

August 2021 Abbreviated Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl F. (Treasurer) Buenos noches, mi familia! I can hardly believe it is the end of a second post Covid-19 summer. I have been too busy to enjoy our beautiful beaches. But I am very happy that our hard work has resulted in the 2022 reallocation that we will review, and I hope, forward to the rest of the area. I appreciate all the work this body has done to get us to this point. This year we studied our finances in a different way and I pray that in doing so we all understand the process better than in years past. Now let's get out there and help the GSRs and their groups get educated!

I have been speaking lately about a 2021 reallocation and have had very few submissions. Tonight, we will be reviewing one submission and deciding how we would like to proceed. Do we want to reallocate money this year? How can we best use these funds?

At the end of July, we had \$29,736.99 cash on hand. \$3773.75 of that money is earmarked for the 2020 reallocation. I have been told that the newsletter has purchased a computer and software, once that money is disbursed and if no further 2020 reallocation money is spent, we will be sending the remaining \$3273.75 off to complete our 2020 GSO send-off (Dec 31). That leaves \$25,963.24 of 2021 money to consider for reallocation.

As the 2022 budget stands now, one quarter of the annual budget will equal \$11,655.50. Subtract that number from \$25,963.24 and we have \$6,4991 for possible reallocation or GSO send-off.

Finally, I would like to mention the Group and District Treasurer's Hybrid Workshop which will be held on October 9th. This event will be live and virtual at the addresses that will be found on the flyers. Special thanks to Women In Harmony Group for sharing their venue, hybrid equipment and IT support for this event.

I will now answer any questions you may have regarding the July finance report. I believe we will discuss the 2022 spending plan later in our proceedings.

July 2021	July Actual	YTD	2021 Budget 58,395.00	Variance with Annual Budget
Group contributions:	\$5,396.76	\$20,783.66		
Individual contributions:	\$671.35	\$2,814.71		
District contributions:	0	0		
Total contributions:	\$6,068.11	\$23,598.37	\$58,395.00	\$34,796.63
Total budgeted expenses:	\$968.80	\$15,715.89	\$58,394.95	\$(40,986.06)
Contributions less budgeted expenses:	\$5,099.31	\$7,882.48		

Total unbudgeted expenses:	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total expenses:	\$968.80	\$17,635.61		
Contributions less total expenses:	\$5,099.31	\$5,962.76		
Total Cash Balance: July 2021	\$29,736.99		25% of budget	
Prudent Reserve Balance	5,000.00			

Total Special Line Items YTD: \$1,670.24 2021 Plan: \$3,773.75

July 2021 Finance Report

English: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/July-2021-Finance-Report.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/July-2021-Finance-ReportSpanish.pdf>

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.

Questions:

Jo Ann Z.: Does that mean we are not intending to spend any more money this year?//No, the slide I shared is what we have at the end of July and it will change as we approach December.

Chairperson's Report: Blaine H.

We live in uncertain times. Currently, as the A.A. community attempts to move to more traditional methods of gathering, the damn virus mutates to a form which causes yet another wave of illness and death across the country. In response governmental organizations are again placing restrictions on how and where we can meet and, if we do meet in person, whether we must mask up and space ourselves.

Alcoholics are not fond of change, but we must adapt and deal with life on life's terms. At least during the past 18 months we have become reasonably adept at conducting our meetings and our business virtually. We may not like the circumstances, but many are staying sober and welcoming newcomers who may never have been to an in-person meeting! Hybrid systems have been developed to allow attendance virtually and in-person at the same meeting. This technology will likely remain with us.

Area 8 business goes on and up next is our bi-annual election assembly on Saturday, September 25th. Those who are eligible to stand for the ten officer positions have already been notified. If you are one of

them, please consider being willing to continue your service to Alcoholics Anonymous and particularly to the San Diego/Imperial Area. A great joy of service, at least for me, is being able to work with wonderful people as part of a team. Try it, you'll like it!

Despite the restrictions placed on us by the pandemic, our Districts and Committees having been working hard to carry the message. Upcoming events:

- 8/22: Linda L. speaking at Old Town Speakers Meeting (United Methodist Church)
- 8/28 Grapevine/La Vina Writers' Workshop
- 9/18 Underserved Communities in A.A.
- 9/19 Step 11 Workshop
- 9/25 AREA 8 ELECTION ASSEMBLY
- 10/2 Unity Day II (Collaborative Intergroup/Area Event)
- 10/9 Group and District Treasurers' Workshop
- 10/19 H&I Fall into Service Event
- 10/24 – 10/27 International Seniors in Sobriety Convention – Bahia Hotel

Questions: None.

Delegate's Report: Jerry S.

Side Notes:

I have visited 15 out of 17 districts to debrief on 71st GSC.. Had a lot of robust feedback at these meetings that are conference-related. So much of the GSC report has transitioned from what happened at the conference to what is happening since then. There is a lot of action being taken from the GSC Report.//Reminded everyone to go to the ACM documents on area8aa.org to retrieve any documents that are shared at the ACM.//Hard copies of the 71st GSC reports are delayed due to publishing but will be mailed to DCM as soon as they are available.

My name is Jerry, and I am alcoholic. I am currently honored to serve as our San Diego / Imperial Area08 Delegate.

First off, I sent a broad email last night to the local fellowship that included links to the Trustee Report (included in our ACM documents) and the recently published Final Conference Report (also included). If you did not receive it, it is probably in your junk folder. Please take a minute to find it and pull it to your primary folder.

So there is just a ton of new updates and available information that has come through this past Board weekend. Rather than put it all down here, I thought I would just share a few highlights:

A.A.World Services, Inc.

- Contributions year to date are \$4,976,316, which is 51% of the 2021 budget of \$9,725,000 and \$911,513 more than this time last year.
- Gross literature sales year to date are \$5,735,705 which is 65% of the 2021 budget of \$8,865,000 and \$837,572 more than last year.
- June gross sales were \$981,496, just missing becoming the second month over a \$1 million since February 2020. (Not counting February 2021, which was skewed by recognizing the pre-order revenue for the souvenir book.).

- Gross sales in July as of the 16th are \$587,275, placing literature on track for a \$1 million month in July.

GSO

- Bob W has reported in as the new GM of your General Service Office and is diving right in and getting down to business.
- Member and Customer Service: This new team was launched June 28, 2021. Hopefully this will improve the communications and service with the fellowship. One call does all!
- Mail and Shipping: Great news!! After more than a year of being conducted remotely at the mailroom manager's home, the receiving, sorting, distribution and shipping of mail is now being done at GSO.

Publication Updates

- September
 - "Hispanic Women in A.A." new pamphlet
 - "Our Experience Has Taught Us: An Introduction to Our Twelve Traditions" new pamphlet
 - "Your G.S.O. and AA Grapevine" new video on DVD
 - Sample text portions for the Plain & Simple Big Book will be submitted for review
- October
 - The Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, in English, French, and Spanish – new recordings in CD sets (possible mid-September)
 - E-Book of Our Great Responsibility (in English, French and Spanish editions)
- November
 - A.A. Service Manual – new design! – fully revised and updated 2021-2023
- December 2021 -or- January 2022
 - Experiencia, Fortaleza y Esperanza (newly completed Spanish translation of the English-language title Experience, Strength and Hope)
- Forthcoming (pending editorial and translation completion)
 - "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix," with revised Contributions text
 - Corrections materials (with "inmate" replaced and reworded to reflect "people in custody" – via a rolling schedule, as revisions are completed
 - Revised A.A. Preamble items – placard, parchments, and in pamphlets— via a rolling schedule, pending reprints

Licensing & Translations.

- Big Book
 - 72 translations, 73 languages total
 - 27 languages pending at various stages of completion which includes 19 new translations in progress and 8 revisions/re-translations
- Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions
 - 52 approved translations with 3 translations pending
- Daily Reflections
 - 38 approved translations with 2 translations pending
- Living Sober
 - 37 approved languages with 5 translations pending
- Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age
 - 19 approved languages with 2 translations pending

Podcast Update

There are x2 sub-groups coordinating and working hard. As part of researching pilot podcast ideas, the team will be providing considerations for many Podcast aspects such as: music, recurring segments,

integration of AAGV and A.A.W.S., audio assets, talent/hosting needs, translation considerations, etc. The Creative Team will work with the Equipment-Logistics team as their ideas develop, so that the Equipment-Logistics team can research things such as: cost, logistics, talent/voice needs etc.

Finance & Budgetary

2021 budget reforecast: For the year 2021, there is a reforecast of the AAWS budget. This budget includes new higher revenue estimates and increases in expenses. Total operating revenue is projected to be \$17,084,572, an increase of \$1,490,572 which is 10% from the original budget. Total operating expense is projected to be \$16,416,862, an increase of \$764,048 which is 5% of the original budget.

The trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve the re-forecasted budget, which reflects gross sales of \$11,400,000, contributions revenue of \$10,000,000 and a bottom-line surplus of \$667,710. This was approved by the GSB.

The trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee recommended that the General Service Board approve an immediate transfer of \$250,000 to the Reserve Fund. This was approved by the GSB.

Reserve Fund: On June 30, 2021, the Reserve Fund balance was \$12,537,739. No additions or withdrawals have been made during this year. The current balance covers 8.41 months of expenses calculated based on the original expense budget for 2021.

Please note that there is quite a bit more information in the available Trustees Report. However, for our time together tonight, I believe that is quite enough for now.

GSC 71st Final Report:

English: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/71st-GSC-Final-Report-AP-English.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/71st-GSC-Final-Report-AP-Espanol.pdf>

Trustee Report July

English: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Trustee-Report-July-August-2021.pdf>

Spanish: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Trustee-Report-July-August-2021-ESPANOL.pdf>

Questions:

Lynn E: Excited to see replenishment of the reserve funds. How much was drawn down from the reserve fund?/\$4 million dollars was drawn from the reserve. At this time, the prudent reserve is at approx 9 months of operating expenses.

Additional comments: Jerry encouraged everyone to stand for positions at the upcoming Elections Assembly.

Alt Delegate's Report: Monty C.

Hello Family,

It is a joy and a pleasure to see AA flourishing in many different avenues within the area and aboard. The Grapevine committee is having a workshop on the 28th this month. District 7 is putting together a 11-step

workshop on Sunday September 19th. Districts 6 & 19 are having a workshop on the 18th of September. I hope that you will hear more about these workshops tonight from the different districts or committees.

It is also my pleasure to let you know that we have been asked to participate in an event with the Intergroup on October 2nd. The event will be called Unity 2.0. This will be a day of fun and celebration. We have been or will be asking the committee that would like to participate to come out and set up a table for a few hours. There will be committees from the Area and Intergroup at the event. A flyer has been created and finally submitted to the Alt Chair and Policy to post on the website.

DCM and Committees please have your GSR's and volunteers share this event with their homegroup members. It will be a casual day of games, mixing and mingling about service work within the region. There will be one speaker at the event. It will be held at Camino Ruiz Park. The address is on the flyer. It will go from 11am to 3pm. There is still room if any of the committees would like to participate.

This will not be a hybrid or zoom event. We understand that everyone is not comfortable with being in this type of setting. If you are, we would love to have you.

Our elections are just around the corner. If you haven't decided to stand at this time, it's okay. Let your heart and the spirit of AA lead you to what is best for you. If you are not standing, please consider helping out in some kind of fashion. We will still need our help and input to do the everyday tasks within the Area and committees.

I will also ask that you please give the person taking the position a proper pass down. Please review the Service Manual. Check out our Structure and Guidelines. Know what the duties are and what you are getting into. Most of the positions take a lot of time. Some do not. They all take willingness. I don't know about you, but I can't do this alone.

Since we last met, I have gotten to visit two districts this month. This was an awesome experience to talk one on one with the GSR and ask questions. I attended the 4 Area DCM Sharing Session. It was really nice to hear the voice of AA being carried throughout in many different forms.

I am very grateful to be of service to AA and San Diego.

Questions: None.

Old Business:

- **DCM Group:** Terri H. - Scheduled for second Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. 12 in attendance last month. Discussed mid-year state of affairs. Blaine spoke about financial reallocation or request for reallocation. Then we did a round-robin with DCMs. Reported that there is some slow down in participation due to COVID and reluctance to participate at the District level. Agreed to keep meeting monthly.
- **Committee Chair Group:** Lynn E. - Attendance has been low. 4 in attendance last month. Question raised whether we should consider not having the meeting.//Should be left up to the Committees.//Numbers are low across the Committees and it's hard to add another Zoom meeting onto our schedules right now.//Before you disband, reconsider. As an Alt Delegate I meet with the other Alt Delegates every month and it's important for me to participate.//Was excited to participate

initially but have not been able to come.//Same 4 people are meeting every month. Suspend the meeting for the short-term and then revisit in 2022. It's not that the 4 individuals attending don't want to meet but there is not enough support.// H&I Committee goes to a monthly meeting with other H&I committees.//Sorry to see it disbanded and offered IT help.//I normally have other commitments on that night but I would attend if I could.//Attended the first two and was not able to commit afterwards.//An Alternate Chair can attend in the Committee Chair's place.//Maybe we need to discuss a different meeting day and time. Committee Chairs can communicate internally to come up with a day and time that works.

- **Spending Plan/Budget Presentation to the ACM - Follow-up:** Cheryl F. & Cindy H. - Version 8/18/2021. Shout out to District 15 for Spanish translation!. We reviewed this last month and there were some errors and changes needed. Overall budget is \$46,742.00 which is a \$10,625 decrease from 2021 (19% reduction). Some changes include drop prep mileage reimbursement, decreased ROOTS budget, increased Unity Day budget, removed Spanish Women's Workshop budget. In addition, the Area Assembly rent was decreased by \$1,000 due to Zoom format, Area committee meeting supplies have been decreased. In July, the UPS Box was renewed for \$106. It will increase to \$146 in 2022.

Questions/Comments:

- IT Committee requests to add \$441 to continue the texting messaging service.//6 months was given for any changes and additions so if it's added now the final proposed spending plan will not be completed and reviewed in time for the November Budget Assembly. IT Committee should submit a reallocation request for this next year.//If this is something that the Area wants to have it should be included in this budget vs an unbudgeted expense. We have not actually finalized the budget and will be handing it out at the Election Assembly so it's not finalized.//Is this an annual expense?// If it's been helpful to the Area then it should be handed over to the care of the IT Committee.//Who gets this messaging service?//It is available to everyone and it sends mass texts that are reminders for ACMs, Events, etc.//Who do those texts go to?//Currently, the Registrar sends them out as he receives requests. All Officers, Chairs/Alt Chairs, DCMs/Alt DCMs, 300 GSRs and group contacts receive the text messages.//Is this a cost effective way of communicating or is it duplicative?//Excellent resource for communicating.
- **Motion Passed: Place texting message service into the IT Committees hands and place it on the 2022 budget for \$441.00. Yes: 22 Opposed: 2. Motion passed.**
- Alt Chair/Treasurer mileage went to \$0, why?//This was discussed at a number of ACMs and it was because we have all been using Zoom so transportation reimbursement has been decreased.
- Spanish Women's Workshop - Has the planning committee said they are self-supporting or was this decision just made by someone else.//All decisions were made by consensus of this body.//Concerned about defunding the workshop because we have not discussed it with the planning committee to see if this will be an issue for them.//Treasurer discussed the workshop funding while attending the District 15 meeting and asked them to submit a proposal if they wanted funding.//Lynn E. is willing to reach out to the planning committee.// Delegate will email the planning committee and ask if they are fully funded and will bring an answer to the next ACM.
- Delegate reminded everyone that receipts can be submitted monthly at the ACM as long as it is not over \$450.
- According to the S&G, the guidelines say that we cover the Delegate to attend PRAASA. Will \$700 cover this?//Delegate confirmed that this should be sufficient.

- Section K: DCM Sharing Session - can we use a different name so it's obvious what this line item is for?
- **Motion Passed: Approve 2022 Proposed Spending Plan as Cheryl outlined including the \$441.00 for the text messaging service with our recommendation. Yes: 24 Opposed: 0. Motion passed.**

2022 Proposed Spending Plan: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2022ProposedSpendingPlanAug18.pdf>

- **Structure and Guidelines Revision Draft - Presentation to the ACM - Feedback:** Ernest D. - Reviewed slide deck on S&G. Received input from different positions in the Area. Document is in English and the committee is experiencing difficulty getting it translated into Spanish. Goal is to present the most recent draft at the Election Assembly in Sept. for feedback and present the finalized version at the Budget Assembly in Nov. There will be a S&G Workshop on 10/30/2021 to gather input as well. Some comments have been snide and the authors of these critiques should be more aware of how they might affect other people.//Maybe we should look into the cost of an outside translator because this is an important document.//Any documents that need to be translated should be sent over with enough time to complete the project. Richard is the contact for translation.

Area S&G: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Area-SG-Aug-17-2021-Final-Draft.pdf>

New Business:

- **Possibility of an In-Person Budget Assembly:** Blaine H - Response has been fantastic! Districts have started to contribute funds towards a live event.. Have a potential venue. Decision will be made closer to Saturday, November 13th.
- **Reallocation of Funds for 2022 PRAASA:** Use excess funds from 2021 budget to pay for Area Officers to go to 2022 PRAASA in Portland, OR.//Beneficial to look at the proposals as a group. If we have \$14,000 and we receive 15-20 proposals then we should review them all together.//The proposals from last year were presented and reviewed by everyone and this will be conducted the same way. No vote is being asked for now. It is informational only.//With new officers coming in next year it's important that we give them this experience.//Delegate has posted the Save-The-Date 2022 PRAASA flyer in the Chat.

Reallocation for PRAASA <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/EReallocation-PRAASA.pdf>

PRAASA Save-The-Date Flyer: <https://www.area8aa.org/sdiaa/calendars/#FLYERS>

- **Election Assembly 9/25/2021:** Blaine H. - Scheduled for Saturday, September 25th. Encourage all who are eligible to stand for a position.

Area Election Assembly Flyer: <https://www.area8aa.org/sdiaa/calendars/#FLYERS>

- **Area Inventory:** Blaine H. - 2018 Area Inventory was sent out. It is a 22-page document. Resulted in a lot of good recommendations of how we can do things better in the Area. One of the results of that inventory was the creation of GSR School. Area should conduct an Inventory in 2021.//We

would be remiss to not have an inventory of us as a group.//Feel strongly that we should do an inventory, especially with the elections coming up and younger individuals taking officer positions.//Delegate volunteered to chair an AdHoc Planning Committee.//Due to the pandemic, the inventory might have a more negative tone.//District 6 completed an inventory via Zoom over 5 separate sessions. It requires a lot of planning. Might be a crunch to fit it in this year.//Valuable use of time looking at our Mission Statement

- **Motion Passed: In favor of conducting an Area Inventory in 2021. Yes: 19 Opposed: 1.**
- Members interested in participating in an AdHoc committee should contact the Delegate directly.

Area Inventory Final Report May 2018: <https://www.area8aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Area-Committee-Inventory-Final-Report-May-2018.pdf>

Respectfully submitted by Renee R., Secretary and Julie O., acting Secretary

Next Assembly: Election Assembly, Saturday, September 25, 2021 via Zoom