage the data of their groups. This will economize the costs of the GSO Records Department.

All AA Area Registrars were shut out of the group data module in October 2019. While some access to reporting is available, there has been a delay in completing the project. The time delay to full implementation has been compounded by the need for all GSO staff members to work from home due to the New York City Covid-19 quarantine.

-----AREA ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES-----

Area Administration Expenses: The total paid for Area Administration Expenses was \$4,282.94. Storage space rental fees and a liability insurance policy account for the larger share of those dollars. Website fees, computer maintenance, rent on the US Post Box, and bank fees were paid with the remainder.

----- AREA COMMITTEE MEETING -----

The decision-making responsibilities and frequency of area assemblies and Area Committee Meetings vary amongst all AA areas.

SDIAA's Area Committee Meeting is a steering committee serving as the key hub in the two-way communication of the service structure. The agenda includes reports highlighting the work and information coming from each district and standing committee. The Delegate regularly delivers and collects information on matters affecting AA as a whole.

The main concern of the meeting is to steer the content for the area assembly.

SDIAA's Area Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month. All AA members are welcome to attend and exercise their voice at the Area Committee Meeting; however, voting privileges are confined to the committee's members.

The members of our area's Area Committee are:

- Area Officers and their alternates
- District Committee Members (DCM)
- Chairs of the Areas Standing Committees

The Area Committee

Perhaps more than any other group of people in A.A., the area committee is responsible for the health of the Conference structure and thus for growth and harmony in the A.A. Fellowship. If G.S.R.s are lax, if there is lack of harmony in a district, if there are difficulties in public information or some other service area, the committee member knows it and can turn to the full committee for help.

An active committee deals with all kinds of service problems: Is experience being shared among groups? Is the A.A. message getting into hospitals, prisons, jails, and rehabilitation centers? Are news media and professionals who deal with suffering alcoholics well informed about A.A.? Are new groups and Loners being visited and helped?

The Service Manual, page S45.

Area Committee Expenses: The total expenses for the Area Committee Meeting were \$7072.54. Included in the expenses are rent and paid interpretation services for Spanish and English. The cost of supplies was defrayed by the cake can collection. It is meeting custom to celebrate years of sobriety at each meeting.

----- AREA ASSEMBLY -----

Currently, SDIAA holds five Assemblies a year. (See Appendix III for the focus of each assembly.) While all AA members are encouraged to attend and become familiar with the issues discussed at the Area Assemblies, only General Service Representatives (GSR), District Committee Members (DCM), Standing Committee Chairs, Area Officers, the Area Webservant, the Area Archivist and Chairpersons of Intergroups are voting members.

The main activities at Assemblies are centered on supporting the Delegate to the General Service Conference and workshops. The GSRs and DCMs are vital voting members and collectively form a majority of the voting members and therefore need to make every effort to attend.

All SDIAA matters that either have an effect on the Area's finances or a direct impact on the Groups, whether raised on the floor of the Assembly or coming out of the Area Committee process, are presented and ratified, discussed, revised or rejected by the Assembly. The GSRs and DCMs become informed about local and world-wide AA issues at these Assemblies and discuss issues with others who are in a good position to have experience and information to share. In this way the Assemblies meet the purpose of strengthening and unifying AA as a whole in carrying the message in the best way possible for the Area. Participation by the GSR and DCM are the key links in the vital chain of a two-way communication between Group members and the larger structure of AA.

Area Assembly Expenses: The total of expenses paid for the 2019 assemblies was \$9,828.01. \$950.00 went to the New GSR School, which is held at one hour prior to the start of each assembly. All GSRs new and experienced, are welcome to attend. \$434.01 was paid for travel of the Pacific Regional Trustee who was invited to chair the Election Assembly. Each assembly is interpreted in Spanish and American Sign Language by special workers. Total interpretation services just for the five assemblies was \$5840. The area contributes \$500 per assembly for the rent of a facility. The rest of each assembly's expenses are covered by the hosting district(s). The \$104 for copies is a very low amount. The area has been making an effort to move participants to electronic documents.

----- AREA EVENTS -----

New ideas for additional workshops offering information on AA's Legacy of Service are welcome and can be sent to the attention of the Area Chair for consideration.

The following annual workshops are designed to inform trusted servants on their service positions:

4-Area District Committee Member (DCM) Sharing Session

This long-standing event is usually held in the first week of February. DCMs from the three AA areas that are geographically close to San Diego attend this one-day session. The hosting responsibility is rotated between Areas 5, 8, 9, and 93. Each of the four areas sends a liaison to planning sessions to participate in developing the program content. Past and current Delegates from the hosting area are often asked to speak on a focus topic. There are roundtables to share on current issues affecting AA as a whole, their local groups, and problem-solve on how to learn the work of a DCM. The key benefit is DCMs are able to build relationships and exchange 12-Step ideas with DCMs from the three other AA areas.

4-Area District Committee Member (DCM) Sharing Session Expenses: This workshop's expenses are shared with the other three participating AA areas. The total expenses of \$931.20 included a \$450 share of the workshop costs. It also includes \$400 for ASL interpretation. SDIAA continues its great success in attracting and retaining the participation of deaf members in service. It is important to note that outreach and information sharing to all deaf AA members in our local area is made possible by having a single deaf member who is active in service. If you are interested in working with the deaf community, you are welcome to participate in the Accessibilities Committee.

DCM/Committee Chair Workshop

This workshop usually runs about 4 hours and occurs at the end of January. SDIAA's Structure & Guidelines outline a rotation schedule so that each year half the DCMs and standing committee chairs are new to their positions. The program is developed by SDIAA's Area Chair. The other area officers and standing committee chairs are featured in the program to provide the details of their position's duties and responsibilities.

DCM/Committee Chair Workshop Expenses: The \$435 total expenses for this workshop is a great example of an economical use of funds to quickly welcome and bring a new rotation of trusted servants into the stream of ongoing, highly diverse service activities. The minimal costs and time frame are a great example to any group, district, or standing committee that wants to generate interest in either a wide variety of special-focus 12-Step work.

R.O.O.T.S. and Unity Day are long-standing annual events to serve all local AA members are invited.

R.O.O.T.S (Remembering Our Old Timers' Stories)

This event is hosted by SDIAA's Archives Committee and features a 4-speaker panel of old timers. Each speaker has 40 or more years of sobriety is given 15 minutes each to share his/her story. This event is fun and well-known for the abundance and wide variety of cookies!

R.O.O.T.S Expenses: The total expenses paid for this event was \$230.36. This is a great example of how 7th Tradition contributions work to defray the costs of a service event. Several hundred members attended to quickly consumed a massive amount of cookies while listening to wonderful speakers.

Unity Day

This annual event is usually scheduled around AA's birthday in June. All AA members are invited to participate in the celebration. In the spirit of one drunk talking to another, SDIAA's Alternate Delegate leads a program planning committee of representatives of all other local area AA service committees. The program offers all service entities such as central offices, Intergroups and the two Hospitals & Institutions Committees to invite all local AA members to the experience of the wide variety of work in carrying the message.

Unity Day Expenses: The costs for the Unity Day event are usually shared among all participating service committees and entities. SDIAA paid a total of \$519.50. \$400 went for facility rent and the rest was paid to Spanish and ASL interpreters.

The Spanish-speaking Women's Workshop is an example of extending the hand of AA to Remote Communities. Ideas for outreach to Remote Communities is a focus that was initiated by and continues as an information exchange of the Delegates to the General Service Conference. Remote Communities efforts carry the message to populations that have barriers to accessing AA. These barriers can be in the form of geography, culture, or social norms. The idea is to understand which populations have not yet been reached and find a way to extend the hand of AA to them. The generation of new 12-Step ideas is how AA continues to be a movement.

More 12-Step work ideas are needed!

Spanish-speaking Women's Workshop

The Spanish-speaking Women's Workshop is a great example of 12-Step work that is seeded by SDIAA funds and will become self-supporting. The workshop is held in Spanish with English interpretation. GSO and LaVina staff members participate in the program. A total of five California AA areas participated in the first workshop, which was accessible via Skype. The number of AA areas seeking to be included in the planning continues to increase and is expected to move to states outside of California. The workshop has also resulted in creating more Spanish-speaking Women's meetings across the U.S.

Spanish-speaking Women's Workshop Expenses: A total of \$750 in expenses were paid for this workshop. \$450 was the cost share with the other participating AA areas; \$300 in mileage was paid to SDIAA's liaison to the workshop planning committee.

----- AREA OFFICERS -----

There is no greater example of great sacrifice and love than the services delivered by each area officer. Those who stand for election participate in a great act of courage to make themselves available for the winding road of their 2-year commitment while juggling their time with family, employment, and AA meetings. Service at any level offers experiences that expand spiritual growth. The specific growth available in each individual's experience is guided by his/her own Higher Power. The experiences come as one moves through time in the commitment to service.

Area Officer Expenses: A total of \$15,021.07 was paid to reimburse the expenses of area officers and accounts for about 29% of the 2019 total expenses. Below are a few important notes regarding the work of area officers.

Mileage Reimbursement - This is probably the most important expense to understand. AA's Concepts provide the Right of Participation of each AA member. Overall, the fact that expenses are reimbursement out of money provided by the Fellowship reminds each trusted servant their is trust their work is in service for AA as a whole, not specifically their own benefit. Providing Mileage Reimbursement is a great equalizer in the effort to allow all members the ability to work in service. This reimbursement makes participation affordable to those who have the desire and the time to put into service but may not have enough gas money to drive to the various locations of general service meetings. The area reimburses at the rate of \$.35/mile; the 2019 IRS reimbursement rate is \$.58. Please see number 2. in the list below regarding the liaison work of area officers.

Pacific Regional Service Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous (PRAASA) Expense Reimbursement- See Appendix IV for details explaining PRAASA and its importance to the health of the area in its participation in the year-round Conference Cycle. PRAASA 2019 was held in Irvine, which is about 100 miles north of San Diego. The expenses reimburse covered nine out of the 10 area officers and two standing committee chairs.

1. Two of the main purposes of SDIAA as stated on page 4 of the S&Gs (See Appendix V) are fulfilled through the work of the Area Delegate. The Delegate is supported by the Area Alternate Delegate; however, the Alternate Delegate also has a set of separately-assigned duties. SDIAA contributes a flat \$1800 to GSO as cost share in the GSC. The Fellowship's contributions support the total GSC costs, which are over \$10k per Conference member. There are 134 participants in the Conference. The Delegate's work is constant two-way communication that is often delivered by in-person visits to meetings of groups, districts, standing committees, and other AA areas.
2. Each area officer is assigned as a liaison to two of the area's standing committees. Liaisons are only sitting in on the committees to be informational resources in the two-way communication between the committee and the Area Chair. The Area Chair is responsible for the smooth running of the assembly and the health of each standing committee contributes to the whole of SDIAA's 12-Step work.
3. A description of the duties and responsibilities of each area officer position can be found in SDIAA's Structure & Guidelines: <http://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SG-Working-11-07-2017.pdf>

— — — — AREA STANDING COMMITTEES — — — —

A summary description of each committee's 12-Step work can be found in the Area 08 Standing Committee Pamphlet: **Link to http://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Area_8_Pamphlet_2014-101614-1.pdf**

Standing committees allow the area to conduct a wide range of 12-Step work. New committees are created as necessary to keep the AA movement progressing. The Young People's Coordinating Committee is the area's most recent addition to the array of 12-Step work.

New ideas and suggestions for 12-Step work are always welcome. For example, the area is considering the addition of an Armed Services Committee.

Many AA group members may think the responsibility for performing 12-Step work belongs to their local central office and/or the General Service Office (GSO). It is often not realized that

All AA members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the work of SDIAA's Standing Committees.

Each SDIAA committee is vital to making 12-Step work possible because they are concerned with the affairs of AA. New committees are created when the need to support 12-Step work is developed. The usual work of each committee will fall into two classifications:

A. Committees that work to guide the area's actions in accord with SDIAA's Operating Principles (Concept XII) so it remains democratic in thought and action:

1. Agenda
2. Finance
3. Information Technology
4. Policy
5. Newsletter
6. Translation (Written)

B. Committees that coordinate work concerning the world affairs of AA and deliver it in our local geographic area:

1. Accessibilities
2. Archives
3. Cooperation with the Professional Community
4. Grapevine/LaVina
5. Literature
6. North County Area Institutional Committee
7. San Diego Imperial Area Institutional Committee
8. Young Peoples' Coordinating Committee

central offices are entities that are entirely independent of GSO and any local service structure. The responsibility for conducting 12-Step work is the responsibility of the local membership that is coordinated through the service committees that are responsible to the groups in the geographic proximity.

Area Standing Committee Expenses: In 2019, SDIAA paid \$12,062.36 (24% of total expenses paid) for the work of the standing committees. Some of the expenses went toward workshops. Sometimes committees conduct workshops for the benefit of local members and other times committee send their members to attend workshops for the benefit of expanding the knowledge, skills, and experience in a specific type of 12-Step work.

The 2019 workshop expenses were to the: Grapevine/LaVina Committee to conduct an Audio Workshop; Finance Committee to conduct a Treasurer's Workshop; and the Accessibilities Committee for participating in the Deaf Festival.

The Area Archivist attended the National Archives Workshop and the IT Chair attended the Technology in AA Workshop (National)

¹Tradition Nine (Long Form)

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employ a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principle newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

----- APPENDICES -----

Appendix I & II: Year-End Report Spreadsheet (Sheet 1) & List of Contributing Groups (Sheet 2)

Appendix III - List of Assemblies

Orientation Assembly

January - This Assembly provides for acclimating the new GSRs and DCMs, and Area Officers to their new positions. Local Area Business is also conducted at this assembly.

Delegate's Pre Conference Assembly

April - GSRs need to be ready to share an Informed Group Conscience on topics, which will be discussed at the next General Service Conference in New York. On some topics the delegate will ask for a "Sense of the Assembly." This is an informal vote used to clarify the position of the assembly members on a particular aspect of an agenda item. Our Delegate then brings the Area group conscience on the agenda topics to the General Service Conference.

Delegate's Report Back Assembly

May - This Assembly is devoted to the Delegate sharing his or her experience at the General Service Conference and the resulting actions of the Conference, which affect our Area and AA worldwide.

Big Day Assembly (in even-numbered years) **or Election Assembly** (in odd-numbered years)

September - **Big Day Assembly** This Assembly is devoted entirely to Local Area Business, which may include approval of the area assembly budget for the following year.

OR

Election Assembly In odd-numbered years, an election Assembly is held to choose trusted servants in SDIAA, who serve a two-year term starting the following January. The Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Officers, and Alternate Officers whose duties are briefly described within the SDIAA Structure and Guidelines, are elected at this time using the Third Legacy Procedure from the AA Service Manual.

Budget Assembly

November - This assembly typically focuses on area business, which may include approval of the area assembly budget for the following year.

— — — — APPENDIX IV — — — —

Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA)

The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is an annual assembly hosted by one of the 15 areas (spread among 9 states) in the Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous each year. The opportunity to host is rotated to each area. The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and areas of the Pacific Region. An area's ability to grow its 12-Step work is strengthened in direct proportion to the number of members who attend PRAASA as they become more informed on the:

1. Current issues affecting AA as a whole. PRAASA is strictly an informational assembly; no decisions are made. Because it is usually held the first weekend in March, our General Service Representatives, officers, and AA members at large have an excellent opportunity to be immersed in the topics for the upcoming General Service Conference.
2. Various approaches to 12-Step work being conducted; in other areas. Panels of speakers are organized and each is asked to present on a different facet of a topics. The program organizers work to insure each area shares in the development and delivery of 12-Step information. There is time for Q&A and general sharing on the topic after each panel.
3. Specific role of each service position. For most service positions, rotation occurs in January. The early March date for this assembly gives those in new service positions an opportunity to attend roundtable discussions specifically devoted to the work in their new role. Those who are in their second year of a position serve the Fellowship by sharing their experience, strength, and hope. The informational exchange at roundtables often inspires relationship building between members in different areas who are serving in common service positions.

Recovery, Unity, and Service should always be paramount and foremost in the actions and spirit of the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. (From A history of PRAASA: https://praasa.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/praasa-history_1968-2000.pdf)

States included in the Pacific Region: Alaska, Hawaii, California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho.

— — — — Appendix V — — — —

II. PURPOSE OF THE AREA ASSEMBLY

- A. To carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- B. To support the General Service Conference and its members in its role as provider of A.A. world services, and as guardian of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and 12 Concepts of World Service.
- C. To elect and support a delegate to the General Service Conference.
- D. To provide communication and encourage unity within the Area.
- E. To assist in the development and communication of an informed group conscience.

San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Structure & Guidelines, Page 4

Link to full document: <http://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SG-Working-11-07-2017.pdf>