

September ACM Abbreviated Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl F.

August 2020	August Actual	YTD	2020 Budget 61,860.00	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	3,544.08	26,398.13	61,860.00	35461.87
Individual contributions:	681.36	3,977.41		
District contributions:	00.00	3,000.00		
Total contributions:	4,225.44	33,925.54	61,860.00	27934.46
Total budgeted expenses:	1,193.14	24,287.64	61,860.00	-37,572.36
Contributions less budgeted expenses:	3,032.30	9,637.90		
Total unbudgeted expenses:	170.00	406.00		
Total expenses:	1,363.14	24,693.64		
Contributions less total expenses:	2,862.30	9,231.90		
Total Cash Balance: August 2020	26,048.50		25% of budget	
Prudent Reserve Balance	5,000.00			

Check requests are due this Sunday//there are still some Districts that I don't have an address for, so please get those into me//Reminder about the 2021 Budget/spending plan Workshops, there will be one tomorrow.

Chair Report: Blaine H .Well, we survived another virtual area assembly and it seems that we are getting better at it. Many thanks to those who made it happen. Certainly, we will be doing this again in November. After that...?

We talked about the challenges facing the Area last Saturday. Specifically the effect the COVID situation has had on our committees. In spite of the lockdown, Past Delegate Marc J. has been able to reassemble the Grapevine/La Vina Committee and turn it into a dynamic unit. Their workshop, scheduled for October 10th on Zoom, looks to be an exciting and stimulating event. I urge all who are able to attend. Not quite as visible, but equally exciting has been the revitalization of our Newsletter Committee headed by Roxane R. and Monty C. The result is there for all to see – a beautiful September issue, expanded from previous ones. As it is all digital, no trees died to bring it to you. It is available on the website and I am hoping that, if you enjoy it, you would consider submitting something to be shared with the Fellowship.

This year we have a situation in which previously budgeted funds will not be used as planned. The situation was created by the COVID-19 shutdown. The area now faces somewhat of a challenge. If we do nothing, at the end of the year we will have a sizable balance and, as per our Structure and Guidelines, we will send a portion of that to GSO. That would not be a bad thing. Funds are needed there and are used for good purpose. However, as we heard from Jerry at the Assembly, the financial situation at GSO has improved over the past few months and is not critical.

As most of our groups who support the Area financially also send a portion of the 7th Tradition funds collected to GSO, one can assume that those groups wish to have the money sent to SDIAA to be used within the Area. Therefore we are looking at ways to reallocate budgeted funds that will not be used for the intended purpose to other worthwhile projects within the Area. I am sure that the Groups, Districts, and Committees in the area can come up with a few.

We will be asking for submission of those plans and projects which can be reviewed by the Finance Committee, the Area Committee, and eventually by the Area Assembly. As we have only one regular Assembly left on the Calendar, the Budget Assembly on 11/7, this may make it necessary to conduct a special assembly just to deal with this issue. There is nothing in our Structure and Guidelines which would prevent us from doing this. As all the other trappings of a regular assembly would not be needed, and it would be digital, this is something that could take place in an evening, a weekend afternoon, a couple of hours would be sufficient.

Lastly we will be setting the dates for some of next year's assemblies. It is tough to plan when we don't know if they will be in person or on Zoom, or both? We can at least get dates set. Thank you all for your service!

Question: Rick L.-some of the districts have a lot of money, what should we do with this?

Delegate's Report: Jerry S. So our 3rd all virtual assembly has come and gone. I'd like to applaud all those that developed and participated in the event this past Saturday. A special nod to our Chair for designing and running a very challenging logistical experience and for keeping us on time. And I would be amiss if I didn't say a special thank you for bringing Al Mooney to our day together. His pitch was the single most dynamic share about Alcoholics Anonymous I have ever heard... the threading of history, personal experience, scientific knowledge and medical perspectives was bar none! And he's a non-alcoholic to boot!!! Bravo Blaine... thank you for that experience! So my schedule has been busy since then. We had a Pacific Regional Trustee report back this past Monday and received a wealth of current information:

1. We have a new online literature webstore... check it out:
 - a. <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/>
2. We have a new contributions web experience available... click the link below:
 - a. https://contribution.aa.org/sca-dev-2020-1/checkout.ssp?is=checkout&lang=en_US&#login-register
3. Our Grapevine e-publication link has been added to the Meeting Guide App in hopes to increase awareness and support subscriptions moving forward
4. GSO is coordinating x2 Regional Forums. An all Eastern and all Western Forum. The soft dates for these events are as follows:
 - a. Eastern Forum on Dec. 5th
 - b. Western Forum on Dec. 19th
5. I am excited to report that the GSO has hired a new CFO who has a strong career as a CPA with non-profits.
6. Finally, we saw a total of just over \$1M in contributions for the month of August. Approximately...
 - a. \$550K from Groups
 - b. \$300K from Individuals
 - c. \$150K from "Other" – Intergroups, Districts, Area's, etc.

Yesterday the General Service Board held its first of 4 Strategic Planning Sharing Sessions with our 93 Delegates with questions like:

1. What is your concept of inclusivity, acceptance, and participation, as it relates to Tradition Three... at the group level and within the General Service Structure?
2. When considering how to improve effective communication to remain relevant, what elements are the most important towards progress?
3. What are some creative ways you think Class A trustees might be able to convey the message of AA?

I can assure you shared with enthusiasm tying efforts from within our home Area to better serve our diverse populations, our newly formed committees, and local

professional communities. Would you like to review the Strategic Planning Summary and questions? Please send me an email directly, and I will forward it to you.

Finally, we are looking toward the last few months of the year... only 3 more ACM's after tonight. As such, get ready to hear from me on the topic of rotation. Fundamental to everything we do in AA, is the required health of participation. How we pass the torch and help the next servant leaders gain access to an experience they can plan and prepare for during a virtual, pandemic, semi-isolated shared experience will truly be unique and new for all involved. So, let's start meditating on the effort and discussing the hurdles and challenges now.

Ques-Is the Online webstore on the website? I recommend going to the GSO website and you will be directed to the new sites.//Does the new contributions site take funds from groups? Yes it was designed for just that!

Alt Delegate's Report: Monty C. I don't have much to report, most of it was shared at the Assembly-DCMs please let me know if anyone needs a Service Manual//I will drop them off and want the GSRs to have them//the Committees could use some help-DCMs please encourage your GSRs to join a Committee//have your GSRs attend a Committee on Zoom and they can try any of them out//please reach out to your meeting members also to join Committees. Do you need to be a GSR to join a Committee? No. But GSRs are the only voting members on Committees//But I thought that each Committee determines who can vote//the Area S&G states that GSRs only have a vote for Area issues-The Chairperson needs to be a GSR//Committees are open to any member and the Committees are autonomous with how they determine who votes//On all matters that impact the Area Assembly only Area Committee members may vote//Until the current S & G is published the newer motions voted in aren't in effect//currently all of the previous motions are being incorporated into the new S&G by the Policy Committee and will be brought forth for approval and use//The policy committee needs members to help do this work//if there is an entity that is responsible to update the S & G online, this wouldn't take so long-as motions be incorporated as they are passed//this is the work of the Policy Committee//the new S & G will be in electronic form which will work well once put online.

All of the Alt Delegates from all 93 areas meet recently. I wasn't able to attend. I missed the first one. They plan on meeting on the 1st of every month. They will be collaborating on ideas of how to get through the pandemic and what roadblocks we have encountered.

The Alt Delegates from the Pacific Region have been communicating as well. We have been communicating on various topics that are affecting our areas.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Old Business:

- **Area Survey Update-Katharine M** The numbers haven't changed much from Sat-104 group 964 individual//Spanish 9 groups and 2 individuals//please contact me if you have any questions about the survey//it doesn't need to be your home group for you to fill out the survey-just make sure it is one per group//please email me with questions

- **Budget Process Update-Cheryl and Joshua** 3 workshops left//one is tomorrow from 10-11am then Sunday Sept 27 and October 31//for all questions regarding the budget process//\$58,000 + is the projected budget for next year//this is as live working spending plan for next year, this can be changed at the Budget Assy//tomorrow's workshop has Spanish Interp.//the budget process-the year starts out with us looking at the following year//the Finance Committee goes out to Committees and Officers to get their proposed budgets//this is all reviewed by the Finance Committee//presented in June to ACM to be prepared by July//Normally the Finance committee would visit Districts for the GSRs to go back to their groups to discuss the budget//but it's different this year and that's why we are having these Workshops//the most valuable part of the workshop are the questions and answers//Are you considering next year's spending plan being reduced because of Covid as this year//we have gone ahead and planned for a regular year in the event that covid goes away//we are trying to explore how our money could be more agile//no one can predict what will happen next year
- **Support for our Standing Committees-Blaine H.** this has already been mentioned//but there can be a lot of committee work that can be done as the GV & LV and Newsletter Committees have shown.

New Business:

- **Notes on Reallocation of budgeted but unused funds-Cheryl F.** we will end up with a lot more money than we need this year: Cheryl-our money could be more agile//when money sits on lines, sometimes dies at the end of the year and then gets sent off to GSO//but this money is sent in to be used in the Area// there are many great ideas for this excess money//Joshua and I are asking that you prepare in writing what you would like to be done with money-we will put together a motion with various line items of your ideas on how to spend that money//then there could be a vote on those items//all ideas need to be in by October 10, 2020 and we can present this motion at the ACM next month, then there could be a "special Assembly" for voting//please put the name of the homegroup represented by the GSR putting in the suggestion//same for Standing Committees//district #//preferably not from an individual but an entity of the Area//the money should be for 12 Step work in the Area//are we going to disperse this money prior to the end of the year?//Because we have never been in this situation, we have a lot of //If the project is for the future the funds could be held until that future project//could the groups get funding for purchasing GV subscriptions?//the Assembly can do what it wants to do//Chuck P.-I have concerns that as an organization we are rushing to judgement and implementation-most years we have excess funds to send off to GSO and here we are looking at the budget process for 2021//we are facing a new reality and we are looking for a short term solution to a long term challenge//how does AA adjust to this new situation//thank you to the Finance Committee and Treasurer for your work and that all was just my opinion//will this all be one motion? My concern is that if some do not care for some of the ideas, will they all be thrown out? It will be presented as a motions with many line items and individual line items can be approved//the October 10 deadline is important//so that the GSR can take the ideas back to their groups//would any of the money held over affect the 2021 budget-no//none of the decisions that we make this year with this money will not affect next year's budget//please submit about half page requests for spending of funds//the worst thing that can happen is that we send off funds to New York//your ideas will be individually approved.
- **Consideration for a special Assembly-Blaine H.** We are told over and over that the groups care where their money goes so they should attend the special assembly and make a quorum//can we bookmark any money we send to GSO-no//I will send out something in the next few days with a

guideline for everyone as to how to make their suggestions//How much is available for re-allocation? We foresee \$15000 to not be spent by the end of the year//this number could go up or down//

- **Dealing with Virtual Groups-Ad Hoc Committee Report-Blaine H.** 35 questions were created by a subcommittee of this Ad Hoc and they are very good and were distributed to the members of the committee//next meeting oct 14th.
- **Expense Request-\$300 for La Vina subscriptions-Jerry S.** move for unbudgeted expenses of \$300 for new subscriptions. // 25 new subscriptions//this has been suggested by the use of re-allocated funds//it's less than \$450 so it can be done at the ACM and we don't have to wait for the Assembly//waiting until November or December, the situation is dire now//suggestion to purchase grapevine as well. // very much needed because spanish population shies away from technology.//townhall with H&I to get subscriptions out to the fellowship//call to question, seconded, not enough hands continue discussion.//no one had anything else to say// vote on motion , motion passes.
- **Unbudgeted Expense Request-\$400 for PSA cards-Armed Forces Committee-John C.** to purchase postcards to be distributed to local armed services, they currently have no budget as they are a new committee. // motion to approve, seconded // what size are they and how many // large postcard size. // who is the contact on the card // central office // vote, 30 in favor, 5 opposed, passes. // minority opinion, thought we had already approved \$1400 for this committee. No money has been approved for this committee.// previous request for \$1500 is still requested.// does anyone wish to change vote, no, motion passes.
- **2021 Assemblies** Orientation Assembly, Saturday, January 9th; Pre Conference Assembly, Saturday, April 10th; Post Conference Assembly, Saturday, May 15th. District 21 volunteered to host the Orientation Assembly in January, Districts 14 and 8 volunteered to host the PCA in April.

Respectfully submitted by Renee R. Area 8 Secretary and Cecil L. Alternate Secretary