

March 18, 2021 ACM Abbreviated Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl (Treasurer) I am truly excited to be a part of the 2022 budget process! The finance committee listened to concerns that were voiced to them. They heard that the area was frustrated with the status quo. They heard you asking to be involved in the planning earlier in the process. They heard and took action. I have been talking about some of these changes and this month we start implementation.

Later in the agenda I will discuss the process one more time. I have prepared a slide that I hope will clarify some of the details that will make the 2022 spending plan a living, breathing, agile tool for accomplishing all of the responsibilities of Area 8.

This does not mean it will be all fun and games. I am going to ask you to make some decisions. Some of these decisions will be hard but necessary and each decision will carry us closer to an informed group conscience on where our finances are, where we want them to go, and how to get there.

I am sure you will continue to have questions. I invite you to call me, email me, and join the finance committee at the scheduled budget workshops or any finance committee meeting.

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 code is. It will help the Treasurer.
- Please make sure to submit any reimbursements before the end of the year.

January 2021	January Actual	YTD	2021 Budget 58,395.00	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	2,790.04	6,885.70		
Individual contributions:	250	1,001.93		

someday soon meet again in person. That may not be true of large groups such as this one, but smaller meetings in which all the attendees have been fully vaccinated can't be too far down the road. Again, it is advisable to follow the CDC and local guidelines in these efforts. Whether or not to resume all Area functions in person when the opportunity becomes available is an open question. I attended the Chair Roundtable at PRAASA and heard directly from the professional tech guys that trying to do a hybrid (live & virtual together) meeting for a large group is expensive and technologically difficult.

IMPORTANT: Later this evening you will hear from the Treasurer and the Finance Committee regarding a new way of developing a spending plan (budget) for the Area. We sometimes hear complaints from groups that they are reluctant to contribute to the Area because they do not have enough of a say in how the money is spent. The "bare bones" plans propose a base amount to "keep the lights on" so to speak but allow the groups to decide how the rest of the projected income will be spent. Do they want to continue to pay mileage to in-person meetings or choose to have those meetings conducted virtually? Do they wish to send as many individuals as possible to PRAASA or to spend those dollars on other direct 12-Step work? The groups can choose.

We have previously discussed how hard the pandemic has been on our districts and our committees. Attendance and participation have been down. Last Thursday I believe we took an important step in fostering cooperation and teamwork among our districts. The first meeting of the DCM group took place with 20 DCMs or alternates there. Later this month our standing committees will hold a similar meeting. In the spirit of unity, I would hope that that group would invite our liaison committees and the committees of the Intergroup (Coordinating Council) to become members as well. We are all on the same team with the same primary purpose.

Finally, I will ask again for volunteers to stand for the currently vacant position of Alternate Treasurer. At its last meeting the Finance Committee suggested that we provide formal training in QuickBooks for both the Treasurer and the Alternate. The hope is that someone can fill the current unexpired term and then be willing to stand for Treasurer at the September election for Panel 72 officers. Anyone serving as an officer, DCM, or standing committee chair since Panel 68 (2018) is eligible.

Thank you all for your service!

Are we purchasing the tapes from PRAASA this year? We can, it would be a good idea, it would be for Archives

Delegate's Report: Jerry S My name is Jerry, and I am alcoholic. I am currently honored to serve as our San Diego / Imperial Area08 Delegate. My report this month is brief and mostly geared in spirit towards our shared preparations for the upcoming Conference. Monty and I were lucky to attend the annual Foro Hispano in Valley Center a few weeks back. It was an all day, in person, appropriately safe sharing of experience, strength and hope. Though masks and social distancing seemed to hold us apart from one another, the language of the heart brought many of us together in love. PRAASA was a resounding

success! We were told that over 2,100 registrants tuned in at some point throughout the weekend's events. I must say that for all my apprehensions around the complete virtual experience, the momentum of our movement certainly felt tuned with a desire to participate in love of AA. On many occasions I was moved to tears from those who shared or by the simple smile of a friend that I only get to see during this once-a-year occasion. Our Delegate Round Table experiences were thick with questions and saturated with a desire to share what many of us had learned throughout the past year. Our Pre-Conference Workshops have come and gone. We had robust discussions with our Spanish speaking GSR's with dedicated events at District 18 as well as 15. This past Saturday and Sunday brought together our GSR's from the greater San Diego area. The workshops were full of great questions and enthusiasm around the agenda items. I look forward to the collective voice of our groups as they come together at Assembly next month. I do want to pause and just say that I ran some rough numbers from those that participated in the workshops and I'm concerned that we might only seat 60-70 GSR's in total for the Assembly. During our DCM / Committee Chair Training a few weeks back, many DCM's spoke on the topic of group reach out but hardly any shared actual experience in the effort. I'd like to challenge all of our DCM's to take this time while we are still in virtual space to reach out, introduce yourself and the services of your district. Take whatever time the group or meeting might have available to talk on the life changing experience of service and the ultimate and final responsibility of our groups to keep our services moving forward. For as renovative as this past year has been, the year ahead could be twice as transformative. Now is the time for persistence and enthusiasm. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your Area officers for support. How can we help? Are there any questions?

Should the committees send you their feedback about the agenda items we were assigned? Yes, I will be sending out requests for that information// we are encouraging our GSRs to gather information about the agenda items from their groups//we have given our groups a month between the workshops and the Assembly to discuss the agenda items with their GSRs//It is up to the groups and GSRs as to how many of the agenda items they want to spend any time on or if they want their GSR to use their right of decision//will you be taking each group's input to GSO or a blend? I take a sense of our groups, of my Area to the Conference not GSO//I go with an open heart and open mind that I might hear from another Area at the Conference that might change my mind which I won't know in advance//

Alt Delegate's Report: Monty C. As the General Service Conference approaches, I hope that you are having discussion at your groups about the agenda items. If you attended PRAASA, you got some food for thought on some of the items. PRAASA was very different this year. I attended a few of the panels and really enjoyed the presenter's thought and point of view on the topics.

I joined the Alt Delegate's Panel on Friday and Saturday night. Even though Area 8 is very different with some of the duties we share many of the same ups and downs most areas encounter. Half of room was filled with familiar faces and others new to the position. We had a great introduction and discussion about the role in our areas.

The Alt Delegate from Alaska mentioned a communication problem in her area between the DCM and groups. I see this same issue in our area. As a DCM, you are the channel in which information is given and received. Other areas are and have faced the same issues. Many have training workshops throughout the year or at assemblies.

Communication is a topic that we do not see going away any time soon. With that being said, I would like to let you know that I am your biggest cheerleader. I believe in the process and what we do. I and many others would like to know more about what is going in your groups. What challenges do they face? Presenting a topic can result in some great feedback.

Our area is starting to take steps to address and review our communication efforts. With your help, we will be able to better understand of our duties. During proper pass-downs will be beneficial for the new person who takes the position.

I really enjoyed the Carry the message Panel that was on Sunday morning. I was moved at how much enthusiasm members have for the newcomers and the program overall. Alcoholic Anonymous was carried to me and it changed by life. The individuals wanted nothing from me but to live. Today, I get an opportunity to let newcomers know that life is worth living.

I joined the Delegate at District 15 for a pre-conference workshop. The district was happy to receive the information about the upcoming conference. Several groups that didn't have GSR, sent a representative because the Delegate was at the district.

I listened in on Saturday and most of Sunday at the English Pre-Conference Workshops. Several people mentioned and talked about items that really got me thinking. I started going thru some of the items and reviewing them more closely.

Our next Assembly is just around the corner. I hope members from your groups will come out and participate in the discussion about the conference items. This affects all of us. Your members voice is important in the overall process for the conference.

Please come and join us on April 3rd at the Spring Round Up General Service Panel. The readers and speakers have been asked. I am looking to add a question-and-answer position during the panel. This where everyone that else that volunteered will be able to participate. The panel will start promptly at 9am. We would like to have a large contingent of people. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service!

Old Business:

- Status-Ad-hoc Committee ARea Inventory on Communication-Blaine: I have dropped the ball on this and someone can pick it up if they would like//this is to develop an inventory on communication in ARea 8//it would look at what we have and what we do//how could we improve on communication//we are looking to develop the questions for this inventory//Shone volunteered to pick up the ball//This inventory needs some action because the previous inventory didn't result in action//why do you engage and how do you engage//this is what is being done and what could be done//I think we could use the old inventory as a starting point to see if it's still relevant//
- Establish of an ad-hoc committee on Effective Communication, BILL S-would like to start this ad-hoc committee//we have a \$900 for communication training//how we communicate with each other includes technology//I am asking for a committee to discuss how we can have effective communications training at Assemblies and ACMs//Questions: why don't we wait until the inventory in the above item is done//we can look at breakdowns and repair that//we don't have to do this alone//I would like to bring a motion//we are already doing communication training//we don't need to take an inventory to do this// I propose the motion that we have a communication ad-hoc committee to discuss and plan to bring training to our fellowship on communication

Motion: To create a Communication Training ad-hoc Committee to formulate materials and presentations to deliver at Assemblies, ACMs, Districts & Committees. Also to manage a \$900 budget for said application.

Motion seconded and open for discussion:

Break 8:32pm-8;

I enjoyed your discussion about communication and I would like to a member of that committee//we talk about communication since I've been in the program, but it's like a fourth step that doesn't lead to a fifth//action needs to be taken//the area has taken 2 actions for communications-DCMs and Committee chairs//we should let these two entities see what they can do together//we already have another ad-hoc committee on communication (Inventory) and they might take care of these things as well//could we incorporate the inventory into this motion? no//I am in favor because communication is at the forefront//we just did this with the DCM and Com Chairs committees, we don't need another one//there is a difference between both these of committees// in favor: 12 opposed: 16 motion failed

Minority: I like the idea of getting into action esp because we have the budget for it. No one wanted to change their vote.

Point of order-did these persons actually have a vote at the ACM//it needs to be confirmed that the vote was correct//

Who shouldn't have voted who voted: Alicia's vote shouldn't count (in favor)//Karen (against) so one vote each was disqualified

- Committee Chair Meeting-Scheduled for 3/24/2021 DCM meeting went great, there were 20 who attended and the same will happen for the Committee Chairs including liaisons//all committee chairs and their alternates are invited
- Alternate Treasurer Search-Election possible 4/10/2021//we haven't had any valid candidates as of yet//we need to know if anyone will be standing for it in order to schedule time for an election

New Business:

- **The 2021 "Bare Bones" Spending Plan-Cindy and Cheryl:**

<https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2022BareBonesspendingEnglishP.pdf>

We need to make a decision today on this//if we want to continue business as usual or bare bones//this is up to you//no PRAASA for anyone because it doesn't affect Delegate to Conference//mileage included in first bare bones//2nd bare bones includes using Zoom and half of the mileage//\$50,00 to \$55,000 \$2,306 to \$7,306 is discretionary// if we budget for Zoom in 2022 then mileage goes down// \$14,375 to \$21,375 is discretionary

Questions: not including PRAASA for the Delegate is a great disservice//PRAASA is a step towards the GSC//All committees continue to be

active//ROOTS has no money attached and may be held in person//Bare Bones is not the end product-it is a starting point to add in discretionary funds//the groups will make these decisions//this should be discussed in generalities-with or without Zoom, mileage//this is Zoom for Area functions//We need to decide on this tonight-Are we going back in person or continue on Zoom? These actions were not directed to do this by the body, it shouldn't be decided by the finance committee and Treasurer//this requires a bigger process//is the only purpose of the Area Budget to only send the Delegate to the Conference//remember the upside triangle//this shouldn't be rushed//this is a complete rework of the budget process and from what body did this request come from?//this is the barebones and then 12 step work would be added to it//bare bones for standing committees-where did these numbers come from-they came from previous years including rent and mileage-no workshops//this should be taken back to the groups//look at this in generalities//these are the 2 extremes, we should be somewhere in the middle//the budget needs to be prepared by the ACM in June//the budget has not been created yet and let's not get into specifics//

- The Road to the Conference-Post Workshops-Jerry and Monty: nothing to add
- DCM Committee Report-Terri H.: it was a great first meeting//how to do outreach to get new GSRs
- ASL Supported Meetings and Accessibilities-Jeffrey and Renea: we want reps from each of the ASL supported groups to come to our Committee meetings//we sent out a letter regarding that//Interpreters want a pay raise//could be \$10-25 more//on Zoom meetings deaf persons can be moved to the front page so they can see interpreters//there is a way to move deaf persons to the front page//contributions are a little low (Gold Can)//is there a way to incorporate the communication with the DCM committee and Committee Chair Committee

Respectfully submitted by Renee R, Area 8 Secretary