

Area 08 San Diego-Imperial Counties Post Conference Assembly Minutes June 20, 2020

Assembly held via Zoom, due to Social Distancing Procedures during Covid-19

Zoom ID number: 937 9244 0247 PW: EYEloveAA

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Blaine H., Area Chair

Please familiarize yourself with the Interpretation button to select your preferred language.

Welcome to the second all digital Assembly of San Diego-Imperial Counties (Area 8)

Please everyone rename yourselves on Zoom-First name, Last Initial and service position

Speaker view vs Gallery view//Speaker view is recommended//Raise your hand on the

participants button when wanting to share//chat feature-don't overuse//Area Officers will work to control Zoom Bombers

Moment of Silence followed by the Serenity Prayer

AA's 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.

Introductions: New GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, Alternates, Past Delegates, Guests

Registrar-Bill S-a quorum was met!

9 Officers//17 DCMs//11 Committee Chairs//1 Webservant//82 GSRs

Secretary's Report-Renee R: Minutes of the April Pre-Conference Assembly

Comments/Questions: none

Motion to accept: April Pre-Conference Assembly minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl F.:

| May 2020 | May Actual | YTD | 2020 Budget 61,860.00 | Variance with Annual Budget |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Group contributions: | 3,211.79 | 17,425.62 | 61,860.00 | 44434.38 |
| Individual contributions: | 385.00 | 2,867.50 | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| District contributions: | 0.00 | 3,000.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total contributions: | 3,596.79 | 23,503.12 | 61,860.00 | 38,356.88 |
| Total budgeted expenses: | 939.81 | 18,564.99 | 61,860.00 | -43,280.91 |
| Contributions less budgeted expenses: | 2,656.98 | 4,938.13 | | |
| Total unbudgeted expenses: | 0.00 | 236.00 | | |
| Total expenses: | 939.81 | 20,589.99 | | |
| Contributions less total expenses: | 2,656.98 | 2,913.13 | | |
| Total Cash Balance: May 2020 | 21,102.50 | | 25% of budget | |
| Prudent Reserve Balance | 5,000.00 | | | |

Comments/Questions: Should we be asking our groups to increase contributions? Ans-we are doing fine, as funding is coming in and Covid 19 has cut down expenses//Expenses may go up when covid slows down//we should have excess at the end of the year//I will be meeting with the Finance Committee to re-budget//GSO or Central Office may need more contributions as they have on-going expenses//Have there been discussions regarding surpluses at year's end-would we increase send offs? The surplus will be discussed and what to do with it will be shared with the Area soon//Karen-we should increase translation and ASL interpretation because this is a great time for outreach//I do not have the specifics on these figures throughout the Area//spending so far is at 33.75%

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: unanimously accepted

Comments from Marc J-temporary Chair of Grapevine Committee: Happy to pay back what was given to me 30 years ago//At that time, the chair stepped down, Bobbie C. stepped up and then I became Chair//I am now in Bobbie's position//We are looking for new members//there is a lot of interesting history about the GV//we will put on our regular workshops-Writer's workshop, Audio Workshop//Zoom makes it easier for Committee's to meet//we meet the second Sunday of the Month, time to be determined//we need GSRs , DCMs please encourage your GSRs to join, it's a part of your commitment.

Plan for the Day-Delegate;s Report Back-Jerry S:
2020 Alcoholics Anonymous in a Changing World

I am honored to serve as your Delegate of Area 8//Jerry will screen share various documents//On the Area Website- area8aa.org General Conference Materials are available-Delegate's Corner-Quick Reference Guide to the Conference (2 page document) and Results Spreadsheet-70th General Service Conference-Agenda Topics Mapped Out//Many items were recommitted to 2021//*surendertowin* is password to documents on the website// What it was like, what happened and what it is like now

Thank you to all who supported me in the Conference-my experience was tremendous and impactful at the Conference-I was very well prepared by you and your contributions at the Pre-Conference Assy//The first day of the Conference was difficult for me because being on Zoom it didn't feel like a real conference-"You are who you go with" I heard this and thought of all of you being with me//After that I perked up//Day 2 really impacted me// "This is the best GSC I have ever been to" a friend said-from that day forward I felt like I was floating on air!//Area 8 was well represented at the Conference this year.

A lot of what we did was "recommitted"- meaning that it will be considered next year//we did pass the discussion topics to next year//we can even be more prepared next year//The following topics will be forwarded to next year and I have invited guest to speak to them.

"Recovery in a Changing World"-Pat T. (Jerry's Sponsor) this is my experience in the changing world in this medium//thank you all for your general service//I have been very involved in General Service//I am active in sponsorship and I love AA//we are responsible to carry this message//we have been having conference calls to go through the Steps and then we added Zoom because people around the world wanted access//in the fourth edition "modem to modem" and how that is now "Zoom to Zoom"//when covid 19 hit Zoom became unprecedented//we take about 300 people per workshop at about 4 workshops going on in the last 3 months//we then set up Fellowships of the Spirit in several states//This has expanded all over the world//people are attracted to the message and recovery//Percentages of success have increased//people are becoming recovered through Zoom//This area of recovery will become a permanent feature of recovery//Zoom works!

Delegate's Report Back #1 Jerry S.

Powerpoint presentation May 16-18 This conference was a Virtual "first". Begins with a StarWars running of introductive wording

Why do we need a Conference?-from the Service Manual

Inverted Triangle of the General Service Structure

The General Service Structure-diagram of Committees at the General Service level:Conference Committees and Trustees Committees

I served on the Grapevine Committee and a secondary committee: Archives

Voting members of the Conference pie chart-delegates make up $\frac{2}{3}$ s of voting members

Map of the 93 Areas of US and Canada (Area 8 is geographically small)

Map of PRAASA-Pacific Region-15 Areas

Photo of Pacific Region Delegates

What I saw-Jerry's workspace photos

135 voting members and guests from around the globe and technical staff

Data on Area Delegates-statistics ave age 59//ave length of sobriety 22//ave length of service 17yrs

Financial News from 2019-finance were very strong in 2019 globally print is diminishing in lieu of electronic//40.6% of groups made contributions//self support has increased over the years since 2005-2019//Online contributions have also gone up//checks take more manual work to process//

2020 Budgets-being reviewed and updated//how to manage during covid//ERP, new NetSuite being installed
 International Convention-cancelled-budgeting//because of insurance we will not lose too much money
 Over 5,000 pieces of mail went to Box 459 had to be disinfected before distribution
 Cost of GSO during Covid-1.4 mil ave cost//gap of \$700K in April 2020
 Reserve fund drawdown \$3mil//which is why we have the reserve fund
 Brief History of the Reserve Fund slide-increased over 35 times since 1979//decreased over 75 times since 1979

Break: 10:37am-10:47am

“Unity in a Changing World”-Josh E.:

Class B Trustee and Director of the Grapevine: I met Jerry at the Tech. Workshop, which is a passion of mine//this has been a monumental effort during Covid to run GSO//Grapevine has shown its support by making all of the online services free for 3 months and will come down in July//this all happened in 2 weeks during the lockdown//What’s my responsibility to Unity and AA//“the ability to respond” “having the duty to deal with things”//“personal recovery depends on AA Unity”//the group conscious is the ultimate authority//Concept 1//we require unity to survive as an organization and as an individual//how we should live in the digital age//.by attending today you are taking responsibility for the unity of AA//by sending your delegate you are participating in the Unity of AA as a whole//the pandemic has given us a chance for a whole year to discuss very important issues//January 1984 issue of the Grapevine- “the Harmony of Service” was read//unity not uniformity

Delegate’s Report Back #2-Jerry S.

More Slides:

Upside down Triangle-moving up to the Groups

Conference Agenda Process-Anyone can submit a motion//Appropriate Trustee

Committee//Assigned to its Corresponding conference committee//goes to areas for discussion//discussed by Delegate at the conference//report back

Grapevine Conference Committee-Jerry was assigned to this committee//alternate chair//names of committee members

Archives Committee Jerry was also on//alternate chair//names of committee members
 Agenda

What can happen with an Agenda Item once it is at the Conference

Conference was reduced greatly//much of the agenda was removed//many of the agenda items were moved forward to 2021

Items from Pre-Conference:Mental Health pamphlet forwarded//Preamble Change-took no Action//Grapevine Instagram Account-no action but requested what it might look like

All literature items got pushed forward

Big Book items//Black American pamphlet-forwarded,ran out of time for discussion, but will be moved forward//Podcast for AAWS forwarded with a request to show example//

CPC-no committee recommendations//LinkIn page forwarded

Finance-Virtual Basket language will be added//Revision of pie-chart-no action//forwarded

Grapevine Committee-Changed the name to Conference Committee on Grapevine and LaVina PASSED//Committee Considerations-gender neutral language options to come out next year//Future book topics discussed and moved forward

Literature: virtual basket language approved//updating pamphlets and materials
 PASSED//updating statistics or research updates while maintaining spirit of pamphlet//various pamphlets pushed forward to next year//
 12 Traditions illustrated-update or completely redo pamphlet
 Forwarded-all revisions to BB//The Group//Gender neutrality in BB//revision of 12 x 12 forwarded
 Policy-observers at the conference approved//GSC electronic voting PASSED//Change dates of Conference PASSED
 Public Information:Adjust all AAWS video titles for search engine optimization PASSED//
 New ways of communication through new medias//Podcast//New Workbook and kit for PI Committees
 Report and Charter: New Service Manual draft//Amend Article 4 for $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all conference members to $\frac{3}{4}$ votes of all members participating
 Treatment and Accessibilities-mostly forwarded//update pamphlet Bridging the Gap//
 Trustees: approval of the slate of Trustees and officers for GSB PASSED//
 Archives-no recommendations//development of History Book-revisit next year// International convention cancelled but will be fostered in digital format on AA.org through the month of July. Will let us know as soon as he gets more information.
 Theme SERVICE - In a Changing World. How do I exercise my legacy of service in a changing world.
 //Kensy - seemed to be a lot of items that were forwarded, disappointed, is this normal?//not usual to forward items, when conference functions in its normal matter they stay in conference until the items are completed.//the grand reality of the pandemic is that many items were pushed forward. Conservatice and prudent about time so each committee had limited time. Dont be disappointed because they did the best they could with the limited time they had. A lot of what they did was experimental because of the pandemic.// Rick, past delegate, how was the timeline formulated// Agreed to in advance to be sure everyone had an equitable amount of time to speak. Although Jerry felt that the rigidity could have been more flexible.//Rick, the varied time zones and personal schedules may have affected the rigidity of the time schedule.

“Service in a Changing World”

Guest Speaker “Alcoholics Anonymous and the Armed Services”-George W.

Retired Army Lt. Col., grateful for this opportunity to be of service. 66 yrs old, Tank Officer, Public Affairs Officer. Airborne and Ranger school, served overseas. Never drank on duty, drank every night to get drunk. Returned to states in the 90s on recruiting duty. Stayed drunk for 7 years, personal conduct worsened, some subordinates suspected his drinking, relieved of duty. Continued for another 15 months, sought professional help with his marriage. Raging alcoholic, frightened his wife. Became homeless. Enrolled in an intensive outpatient program. Went to an Alcothan, found camaraderie, joy, people having a good time. Considered that he was an alcoholic, got a sponsor, worked the steps. Ended his military career, lucky to receive an honorable discharge, divorced. Met another lady and remarried. Re-enlisted and served for 3 more years with dignity. Became Army spokesman at the Pentagon. My sobriety is a great gift and a treasure to me. Retired in 2013. Found an article for a service position with the GSO for an Armed Services Liaison and submitted his resume, he was asked to join the GSO. Has done a number of podcasts related to his service work. Ego was a barrier to his sobriety. Went to meetings on base, also at the Pentagon, very few high ranking officers attended due to stigma. Reached out to prior command to offer assistance with alcoholic issues. Did not receive a reply from one and was put in contact with the drug and alcohol counselor from another. Believes the Army sees treatment as a magic wand, that once they go the problem is fixed, do not understand that alcoholism is a lifetime issue. Believe we should be patient with Armed Forces

meetings due to many factors, like duty times, etc... The AA community in Washington got together and formed two meetings at Walter Reed. Access is an issue, getting on posts is a challenge for the Recovery community. Important to let the alcoholic in the Armed Services know that we are available to help them. Thinks that the Standing Committee for the Armed Services is a great idea. I could serve as a model for other areas that have a large military population.

What is the difference between base and off base meetings//there is an issue of mobility, ability to get off base//VSO, VFW, DAV are organizations that could assist in obtaining access to military installations.// Could going to meetings of AA be considered detrimental to an officer's career?// Stigma has been and continues to be an issue, especially with upper grade officers.

Lunch Break: 12:43 return at 1:15

Birthdays-JoAnn: 8 birthdays celebrated

GSR Committee Assignments: new GSRs have been asked to join Committees, as are all general members if they wish.

Alternate Delegate's Report-Monty C: I am responsible for conducting GSR School and organizing Unity Day//Virtual 5, 9, 93 Areas will be done on July 18 (4 Areas), flyer will be posted soon-workshop will have speakers//2 speakers will be Trustees

Chair's Report-Blaine H.: We, in Alcoholics Anonymous, have been experiencing changes similar to those going on in the world outside. Will things ever return to the "old normal"? No one can say. The General Service Conference has taken place on Zoom and we have found that the most high profile (should we say contentious?) items were referred to committee for future consideration. Next year should be a blast! Today we face many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, we also reap the benefits of the technology which has enabled us to stay connected.

Reopening our meetings is currently underway. Before we can do so safely, I would encourage groups to check out three items on the area website <area8aa.org>. The "Group Reopening Document", the "Safety Card", and the suggestions on conducting a "Sharing Session". As there is a lot to consider and in order to reach a group conscious on the subject, it might require supplemental business meetings in a sharing session format. State and local rules as well as restrictions placed on us by our host facilities need to be considered.

At the present time all Area functions are being conducted on Zoom and I would encourage all entities (districts, standing committees, etc.) to have their current meeting information AND Zoom instructions posted on the Area website and in the Calendar.

The Membership Survey is underway. The information it generates will allow us to better tailor our efforts to provide services to the Area membership and to maximize the efficiency of expending our 7th Tradition funds. The survey information is posted on the website with links to both the individual member and group secretary pages.

Several exciting events are coming up in the near future. Sunday, June 28th will be the Four-Area DCM Sharing Session, this year hosted by Area 93. A flyer with Zoom information is posted. Saturday, July 18th will be another Four-Area event, a Unity Day Celebration. Information on that will appear soon.

Looking forward, we have our Big Day Assembly scheduled for September 12th. Although no one can predict the state of our reopening efforts at that time, no doubt there will be a need for Zoom. However, the possibility of returning to a live assembly is real and will be pursued by our hosting districts – 6, 8, and 11.

Please stay Safe and Sober!

Report on the Member's Survey-Katharine M: So far 497 individual members responding//44 groups in English//4 persons from Spanish survey and no Spanish groups//links are on the flyer on the website//you can skip any questions you wish//you can opt out of putting your email address at the end//please announce this survey to everyone you know in the program//we are trying to reach persons not a part of General Service//questions-none//make this announcement at your meetings when announcements are made-esp meetings that don't have a GSR//When will we start seeing some of the data that has come in?Nothing has been collated yet because we don't have enough responses//available until August but this may be extended//in D-15 & 18 we need to do the printed version because of technology issues amongst our districts//Under the Young People's Committee on the website the printable versions are available//email Katharine to get printed ones turned in//Caution regarding early results because of skewed results//this survey will help to clarify our 12 step efforts as to where we need to focus

Rick Walker-GSO staffer on Record Keeping: tracking of groups in an attempt for communication between groups and individuals//we serve groups in both US and Canada//maintaining records of Trusted Servants//contact with AA Central Offices//when a new group starts and lists with GSO they get a new group kit and info about GSRs and send off box 459 to group's contact//Box 459 communicates about what's going on at GSO and information about International Conventions//contact on release//membership surveys about every 3 years since the late 60's-choosing the groups who participate randomly//groups don't have to be linked to GSO, but for healthy group conscious we need the groups to be registered to GSO//“The AA Group and where it begins” has good info on the connectivity of groups//“The Home Group” Grapevine book also helps keep groups healthy//GSO keeps records of Area Officers and Committee Chairs//sharing information about each respective position//GSO does not keep membership records//Records Dept at GSO are for communication only//member records are kept anonymously and confidentially//5 persons populate the Records Dept//Area Registrars do this on an Area level//FNV was implemented in 2007 for direct record update//Area Registrar can be of help to GSO, depending on their skill levels, those very active as is ours, help GSO in keeping up Area records up to date//last year GSO ERP software program to unify all record keeping for GSO, but there were issues with this//Challenges with contact records//currently “my portal” is read only so registrars can't input any records//“The Meeting App” locally is the most up to date for local areas//and GSO is not able to keep as accurate info//there is a new company helping to transition to ERP//NetSuite-Rick is involved bringing the AA perspective//communication is vital in AA//between district, Area, Conference and on. Questions: Katharine-the last 2014 survey is the only one I know of, have there been other surveys? We are re-thinking our surveys and haven't done one since that, but are working on

that//Paul (guest) GSO is assigning new numbers to groups//in the new NetSuite system GSO is assigning new numbers-old FNV numbers are still attached to the groups but there are new numbers assigned//Registrars should be able to pull the new numbers or the Record Dept can give those numbers//Can a new group service number be the same as the old? No//because we are merging 3 sets of records//new numbers generated will not match old numbers//New numbers have one less digit than old numbers//

Motion to create a standing Armed Services Committee-John C:

(First Assembly appearance-Vote is to send the motion to the groups)

<https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Motion-Armed-Services-Committee-FINAL-DRAFT-6-7-2020-4.pdf>

San Diego holds the largest Military population in the United States including active and veterans//we need to hold out our arms to those in the military who need help//drinking used to be encouraged in the Armed Forces//they are discouraged to say they have a problem with substance abuse//many suffer from depression and suicide//John got help in a treatment center and heard what he needed to hear there//we have been at war since Sept 11, 2001//

Motion shared on screen and parts were read by John C.//

Motion seconded: open for discussion: Marc J-a well prepared presentation, but I am against making this ad hoc committee a standing committee yet//ad hoc committees can have a budget from the Area//the committee needs to work through it's kinks and we need yet to determine whether we have a need for this committee//there are already many sober vets doing this work and we have other committees that need support that overlap on this issue//we don't need to do things quickly in AA and perhaps this is for the best//this should not go back to the groups//Marela-I want to see that this committee is created because its very important//Jeremy-I was on the Young People's ad hoc committee last year-this is an issue that already has existed that CPC and PI haven't worked on //this committee will focus on communication and there has been a severe lack of ability to get on base//this committee is absolutely necessary/Katharine-delegation is an important part of service and this is a large percentage of the local population//this committee has already done a lot//Rick-thank you for the presentation//I wish this had existed when I was in the military//I support it//John C-our military bases are like a remote community//we are losing people every day to the war and this disease//Joshua H-Finance Chair-by voting this motion into the area, the ad hoc committee will continue its work//we need to take a little bit of time and we have enough funding for this committee in it's ad hoc state//As an ad hoc committee you can continue to do the work and carry the message//Monty C-we need to slow down even though I am for the committee//this is not about stopping spreading the message to the military//Jim R.-I support this motion and it is long overdue//we got to keep this energy going//Parker-I served on the PI committee for 2 years, and we did a lot of work//we were constantly understaffed and it would be helpful for this committee to focus on this.

Vote: simple majority needed: yes- 73% no- 20% abstain- 7%

Motion passes to go back to the groups

Special Election for Alternate Registrar-Lauren A. Alt Delegate Panel 69-Area 05

(Those eligible to stand are individuals who served as an Officer, DCM, or Standing Committee Chair during Panel 68 or Panel 70: 1/1/18 to present) by third legacy procedure

Duties of alt Registrar read by Blaine

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----|-------|---|
| 1st Ballot: | 72 voting | | count | % |
| | Paul K. | 12 | 17 | |
| | Cindy H. | 8 | 11 | |
| | Richard O. | 36 | 50 | |
| | Ted C. | 9 | 11 | |
| | Linda W. | 7 | | |
| 2nd Ballot: | Cindy H | 6 | 8 | |
| | Paul K | 10 | 14 | |
| 71 voting | Richard O | 44 | 62 | |
| | Linda W | 4 | 6 | |
| | Ted C | 10 | 10 | |
| 3rd Ballot: | Paul K | 20 | 28 | |
| | Richard O. | 51 | 72 | |
| 71 voting | | | | |

Richard O, is the new Alternate Registrar

(Notes on the 2021 Budget-Cheryl F. Treasurer: & Joshua H. Finance Chair) not included

Adjourn. 3:15pm by Blaine H., Area Chair

I am Responsible Declaration: *I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there: and for that I am responsible.*

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