

A NEWSLETTER FOR
GSRs AND ALL OTHER
MEMBERS OF A.A.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Why Register your group?
- How starting a new meeting in a new language can change your life.
- Clancy's Impact on North San Diego County A.A.
- Reporting the Budget to your Group
- Supporting Grapevine and LaVina

***"Humility is
the soil in
which all other
virtues
grow."***

***Grapevine
Daily Quote
8/27/2020***

registrar@area8aa.org

area8aa.org

[Registrars page](#)



San Diego-Imperial Area 08 Assembly

S S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 0 I S S U E

Why Register Your Group?

Imagine not having a meeting schedule to help us locate a meeting. Or worse, a newcomer on the brink of demise, was unable to find another alcoholic, and because he could not find a meeting, he found a bottle. Where would this leave any of us? This may seem a stretch but when speaking to the value and importance of registering our groups and having the ability to communicate with them, the struggle is real.

For the benefit of our groups and in support of our commitment to serve our members, an effort to compile an accurate and current listing of our groups fills the long absent ability to communicate with them all, especially during these unprecedented times. There has never been

an act more important and beneficial to the welfare and unity of our local Fellowship.

It is for this reason that an all-out effort to acquire a group contact from every group within our area is sought. This effort will help meet the General Service Office's (GSO's) need to update records with confirmed accuracy. It is also hoped to prompt a large number of new registrations from groups not registered and therefore not recognized or included in A.A.s overall membership.

To everyone within our service area, your help is needed to develop this area-wide group roster. Simply ask, when attending meetings, if the group has a GSR. If the group is without a GSR, make

a request on behalf of the Area and GSO for a group volunteer (e.g., the Secretary, Treasurer or just a committed group member) to agree to receive an occasional email communication (a GSO bulletin, Area announcement or invitation to attend a workshop) for the benefit of their members.

When a volunteer agrees to be the contact, please obtain their name, telephone number, email address along with the group name and forward it to the Registrar. If you can also provide the group's district number, meeting day and time, meeting type and an approximate attendance count, that would further fulfill the information needed for GSO. (go to: area8aa.org)

—Bill S. Area 8 Registrar

How Faith and Love Can Bring a New Language to AA

During a visit to the Los Angeles Central Office in 2017, a conversation with a staff member about the upcoming Hispanic Women's Workshop, led to, "You know what else we really need? A meeting in Chinese. We get at least one call a week from someone looking for a

meeting in Chinese and we have absolutely nowhere to send them."

Though I am Chinese American, I was born in America and possess few Chinese language skills. I never sought out a Chinese AA meeting but had always assumed that there was one. I knew of a

Japanese meeting, Russian meetings, and had come across a Korean meeting before. I said, "Really?" Our primary purpose was calling me.

I started announcing the need for Chinese-speaking AAs who could help. While there was a lot of interest



*Our Twelve Steps,
when simmered
down to the last,
resolve themselves
into the words 'love'
and 'service.'"*
—Dr. Bob
July 30, 1950



How Faith and Love Can Bring a New Language to AA (Continued from page 1)

and support, people who were capable of reading and speaking Chinese were absent. The rarity of Chinese meetings became evident when we found no Chinese meetings in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Vancouver, B.C., or New York City — all places with significant Chinese American populations.

Continuing to announce the need for a Chinese language AA meeting, a local contingent of prospective founding members started to form. We had a man who had a prior attempt at starting a Chinese AA meeting and sponsees that could speak Chinese and were willing to help. Our Area's Public Information Committee started to take some action in talking to Chinese hospitals to find potential meeting locations.

We began to find others with this idea of starting a Chinese AA meeting and we began to see the confluence of paths that merged into one. We kept a list of contacts, and by December 2019 we met to talk about the steps we needed to get a meeting started. By now we had both Mandarin and Cantonese speakers among us so we would adapt the language of the meeting for any newcomers in the audience. We purchased Chinese big books, twelve and twelves, and pamphlets. One of our members translated and typed the AA Preamble, a meeting format, and other readings in Chinese plus created a flyer to get the word out.

On February 19, 2020 we held our first meeting at an AA club called "The 9416" in Arcadia, CA. There were 3 of us who did not speak or understand Chinese but 7 of us total, so we decided to share in both English and Chinese. At that first meeting a man took a cake for his first year of sobriety and a woman arrived with just 53 days of sobriety. The woman became one of the interpreters, so valuable to our meeting and one of the meeting's most solid members. The group was born and started to take on a life of its own.

In March, like so many other meetings, our meeting moved to a virtual platform via Zoom. One of our organizing members went back to China for the holidays and was stuck there due to the pandemic. We were very excited to have her back with us via Zoom. She started to spread the word about our meeting and AA members from China started to attend. We also started to see members from other states including Kansas, Hawaii, and Idaho, as our meeting was still being held in English and Mandarin.

A Chinese American member from Area 06 who I saw once a year at PRAA-SA and shared new developments, became part of the meeting, and is a regular member since we are accessible via Zoom. The meeting's attendance grew to twenty plus members regularly. The Chinese members in the group preferred to keep the meeting

bilingual as they enjoyed the exchange between AA members of different cultures.

Though there were many Chinese AA meetings online, due to the pandemic, ours was unique in that it included sharing in both Chinese and English. In June, we started to meet twice a week, adding a Saturday Night meeting. We listed our meeting with various Intergrups and we are soon to be added to the listings for the Online Inter-group of AA (aa-intergroup.org).

Very recently, one of the members got word from Hong Kong that they were starting a Cantonese Zoom meeting, which is extremely rare, even in Hong Kong and Southern China where this dialect of Chinese is prevalent. The group just had its fourth meeting at the time of this writing, and we had our first newcomer join us for our second meeting. All of us really want to be there for any alcoholic but especially for the Chinese-speaking alcoholic who is not bilingual and has not yet been able to find other alcoholics.

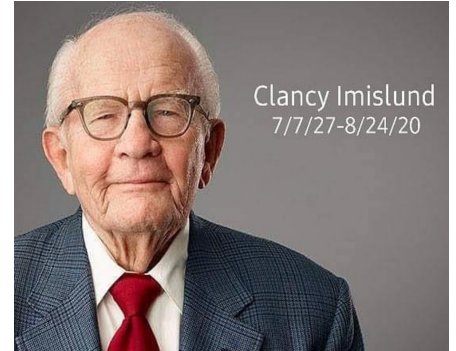
The Bridge to Hope (International Chinese and English AA Group) meets on Zoom Wednesdays at 7:30 pm Pacific with meeting ID 289 612 772 and Saturdays at 7:00 pm Pacific with meeting ID 841 0216 5908. Both are open meetings. The Cantonese AA Group meets on Thursdays at 9:00pm Pacific on Zoom with meeting ID 266 928 6299 and passcode 075492. Their meetings are closed except for the first meeting of the month, which is open. —Brian P. Area 05

Clancy Imislund Leaves a Legacy of Service

Many of the members of AA in the San Diego area may not know of Clancy I. and his long legacy of helping the alcoholic who still suffers. They may never have heard his talks or experienced the awe he inspired in his home group meeting in Los Angeles. But there are hundreds who have, some of whom live in our area and have worked the steps with him after he insisted that by doing so, they might never have to drink again. In the mid-1970s, after months of traveling to Los Angeles every

Wednesday, a group of AAs in Carlsbad started their own meeting because the members wanted to bring recovery to others. Clancy helped them build their foundation. There are a couple of those founding members still alive and active in the North County meeting and with their steadfast service to the group it has been a thriving 5th Tradition in action. Clancy had a way of carrying the message that left little doubt in the minds of an active alcoholic, that if drinking continued, death or despair

would be imminent. If you were ever invited to Clancy's Venice Beach home to play volleyball or softball, you knew what service was and you knew what it could bring to your recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. As far as I know, Clancy rarely missed a 12 step opportunity, no matter who needed his help.



Clancy Imislund
7/7/27-8/24/20

10 Things to Know Before You Make Your Group's Budget Report:

1. How can I report the budget in three minutes or less to my group? 2021's budget of \$58,395 is 6% less than 2020. The goal of this year's budget was \$54K based on the 5-year trend of a 4% increase of annual contributions from the groups. We settled on a 12% increase after we realized we were unable to meet the stated needs of the Area and the necessary 12-step work, with the original goal. This year's budget is 3% less than last year's approved budget. This budget will cover the Delegate's attendance at the General Service Conference plus any annual and monthly Area events, which will require facilities, materials, and interpretation. The budget consists of individual requests from each officer, their alternate and each committee chair.

2. What is new on this year's budget? 2021's proposed spending plan has been item-

ized further than previous years providing more transparency to standing committees, and the alternates to the Officer.

3. Do I need to be able to read a spreadsheet to understand the budget? No, it's not necessary.

4. How can I be part of the committee who creates the Area budget? The finance committee meets via Zoom the 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30pm, and Area 08 welcomes you to attend. You do not have to be a GSR to be a part of the budget or any standing committee.

5. Who is our Area Treasurer? Cheryl F. from District 11, was a DCM and a member of the Finance Committee for 3 years. She was also the secretary on the Finance Committee and later was elected to the Treasurer's position.

6. How do digital contributions change how we implement the 7th Tradition? Because we now

use a "virtual basket," some say it makes it easier to collect and distribute funds. Venmo is how many groups now collect the 7th Tradition since we have been sheltering in place. Many new "Covid Groups" are not regular groups but rather pop-up cell groups with no GSO number. We need education and sponsorship regarding this new method of contributing to A.A.

7. How does our Area cooperate with our Intergroup? Collaboration with our Central Office means being able to rent space and participate in events like Unity Day. We are separate entities with separate budgets but we both carry the spirit of AA throughout San Diego County.

8. What part does GSO play in our Area budget? Our standing committees are based on the committee template structure found at the General Service Conference. We try to mirror the conference in scope and design. The

*I have become a
pupil of the A.A.
movement rather
than the teacher.*

—Bill W.

HOW TO KEEP THE GRAPEVINE SELF-SUPPORTING

How relevant and current this month's Grapevine topic is: **"Welcome to 2020.** Through the wonder of technology, members are helping each other stay sober in very rough times." Are you attending more or less meetings since your group couldn't meet in person? Have you found your home group online? Or a replacement? Are you finding newcomers to help online? Has the Pandemic opened up the idea of "Pansponsorship" for you? How are you doing it? The Grapevine is a lifeline today more than ever. Please subscribe to support the essential 12 Step work it does. It stays alive financially through subscription only. It can go where we can't!

Another way to support the Grapevine is to submit your story (www.aagrapevine.org/share) on a topic for an upcoming edition by the deadline. Do you have a good share on these topics?

Making Amends—Share about your experiences making Ninth Step amends. How did they go? Was it what you expected? How did your sponsor help? (Due Sept 15, 2020)

Fun in Sobriety! Been on any fun sober trips? How about camping, sports, skydiving, dancing, collecting, cooking, volunteering? What about service events, new hobbies, game nights, sober vacations? Share your sober adventures! (Due Oct 15)

Your Favorite Step (Due Nov 15)

Dating & Relationships (Due Dec 15)

Prison Service (Due Jan 15)

Oh, I heard you say that you're not a writer. Speak your story into the phone. You have 7 minutes which is more than your home group will let you talk for.

La Viña Current Issue Spotlight:

This month's Special Section is "Our Traditions: Members share their experience with the value of the 12 Traditions in their home groups as well as for their personal recovery."

Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues:
(www.aalavina.org)

—Sandra A. Area 8



Letters to the editor:

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10 Things to Know Before You Make Your Groups Budget Report (continued)

Committees provides a scaffold for our service needs. In December, Area 08 retains up to 25% of the current year's annual budget, sending off the balance of cash on hand to GSO.

9. What part do my contributions play in the Area? Your contributions are vital to the smooth operations of the Area. San Diego Area's voice is the most important piece that comes from our ability to participate in the General Service Conference. Any contributions given to the Area go to making sure we have a direct link to New York, through the delegate, to the General Service Conference. GSO also keeps us abreast of all changes and new literature as it is developed.

10. Is there a workshop I can attend to learn more about the budget process? Yes. This year we are holding workshops virtually but in previous years we went to every district to explain the budget and its procedures. This year we are having 4 workshops via Zoom. There is a flyer for this workshop on the Area Website, area8aa.org. It is highly informative and since each committee chair and officer must create their own budget each year, this workshop can be quite valuable.

—Joshua H. Area 08

