

**San Diego-Imperial Area Committee Meeting**  
**January 21, 2021 Abbreviated Minutes**

**Registrar's Report:** Bill S.: please re-name yourselves with your service position//I have only registered only 6 DCMs, there should be more, please register//also committee chairs and liaisons//we now have a text messaging service//whoever doesn't wish to receive text messages please let Bill know.

**Treasurer's Report: Cheryl (Treasurer)**

- Written report submitted. 2020 was an interesting and exciting year in SDIAA finances. Covid-19 has changed the way we live in this world and how we communicate and serve within our Fellowship. Our expenses were down, our income was down but we did more with the money we received.
- The 2020 pandemic handed us new problems like how to spend the
- money accumulated after our expenses declined sharply. Luckily your finance committee had been discussing ways to keep your money active within the area and they were prepared to institute a reallocation of money. Because of that reallocation we have 13 business zoom accounts, we have purchased PSA's for the Armed Services Committee, we have been able to update and repair much needed capital equipment. We have also replenished our literature pool and funded efforts toward strengthening our bond with the Spanish-speaking community. We even contributed to a group hungry to reach others with a well-appointed hybrid meeting.
- I had a few goals in mind when I took this position. One was to introduce Area 8 to electronic contributions. Events in 2020 made that goal easy to achieve. Another was to try and be as transparent as possible in regard to the state of our finances and the processes used to make that happen. I believe I have made progress on that goal as well. Finally, reallocation of money was important to me because I, along with the finance committee, have long been troubled by stagnant funds that could be used elsewhere.

- 2021 is here and only my Higher Power knows what that will bring but I feel confident that your finance committee and I are ready to serve you to the best of our ability.
- There will be a GSO sendoff of \$1,919.72//but we are still at a loss from the Fraud and perhaps will not recover the funds so we may wish to hold back on the GSO send off.
- Fraud update-reimbursed \$4,445.09 out of \$9,177.04

We should have a vote for whether the body wants to hold the send off or go ahead and send it off// Hands up if you agree to hold monies back-motion passes//minority opinion: whether or not we get the money back, the amount remains the same and we have a lot of funding in cash on hand and a reserve of \$5000//Re-vote because minority changed one person's mind//21 virtual hands//12 against-Motion passes-GSO Sendoff will be held back.

- 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 Treasurer.
- Please make sure to submit any reimbursements before the end of the year.

December 2020	December Actual	YTD	2020 Budget 61,860.00	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	3,620.85	35,904.12		25,955.88
Individual contributions:	857.10	5,377.73		
District contributions:	0.00	3,000.00		
Total contributions:	4,477.95	44,831.85		17,028.15
Total budgeted expenses:	8,380.69	37,060.84		-27,597.76

Contributions less budgeted expenses:	-3,902.74	7,771.01		
Total unbudgeted expenses:	400.00	2,167.77		
Total expenses:	3,478.69	39,228.61		
Contributions less total expenses:	999.26	5,603.24		
Total Cash Balance: December 2020	29,925.97		<b>25% of budget</b>	
<b>Prudent Reserve Balance</b>	5,000.00			

Questions:

**Chairperson's Report: Blaine H.** To be sure, we were all hoping that 2021 would bring an end to the anomaly that was 2020. Unfortunately that has not been the case and the pandemic, the dominant feature of last year, is still very much with us. Right now things are bad, but there is hope ahead with an effective vaccine being implemented. If things go as planned, definitely not a sure thing, it is reasonable to anticipate that by the end of this year things will be, to a great extent, opened up. That does not mean the way it used to be. The Zoom revolution won't be going away. Virtual A.A. meetings will continue and doing Area business virtually may continue as well with economic benefits to our Treasury and the ability of more people to participate in Area service.

Of great concern is the decline in the numbers of A.A. members who are participating in the General Service portion of Alcoholics Anonymous. At the in person Orientation Assembly last January we had 114 GSRs. Under COVID, at the virtual Big Day Assembly in September, there were 82 GSRs present. Earlier this month the number was 73 (GSRs + acting alternates). That number represents a very small percentage of the number of registered groups in our area. While some meetings have converted from in-person to Zoom or hybrid, a great many are in what we hope is just hibernation, ready to wake up when things open up.

General Service is not alone in this situation. Last week I attended the Coordinating Council meeting. It was announced that they had reached a quorum of 28 (identified as half the number of registered coordinators +1). I recall when attending that meeting a few years back when the quorum number was well up in the 40s). They also have a problem populating their committees – some operating with only one or two members.

Our Orientation Assembly focused on our standing committees. I have received generally good feedback from those who participated in the roundtables. It was hoped that the exposure to our committees would encourage new and GSRs not serving on one, to sign up. We shall see. I encourage everyone in this room to promote committee service, in district meetings, in meetings that have GSRs, and yes, even in those dark meetings out there which take place outside the umbrella of General Service. They can serve as well.

We are looking forward to several upcoming virtual events:

Sunday 1/31/21 – Connie’s Retirement Party – Flyer attached.

Saturday 2/27/21 – DCM & Committee Chair Training Session

Friday 3/5/21 – Sunday 3/7/21 PRAASA – Registration open at <[praasa.org](http://praasa.org)>

**Delegate’s Report:** Jerry S.: My name is Jerry and I am alcoholic. It is my pleasure and high honor to serve as our San Diego / Imperial Area 08 Delegate to the General Service Conference.

I want to pause and welcome many of you who are new. Welcome!

The message doesn’t change much. It might transform a bit or rearrange itself amongst different kinds of conversations and gatherings, but ultimately its a simple message in all phases of our journey in Alcoholics Anonymous and it sounds something like this: “I’m glad you’re here. Please, come all the way in and sit all the way down and stay with us for a while. There is so much work to do and we cannot do it without you.”

To those of you that are returning, doing the roundabout dance into your second year: Welcome back! Look around and find a new face and please reach out to them... help them... guide them... give back all that you’ve received over the past year.

Here’s a fun fact for you: In the entire history of our fellowship, there has only been one all virtual conference and it was last year and your efforts and support made it possible and a tremendous success at that! You are the single most qualified persons to support the questions: So how do we do a virtual conference? How do we prepare? How do we connect and communicate with one another? You and only you have the special privilege to share intimate experience on exactly how its done. Those of you and all of our worldwide servant leaders that served throughout the past year are breathing rare air here tonight. You are breathing rare air enriched by the experience of carrying our fellowships services through the first ever global pandemic since the inception of our movement. That is something that each of us should measure with a moderate and balanced sense of pride. And from that pride, I pray you recognize both the tremendous value and responsibility that comes as its price. A value by way of your experience and a responsibility to give it all away... you might only have this next year to realize both. Lets make it a great year and when those of us who are poised to rotate at years end, hang up our hats and look back on 2021, lets do so with satisfaction in our hearts that we left things just a little bit better than the way we found them, arm in arm, a small fraternity of friends that made a handful of sacrifices and creative efforts bound by unity in dedication to the fellowship that saved our lives.

And so with that, let me transition to some pressing business at hand:

1. PRAASA is March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Registration is available online and will see us through a tremendous, shared experience as has always been the case. Let's see how many of our GSR's can finally go, participate, and take away what most of us have been enjoying for years. I need volunteers to participate and support the event:

- a. (2) Presenters
- b. (3) Moderators
- c. (1-2) Readers
- d. (1-2) Timers
- e. (2-3) Scribes

Please shoot me a private message right now of your availability. By the end of tonight, I will lock in this list and you will be contacted by an event coordinator with your roll and responsibilities.

2. The 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference is well underway! As many of you know I currently serve on both the Conference Committee to the Grapevine and La Vina as well as our Conference Archives Committee. Both committees' have already had preliminary meetings and are already preparing to juggle the weight of our conference load once it is formally presented. Until then, I am both thrilled and terrified to report that as of two weeks ago, the number of agenda items had eclipsed 95 and was well on its way to see itself past 100.

Our Alternate Delegate and I will have the initial responsibility to arrange an abbreviated list that can be sincerely managed by the collective voice of our Assembly.

Committee Chairs, I will be leaning on you and your committees to address a variety of questions and preparation efforts attending to the list of conference agenda items. Please get yourselves ready. You might need to coordinate with some of our other committees to manage the conversation and responsibility. For example:

Hey Literature, there are currently 28 agenda items just for you. So maybe a share effort by our Literature, Archives and YPAACC can manage the need. It will be a lot for some of us. However, I promise my best foot forward to ensure that the effort does not exhaust our GSR's or our groups in any unusual way. I understand that many of our groups are struggling right now. Some are thriving. Either way, we need your collective voice.

We need much of that voice carried through our committee's and the race begins February 15<sup>th</sup>. That is the soft estimated date that the final list will be released with background information coming shortly thereafter.

Please note that all conference related documents will be IMMEDIATELY posted to the Delegates Corner on our Area Website. If you are questioning what information is available, please start your search there. If it is not there, it is most likely NOT available yet. Please be sure you are familiar with the Delegates Corner and be sure to share this information with your GSR's and Committee members.

I neither want to overstep my time nor overreach with too many demands and expectations and so with that, my report is complete. Are there any questions?

**Alt Delegate's Report:** Monty C. For 2021, collaboration is the word that comes to mind for me.

Throughout the pandemic, I have learned to look up the meaning of words even if I think I know what they mean. One definition I found was "the action of working with someone to produce or create something". I really like this definition. It is my belief that in general service, we help alcoholics create new lives through service.

When I first became a DCM, I took the advice of other DCM and attended other district meetings. I was able to come up with an agenda that my district was interested in. I invited the committee to come in and give presentations on what they do.

I am not saying this is not happening in all districts but there are some that could use some help. The same will do for some committees. None of us can do this alone. We need each other. By visiting committees or districts, we can hopefully spark interest in the various tasks that are going on within the area. We will hopefully gain some new perspectives to develop the true conscience of our area.

Just to name a few, CPC should visit PI, Grapevine should or could collaborate with Literature, districts could collaborate with a committee and put together a workshop. The possibilities are endless.

If you have new GSR that didn't get an opportunity to join us at the Area Assembly, please give them my email. My email is [altdelegate.area8aa@gmail.com](mailto:altdelegate.area8aa@gmail.com). I would like to mail them a GSR package and if necessary, help to answer any questions that may have about the job. I mailed out some packages last weekend and this week.

At the assembly we introduced the Timeline to the Conference. This document is an overview of dates, times and information to assist the GSR with the conference process. The document can be found in English and Spanish on the Delegate's Corner. All information that becomes available will be posted on the Delegate's Corner of the website.

One of the first things that I would like to work on is the GSR manual. Since we have created and made motions that have completed the process, the manual doesn't reflect the correct information. I will get with Policy and have this reviewed.

Registration for PRAASA opened last week. This year will be March 5 thru 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have attended PRAASA in the past, you should have received an email. If you didn't and would like to attend, I will put the registration site in chat. It will be in my report as well. It will be virtual this year and I am sure they need help. As soon as I hear about volunteer opportunities, I will let you know.

It was also announced that the Central Office has updated the website and format for list of meeting. It is also linked with the Meeting Guide App. If you haven't checked it out please do and made sure your meeting information is correct, please do so. If your group needs to make changes, they can be do easily and changes reflect very quickly.

### **Old Business:**

- **DCM and Committee Chair Meetings-Blaine:** cooperation between both groups is a great way to get things done//there isn't a lot of give and take between the two//a couple of DCMS and Committee Chairs could get together on Zoom//please contact me//Tiffany-I could definitely get together on a monthly basis
- **Review--Orientation Assembly--Committee Input** Blaine-this was to get more people interested in Committees//some have joined committees from the assembly and I am looking for count on

how many new GSRs are attending Committee meetings//it appears that we are getting GSRs but they are not joining committees//Bill got 25 new GSRs and JoAnn was supposed to get the forms but she is not present tonight.

- **Status- Ad-Hoc Committee-Area Inventory on Communication** Blaine: first meetings were in November//to do a single item inventory//it took a small sidetrack in creating the questions for the Assembly round table//we lost a few members of that committee//I will send out more info on that committee in the near future
- **New Fillable Standing Committee Request/Assignment Form** this was for JoAnn, who isn't present//Bill has the new, easy to fill out forms for new committee members

## New Business:

- **PreConference Planning Jerry and Monty:** timeline to the Conference  
<https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Timeline-to-Gen.-Srv.-Conf.-2021-REV03.pdf>

Feb 15 we should have the conference items//Karen will post the list and it will be sent out to all members of the ACM//send the list out to your GSRs//it will be a long list, but Monty and I will break down the list into something that can be digested//many items were forwarded from last year and have already been discussed//background information will be published thereafter//there will be 2 workshops via Zoom on March 14 and 15 (morning and afternoon respectively) then take the items back to the groups for discussion//then come back to the pre-conference Assembly for discussion and polls for me to get a sense of the area//then I will be at the conference via zoom//it will be a full conference, not like last year//then post conference Assembly where I will give a full report//

Questions: about the timeline

- **Budget Timeline** Cheryl and Cindy-we have gotten a lot of feedback about our process and some changes you would like done, and I have gone to other Areas to find out how they do things//we have not yet put out a timeline but will next month//we would like input from GSRs and DCMs before we make that timeline and we would like to give incoming Committee Chairs enough time to make their Budgets//Reallocation projects that will need funding lists should be made ahead of time rather than the last minute in case we have unused funds//we would like input with how you want this process to go//the reallocation project was very successful and we would like to see this continue to go on//we will most likely have extra funding in 2021//generic line item for 12 step work//for when a new idea comes up we would have the funding already in the budget//we want to be more flexible//flood us with information on how you would like to see the budget improved or how to spend reallocated funds//because I have worked in Grants-it might be helpful to let people know what should be expected in their write ups//if there are more meetings that want funding for hybrid equipment, how will that be handled? There might be another vote to determine what to fund//this may be a project worth looking at in a category
- **DCM/Committee Chair Training Session 2/27/21** Blaine:
- **Standing Committee Recruitment: already covered**//new GSRs aren't signing up for committee the way they should

- **Need for Alternate Treasurer** Blaine: Abraham submitted his resignation and we will need to elect a new Alternate Treasurer probably at the pre-conference Assembly if we can fit it in.//look at the Treasurer's position in the S&G for the duties and call Cheryl if interested.

*Respectfully submitted, Panel 70 Area Secretary : Renee R.*