

**San Diego-Imperial Area Committee Meeting
March 18, 2021 Minutes**

Meeting held by ZOOM due to a State & Federal mandate of not holding gatherings of more than 50 persons and the personal safety of each Committee Member

Zoom Meeting ID: 231 178 354 password: iluvacms

Area Committee Meeting

The Area Committee meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 PM to 10 PM. All AA members are welcome to attend. To get an item on the agenda, please contact chair@area8aa.org to begin the process. If required, your specific request or proposal will be directed to the assistance of one or more of our Area's standing committees. The Area Committee meeting and all other General Service meetings are open to all AA members.

Meeting Called to Order

The Committee was called to order at 7:00 pm by Blaine, Area 8 Chair-, with the Serenity Prayer. Followed by the Declaration of Unity. Introductions were offered for any new DCMs, Standing Committee Chairs, and their Alternates. Guests and visitors also stood up. All were welcomed to the Area Committee.

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

Registrar's Report: Bill S.:

Please add your positions to your screen name on Zoom//DCMs should have received your lists of groups, if you didn't please let me know//GSO has contacted the DCMs with access to their meeting lists at the GSO level, so maybe you can look up your GSO numbers-it's read only "Fellowship Connection"

A quorum was met.

Approval of the February 2021 Area Committee Minutes:

Minutes are emailed out in both English and Spanish to all DCMs, Chairs, and Officers and their alternates. DCMs and Chairs please send the minutes out to your committees and GSRs. If you are not receiving the minutes and would like a copy emailed to you, please email the area secretary, Renee R. at secretary.area8sd@gmail.com Please keep your information updated with the Area Registrar.

- *It is time effective to submit your monthly report to the Area 8 Secretary via email at secretary.area8sd@gmail.com*
- February 2021 ACM Minutes; were approved unanimously.

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		

Questions: I am hearing that the treasury is hurting and needs more support and I also hear we are doing well because of not meeting in person-we are doing well///contributions are down but expenses are down//where do we stand on the missing funds, has it all been resolved-not yet, we are still in the same spot as last month, I need to contact the fraud folks at the bank some of the checks were cashed.//how much are we out?-\$1200.00

Regarding the Pandemic, there are signs of encouragement and hope that we may

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!

Two minute Liaison Committee Reports: Joann Z.-

- Coordinating Council-SD: Susan G.: my co-chair Alexi is here as well //we have a new central office manager and administrative assistant//we will be putting on a united Unity Day event//Coordinator Newsletter continues//2020 Audit was approved//55 members//Invited Jerry to speak on a couple of things that would affect the intergroup//we are coming back very strong//in September we didn't have enough for a quorum, but now we are getting healthy Since January the Business Committee hired a new Central Office Manager and an Administrative Assistant. We have re-established our Orientation Committee with a Chair person and restarted Orientations in February. Also re-established Program Committee with a Chair person who is starting the process of working with Monty to coordinate Founders Day / Unity Day event. In February we elected a new After Hours Phone Chair and have filled time slots for all nights of the month. Meeting updates continue to be active on our website as well as on the Meeting Guide app. 2020 Audit completed and approved by Business Committee. Participation has been steadily growing averaging 55 members this quarter.
- Our vision for 2021 is to continue recruiting new members and to review and restate our Guidelines and Procedures in a more flexible language.
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- North County Intergroup: Mike M.: In North Co on Zoom our membership is growing by members that are out far//Office is operating on a limited schedule//this Sunday is the virtual Traditions Breakfast
- Oficina Central Hispana-SD: NP//

- Oficina Intergruppal Condado Norte: NP
- Oficina Central Sur, Chula Vista NO longer active
- GSDYPAA:.NP
- NSDYPAA :: Jeremy-
- Native American Liaison: Wolf:
- East County Intergroup:
- Spanish Women's Workshop-Alicia:I enjoyed my service, liaison from Area 8//it was virtual //129 participants//women and several men were guests//ARea 8 supports with \$800 or \$850 and also \$300 is given to the liaison, but I didn't have to touch any of that money//Area 8 also gave 9 subscriptions of La Vina to the workshop-all newcomers//very nice experience for me//Marcela from D15 helped me a lot with this event and she is interested in being the next liaison//I will pass on information to Marcela about the next meeting//thank you all for your support//I am living the Promises//Marcela-thank you very much for allowing me to serve, I just finished being DCM of D15

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

Master Calendar: Jo Anne; The master calendar is non-existent but flyers for workshops were emailed out by the Chair. Zoom numbers may be posted on the area website. Information is subject to change. See calendar on the area website (www.area8aa.org) for the most up to date information. Corrections will be made by tomorrow. Send any changes or corrections to JoAnn.

Birthdays since last ACM-(Feb 18, 2021) Dave F 41 years, Sasha 4 years, Aleksey 2 years

New Business:

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

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

2022BareBonesspendingPlanRef.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

DISTRICT REPORTS (Districts submitted reports digitally or on report form) 2 min. - Even/Odd districts report this month.

District 1: Josh-

District 2 :Jeremy- NR

District 3:John:

District 4: Maureen: NP

District 5: Dave F-Added new GSR from previously unrepresented meeting

- Have offered to assist District 6 with Sponsorship Workshop
- Some meetings split on returning live or staying only on Zoom

District 6: Maire:

District 6 business meeting meets 6pm to 7:30pm on the second Monday of each month. Our Area 8 guest at the February meeting was Tiffany, the Committee Chair of the Armed Services Committee. The presentation was really informative and several GSRs asked questions and took information to their groups about service opportunities with ASC. There are 24 meetings in District 6, we currently have GSRs for five of the meetings in District 6. One new GSR, for Mission Hills Beginner Meeting. Sober Tom, who had been the GSR, passed away February 8th, 2021. He was a long time member of the MHB group and his presence will be missed by his friends, in that meeting and in Area 8.

Maire H., DCM District 06

District 7 Allison:

District 8: Angelina-NR

District 9: Lorie W.

District 10: Paul K. not alot of changes//there is participation

District 11: Michele

District 12: Kevin NP

District 13: Ronnie;

District 14: Patrick; //Tom: NR

District 15: Marina V.:

District 16: Ted:NR

District 17: Santiago;

District 18: Carlos/Esther: we are getting together on every Monday//1 & 3 Monday-group reports//2 & 4 Step Study//our delegate gave us the agenda topics and we asked a lot of questions//Ernest visited them and shared on the ARea Guidelines//The district is virtual//D18 has it's meetings on Zoom//we met with CPC//we are working on getting together with hispanic communities

District 19: Adrian O. Our District Meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd 2021 was attended by 19 GSRs and District Officers. Discussed responsibilities toward General Service Conference. • Everyone in attendance was sober for one more day

District 20: Flint N:

District 21: Terri-

District 22: Meegan: we are growing, doing some outreach//our Zoom link is on the website

District 23: Shone-

Standing Committee Reports:

Accessibilities: Jeffrey

Archives-John B.:

IT Committee : Paul K.:

Armed Services: Tiffany-NR

GrapeVine: Lynn-

Finance: Cindy H.: Last month's Committee meeting had 9 in attendance including myself. We've been trying to construct a budget for 2022, think you'll like it. Presenting it tonight, March 18th.

Literature: Sasha.:

NCAIC (H&I) Michael H.: The North County H&I committee continues to host virtual H&I panels during the pandemic. The virtual panels are the same as in-person panels where panel members share their experience, strength and hope to residents of treatment and correctional facilities. The difference is, the panels are held on Zoom and are recorded. Links to the recorded panel are provided to the facilities for a two week period, then removed and deleted. If you are interested in joining a virtual H&I panel, contact us northcountyhandi@gmail.com.

Policy: Ernest D The committee reviewed the 71st General Service Conference Agenda Items for Section VII Policy/Admissions. Of ten agenda items listed, the committee recommended three for further consideration by the Area for discussion and/or workshop.

B. Review the floor action process

G. Consider a request that a procedure be drafted for appealing a ruling by a General Service Conference Chair

J. Consider requests regarding participation of online groups in the General Service structure.

Results of our discussion on these three agenda items will be submitted during the upcoming Area Assembly

Structure & Guidelines update: the Policy Committee recommends that a workshop(s) be organized to provide additional comments, suggestions and input on updating the S&G.

The Policy Chair met with two Districts to discuss the update of the Structure and Guidelines: March 4, 2021 (District 21) and March 15 (District 18).

Newsletter: Roxane R.

SD H&I: Diana:

Translation: Richard

Young People's (YPAACC): Jeremy

Literature: Sasha: We met 3/15/21

We discussed future collaboration with Karen and re-developing the literature Glide app. We discussed what we would like to see and how to organize it. We look forward to working with Karen and figuring out how to manage this app as a possible new commitment for our committee.

The committee is excited to announce that we have found multiple places in the San Diego area that is in need or would like an Lendable AA library! Some of these places are Turning point, Crossroads, Salvation Army, the El Cajon Alano club. They stated that the large print format would be most beneficial.

Here is a list of books we will include in the LAAL:

12x12 LP	8.89
Came to believe LP	5.66
Daily reflections LP	11.58
Experience, Strength and Hope	7.54
Living Sober LP	5.66
As Bill Sees It LP	10.24
AA in Prison - Inmate To Inmate	2.42

Total	51.99
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Pamphlets (variety)	8.01+/-
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Complete package total	60.00
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We will be gathering the books and pamphlets, and figuring out delivery methods as the facilities see fit to their needs. We will also include a letter from our Committee with information on how to order directly from GSO, links to the area website, meeting app, central office, etc., in hopes to better connect people looking for support.

Lastly we spoke about the GSC and members “report backs” emphasizing their thoughts and spirit in making a decision on the items- so we could discuss and create a Committee presentation for the Pre- conference Assembly.

Closing: Responsibility Pledge and Serenity Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Panel 70 Area Secretary : Renee R.

Next Assembly:

Pre Conference Assembly
April 10,2021
On Zoom

