

**Area 08 San Diego-Imperial
Budget Assembly Minutes
November 13, 2021**

The Assembly was held in person and via Zoom due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

8:00 - 8:45 New GSR School/Orientation:

Before the Assembly began GSR School was held. Monty C, Alt Del, led.

Call to Order: 9:15 am by Blaine H., Area 8 Chair with the **Serenity Prayer**, followed by the **Declaration of Unity**.

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."
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Assembly documents and proposals are listed in English and Spanish on Area8aa.org at:

TRADITIONS: English - Susan C.; Spanish - Enemicio

9:20 Introductions: New GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, Alternates, Past Delegates, Guests:

New GSRs: Amy - Friday night gratitude, D6; Nikki-Lakeside; Jill – Jumpstart (Lakeside); Hew-6th Step House; Charles -Men Too; John B - Designs for Living, D6; Greg - Fallbrook Men's Step Study, D20; Alexander D. - 42nd Street, D16; Qui – the Sixth House; Charles – Media Circles; Rita – The We Group, D19; Chris – La Mesa Men's; Angie – God Squad 2; Robert R - Calendar Park, D23. Dana – Tues Night Beginners, So. Oceanside; *(I hope I got you all. If you don't see your name please email me: secretary@area8aa.org)*

New DCMs: Steve – D1; Sutton – D2; Tonya L – D5, Alt Kimberly D5; Richard R – D8, Alt. Brian B, D8; Susan H – D14; Carrie E – D15; David A – D19.

New District Officers: Christine – Treasurer, D7; Robert – Registrar, D8;

New Committee Chairs: Accessibilities – Bryan Herbert; Archives – Tom Calder; Cooperation with Professionals (CPC) – Kenny Hullings; Grapevine/LaVina – Parker Martin; Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) No.Countuy – Hew Burney; Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) San Diego – Diana Adam; Alt. Lauren Bones. Policy Chair – Chuck Paterson; Native American Liaison – Adrian C.

Past Delegates: Tom M, past delegate, Panel 62; Roxane R, and JP.

Guest: James Waters representing the Live and Let Live Alano Club (Hillcrest).

9:25 Registrar's Introduction and Quorum Notes: Bill S., Area 8 Registrar

Please rename yourself according to first name, last initial and area position. Bill took a roll call of voting members to check quorum. **We had quorum.**

9:30 Approval of the November Budget Assembly Minutes: Rose P., Area 8 Secretary elect.

Minutes were mailed out in English and sent to Translation. All DCMs, Chairs, Officers, and Alternates should have received them. If you are not receiving them please email the area secretary, to have a copy emailed to you.

Cheryl F-motion to approve; Susan C-2nd-ed; **Election Assembly Minutes were unanimously approved** (unanimously approved, or not approved or approved with corrections.

9:35 Treasurer's Report: Cheryl F., Area 8 Treasurer.

“During the past two years I tried my best to make some changes, and to try to enter us into the digital age financially.”

Cheryl submitted the **Budget Assembly Treasurers Report, attached in full at the end of the minutes and the October 2021 Finance Report,** https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-wgpOVhmq3xyY2UzM2wnB17Cay0C_XEd/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100589533776101784453&rtpof=true&sd=true

9:45 Plan for the Day // AREA BUSINESS

Area 8 Chair Blaine H

9:50 2022 Spending Plan (Budget): Presentation by Cheryl F., Area 8 Treasurer; Cindy H., Chair Finance followed by /Discussion/Approval. The spending plan was vetted by the November ACM. We did not accept budget requests this year. It was a decision made by the Finance Committee and the ACM. The body voted on approving the spending plan: 48 yeses in the room; 36 yeses online; 84 in favor. 3 online opposed.

This was Cheryl's presentation at the Nov. ACM:

November ACM Report, I just want to grab you all and give you a huge hug!! I am so very pleased with the 2022 Spending Plan! I wanted to stay around \$50K and we did it! I for one really like the process we used this year, including the ACM in the process. I am interested in how it was perceived by each of you and want to give you a chance to provide me, the finance committee, and the panel 72 Treasurer team with your honest opinions. I will ask for feedback at the end of this report.

At the end of October we had \$42,692.59 in the bank. \$5,000 of that money is our prudent reserve. This number has remained constant each month since we have not had a reason to use those funds. Our operating budget will then be \$37,692.59. If this was the end of the year (December) and I had to prepare our accounts for 2022, I would start but subtracting the unspent 2020 reallocation money and sending that sum to GSO. Referring to the October finance report, our unspent reallocation money equals \$3,021.50. This money was targeted to be spent locally in 2021 instead of sending it as a 2020 contribution to GSO. It will be retroactively sent to GSO. Bringing the actual 2021 finances to \$34,671.09,

According to the current Structure and Guidelines I will need to retain \$11,795.75 which represents one quarter of the 2022 spending plan. This is the money that we will use to pay our expenses for January through March. This is another number that has remained constant over the last few reports. Finally, I will subtract the money that represents uncashed checks that have as yet been processed. On September 30, we had \$2,527.23 in uncleared transactions.

\$34,671.09 (2021 finances)

Minus \$11,795.75 (first quarter operating funds)

\$22,875.3

Minus \$2,527.23 (uncleared transactions)

\$20,348.11 (2021 surplus)

Last Saturday the Assembly voted to reallocate \$12,000 of our surplus to fund unbudgeted requirements within our area. The result of this reallocation motion reallocated \$11,463. Leaving us a surplus of \$8,885.11. At the conclusion of the reallocation motion, a floor motion was made to reallocate the remaining project for \$3,500. At this time, we are on track to make a \$5,385.11 contribution to GSO from the 2021 budget.

This concludes my report and I would like to open the floor for questions about my report or to offer feedback to myself and the finance committee regarding the 2021 spending plan process.

10:30 BREAK – 10 Minutes

10:40 ELECTION OF AREA 8 NOMINEE FOR PACIFIC REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Candidates: Roxane Rollins and JP.

Tom M read from the service manual the section on Trustee. The candidates each spoke and gave their resumes, which were also sent out. Each candidate was a former delegate and had years of service work in a variety of areas.

Tom described the procedure and began the election. Votes were counted as members raised their hands. The winner needed a 2/3 majority.. Ballot 1-neither one achieved 2/3. Ballot 2-Roxane received 71 votes. Roxane R is our new Regional Trustee. Congratulations Roxane!

11:00 CONFIRMING THE ELECTION OF DELEGATE & ALT DELEGATE Blaine H.

(Conducted at September Assembly without a quorum) Monty C. as Delegate, Richard O. as Alternate Delegate. Blaine confirmed that the result of the Election Assembly was that Monty, our Alternate Delegate, was elected delegate of Area 8. Blaine asked the body to indicate by raised hands if they are in favor of confirming that vote. Monty was confirmed as our Area 8 Delegate. Congratulations Monty!

11:10 ELECTION OF PANEL 72 ALTERNATE SECRETARY

Tom M will conduct this election. He asked the secretary to speak about the time commitment and responsibilities of the job. Then Tom read from a long list of members who are eligible for this position. One member on the list was available for the position, Ted C.

Tom asked Ted to speak. Ted spoke about benefitting from service. Ted is our Alternate Area 8 Secretary. Congratulations Ted C!

11:30 Discussion and vote on the 2021 Structure and Guidelines Update (2/3 Majority)

Chuck E, Alt Policy Chair and Clinton, Policy Committee member.

Motion: The Policy Committee makes a motion to Update the Section of Area 8 Assembly Structure and Guidelines in order to align current goals and responsibilities to our officers and committees, improve the readability of this section, and provide a more effective tool for GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, and Area Officers. There has not been an update since 2017.

Every District should have a bound copy of this update. Chuck defined the role Structure and Guidelines. The purpose of the update was to create more effective tools for the GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, and Area Officers. Also to improve readability and to align current goals and responsibilities to officers and committees, There has not been an update since 2017.

89 yays, 2 nays. No objections. The motion passes.

11:50 Standing Committee GSR Assignment Notice – Jo Ann Z., Area 8 Alt Chair

Our13 Standing Committees:

Accessibilities, Archives, Armed Services, CPC, Finance, Grapevine/La Vina, I.T., Literature, Newsletter, Policy, Translation, YPACC, Young Peoples Area Committee .

We had 9 Committee Chairs present at the Assembly describing the ikmportant work their committee does. See link to the Committee page for nformation on every committee:

and the volunteer form

12:05 BIRTHDAYS (A.A. birthdays since 9/25/21) - Jo Ann Z., Area 8 Alt Chair

Jonathan-10/22/92, 29 yrs; Jeffrey, 10/10/05, 16 yrs, Gtreg 10/9/13, 8 yrs, Sam 10/31/83, 38 yrs, ____ 9/30/13, 8 yrs, Doris 11/6/06, 15 yrs, ____ 9/29/86, 35 yrs, ____11/15/85, 37 yrs, Nick 10/20/19, 2 yrs,

___11/6/11, 10 yrs, ___ 10/31/95 27 yrs. (My apologies for missing so many names. This part of the assembly was recorded and the missing names were not clear. Rose P.)

12:10 LUNCH – 50 Minutes

1:10 MOTION: Addressing Lack of a Quorum

Jerry S., Delegate

The complete **Motion, and the Proposed Amendment to the Area Assembly Structure and Guidelines:**

[file:///Users/rosepope/Documents/Google%20Account%20Info/\(E\).Motion%20to%20Address%20Lack%20of%20Quorum%20-%20REV02.pdf](file:///Users/rosepope/Documents/Google%20Account%20Info/(E).Motion%20to%20Address%20Lack%20of%20Quorum%20-%20REV02.pdf).

Jerry read and gave the background information. He explained the motion as he read. This motion is to add some explicit language so that we can take exception to quorum.

The principle of active participation may be handicapped if the body cannot proceed with its business. The idea that an assembly could be derailed from doing business, especially elections or budget, is objectionable.

Q+A followed. Jerry emphasized that clarification is important, especially for the GSRs at the assembly today. There was a poll to call the question. (simple majority-no minority opinion for this question)

Calling the question passed.

Now the poll was relaunched. We will vote as to whether we support taking this motion to the groups. 57 in favor; 23 not in favor. Again no minority opinion. This vote is for consideration of a motion.

1:30 Alternate Delegate's Report

Monty C., Alt Delegate, Area 8

Hello Family,

October was a busy month for me. My job allowed me to attend a few events. I was in a different city during 3 of the weeks in October. I had a great time seeing and chatting with clients and old friends.

For me laughter was used as a great medicine to relax the soul.

I attend the S&G Workshop and the Area Inventory at the end of October. Both events were fun and full of information. The information from the inventory is being consolidated and will be dispersed soon.

I attended the open house and anniversary celebration that was held at San Diego Central Office. The stories, conversation, and the love of AA filled the room. It was awesome to finally meet so many people in person. I meet some new friends as well. This was a great event and I hope it happens again. If you missed the Budget Assembly, I am sorry. I felt like that was a great event for us. Lots of learning curves and practicing of patience as we worked out a few kinks. Everyone came together and got the job done. A special thank you to everyone that helped in the background to pull this off.

I attended my first PR Delegate meeting earlier this week. I was surprised at how I felt. I knew almost everyone in the room. It totally awesome to be in a room of my peers sharing on one common goal. I look forward to serving this area for panel 72.

Today, I got my first correspondence from GSO. I do not have an assignment at this time, but they will arrive in the next few weeks. I received a letter from Conference Coordinator as an introductory and their contact information.

I was also reminded of the theme for the GSC.

"A.A. Comes of Age 2.0: Unified in Love and Service" and the Presentation/Discussion topics are:

- 1) How do A.A.'s go to any length to Recover, Unify, and Service?
- 2) Going Beyond Fear
- 3) How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere

The workshop topic for the 2022 General Service Conference:
The Warranties - Our Promise to the Fellowship and the World

I have finally ordered some new GSR Literature. A lot of time were out of stock for some time. I also ordered a few of the new service manuals. DCM, if you have any new GSR that are looking for material, please ask them to be patience and send me there mailing information. Be sure and give them my email to order to make the arrangements.

I also wanted to ask this body, what would you like for me to do with the old service manuals? I do not know how many I have right now, but I can get a number very soon.

November is month know for “Gratitude” meeting. My hope is that each and everyone of you will get to attend at least one gratitude meeting this month. I am truly grateful for each and every of you. I pray that you all have a safe Thanksgiving.

Monty C
Alt Del 08 P70

1:40 Delegate’s Report

Jerry S. Delegate, Area 8

Delegates Report San Diego Imperial Alcoholics Anonymous – Budget Assembly 2021

11/13/2021 My name is Jerry, and I am an alcoholic and I love Alcoholics Anonymous. And I am honored to serve as our San Diego – Imperial Area 08 Delegate to the General Service Conference. And this is my final Assembly as your delegate. I am filled with so many feelings and I’ll strive to bring them together at the end of my report. However, before that, let’s look at some current and important pieces of information.

So, our General Service Board recently hosted its first in-person/hybrid Board weekend since the pandemic began. I have posted our anonymity protected Regional Trustee’s Report to the Delegates Corner on our Area website. The report is being translated by one of our Regional Translation Committee’s that did not happen to have a service event this weekend. The report will be posted in Spanish ASAP.

Many of our members and groups have been phenomenal in participating in the Carry the Message Project with our Grapevine & La Vina. This project funds subscriptions for members behind the bars. I am excited to report that there were over 2000 requests from the Corrections Desk for subscriptions. Unfortunate, however, there were only 1,200 English subscriptions and 401 Spanish subscriptions available. All went into the service of carrying the message through our meeting in print. But we need more!!! Please, bring this specific need back to your groups and help out!

In the posted Trustee Report, there is a healthy amount of information financial in nature. If that’s your fix, please dive in and communicate back any questions/concerns. The rough summary is that just about all things money related is tracking on budget for the year. With one small trending exception: Both contributions and literature sales are slowly dipping these past few months. In order to remain on budget and see ourselves through the year, we need to see an increase in these areas.

Our Reserve Fund balance is \$12.8M which represents 8.5 months of operating expenses (Target is 9-12 months).

Just a friendly update regarding the upcoming 72nd GSC – The Board received 178 submitted

proposed agenda items. Let's pray that this number is trimmed down, otherwise, please begin to pray for Monty.

So, I just wanted to read an excerpt from the Sharing Session:

A non-trustee director shared that we've been struggling to make everything just like it was - only on Zoom - but we're feeling disconnected, separate, apart. It's reflected in how many agenda items are from individuals rather than coming through a group conscience -- we're not connected like we used to be. Others agreed and have heard about members wanting to bypass their delegate with agenda items. A trustee-at-large shared that there are similar problems in other parts of the world: members disconnected from their groups, not enough board members or other volunteers. Half the number of members are participating in service. She feels the Conference should talk about finding a way through this, perhaps add a day onto the end of Conference or begin with this issue to set the tone. A general service trustee agreed that we need a reset, a time out. He feels we need time together that isn't structured around arguing about who's right and who's wrong. He would love to just hear from delegates, talk together, start over with the spirituality of why we come together. A G.S.O. employee concurred that because of technology we've lost our tempo and it has thrown us off. We talk about the power of pausing in A.A. and we need to find a way we can pause as a Fellowship. It's an uphill bike ride now but it won't be forever. We just have to keep pedaling, keep practicing.

Final remarks: AA has taught me how to glean purpose through sacrifice, determination through adversity and mostly how to prioritize my truth: I am a 12 Step Practitioner. That is my spirituality and I do not apologize for it.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

2:00 MOTION: For the Reallocation of Unused 2021 Funds

Cheryl F.

Reallocation of funds was also done last year. The area has excess funds and it will be determined whether to send the money to GSO or to use it locally or to divvy it up between NY and Area8. The five proposals have been submitted and are listed below along with the member who will speak for them.

There have been changes since the Budget Assembly. The Pacific Region AA Service Assembly, PRAASA, will no longer be in person in Portland. Portland is still sponsoring the Assembly but it will be an online event. New considerations for these funds were made at the December Area Committee Meeting, ACM.

Please use the link above for further information.

2:15 REALLOCATION PROPOSALS

PRAASA 2022 for Officers and Committee Chairs - \$7,200

Blaine H.

New Service Manual Purchase - \$1600

Monty C.

PRAASA 2022 for Bryan H. (Accessibilities) - \$666

Jeffery D., Ch

Accessibilities

Area 8 Support for the Hispanic Women's Workshop 2022 - \$300

Doris N.

Area 8 Zoom Licenses for 2022

Paul K., Chair I.T.

R&D – Texting/Area Communication

Bill S.

2:45 PREFERENCE VOTING ON REALLOCATION PROPOSALS

(Voting members are to rank the order of preference for the proposals by placing a number before each one – one being the most preferred down to the least preferred. Tabulation of the results may take a while – please be patient.)

3:00 Message from the Grapevine/La Vina Committee: Lynn E., Chair Grapevine/LaViña

Lynn reported on the Carry the Message. Each December the Grapevine/LaViña international reaches out to local Area Districts, and meetings asking members to consider purchasing GV/LV subscriptions for members who cannot afford them or for institutions.

This project makes GV/LV subscriptions available to those, like imprisoned people, who cannot afford them. These subscriptions also go to remote communities such as the Yukon and areas of Alaska., to alcoholics in nursing homes and institutions, members in prison, or in the armed services aboard ships, members who have physical or transportation challenges, and those with these challenges who have no access to WiFi.

So what can you do? You can ask your district or your meeting to consider purchasing gift certificates for the Carry the Message Project. You can announce the Carry the Message Project at your meetings, and invite members to support this important project.

This is a way to directly support 12 step work. GV \$24/yr; LV \$12/yr ..

Grapevine/ La Viña Chair's Report October 21, 2021

Audio Recording Workshop – The Committee is presenting an in-person Grapevine Audio Workshop at the Seniors in Sobriety International Conference being held in San Diego next week. Participants will be assisted in writing, recording and submitting their personal stories to the Grapevine or La Viña YouTube channels.

Literature Sales Return – The committee will be selling literature at the November Area Assembly. We should have delivery of two of the new books published in 2021 - Free on the Inside, about AA in jails and prisons and Mujeres en AA, historic writings of women pioneers in AA and stories of Spanish-language members. The new book released in September, Prayer and Meditation, sold out within weeks of its printing. We will order copies as soon as it is back in stock. PLEASE BRING CASH OR A CHECKBOOK. We will also pilot taking VENMO payments using a personal account. There are specials sales and free shipping on Grapevine and La Viña Items during November and December.

Carry the Message - The GVLV Committee will launch its annual drive to support the “Carry the Message” project, which encourage individuals, meetings and districts to purchase gift subscriptions to the Grapevine and La Viña magazines. These subscriptions can be given though the national office to individuals who want a subscription but cannot afford one, local recovery facilities and other institutions, to sponsees, newcomers and other individuals. Email to request information material.

Grapevine News

The Grapevine debuted its podcast which include sobriety talk and interviews with AA members. A new episode is released every Monday. To listen to the podcast go to:

3:10 Chairperson's Report Blaine H., Area 8 Chair

It is wonderful to be meeting in person at last. I am also pleased that we are able to offer the option to attend virtually to those who may be at a distance or have health concerns. The success of the hybrid format may well lead to a decision to make this the wave of the future. Anything that can be done to boost participation will be welcomed.

And participation is the issue. I am sure that others who attended the Election Assembly in September were as shocked and dismayed as I was. Not only was there difficulty in achieving a

quorum, but there were offices for which no one eligible to stand, stood. We are grateful to those who, at the last minute, stepped up and made themselves available to serve. We thank you and look forward to your service in the next panel.

At this writing, there is still one unfilled officer position. By the time this is read I hope that will no longer be the case. I want to thank Past Delegate, Tom M., and other volunteers who helped us with the election which took place earlier today.

It wasn't that long ago that standing for an Area office was a privilege, and being elected to one a prize. Some may recall the time a few years back when suspected errors in counting the votes for Alternate Registrar created a great deal of ill feeling in our Spanish Community. And now, no one will even stand! That is how far we have fallen. There isn't much solace in the fact that this phenomenon isn't confined to Area 8. Last month at the Area 9 elections, while no offices went unfilled, there were several with only two candidates, and one with only a single volunteer.

APATHY is our enemy. We see it in all forms of A.A. service, not just General Service. I do believe that individuals and groups are still carrying out our primary purpose as I see newcomers "coming in" (some, having never been to a live meeting), getting sober, finding sponsors, and working the Steps. But what can be done about apathy regarding service?

Unfortunately, apathy does not respond to threats. There is an old Navy joke about the Captain who says, "Morale on this ship is lousy and until it improves I am canceling all liberty." It just doesn't work that way. Ours is a program of attraction, and we must make service of all kinds, but particularly General Service, attractive enough to overcome the apathy. In this effort we have enemies! The old timers who may, or even may not, have done some General Service decades ago. They complain at meetings about the "politics" or the 14 hour assemblies. One such person, who is otherwise respected by the group, can poison a room full of individuals who might otherwise be inclined to serve. I say to them – Shut the fuck up!

Some say the answer is service sponsors. Service sponsors are great, but I believe that if an AA has gone to the trouble of getting one, that person is already on our side. It is our responsibility to lead by example and action. I once took a service position because a man I knew who had about the same amount of time in the program seemed a little happier, and little more joyous, and a little freer than I was. The difference was that he did this service work. It works, it really does! So, let us all be examples of what service can do. That, and a few more events with cakes by Jeffery, should do the trick!

PS. Blaine asked for volunteers to help transport our audio equipment. Audio Equipment Team (so far) - Kevin and Sutton and Joshua.

3:20 Ask it Basket

Blaine opened the floor for questions. Jeffrey stood to tell us that this would be his last Assembly in person.

Hi this is Jeffrey Dean ,I just wanted to mention this is going to be my last assembly with you guys, since we're moving to Spain, or Portugal in January. I just want to say it's been really a pleasure to meet everybody that I met in the rooms of service and this organization and you guys will be in my heart forever. Thank you.

Jeffrey thank you for your service.

3:30 Adjourn – Responsibility Declaration

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that I am responsible.

Respectfully submitted by Rose P., Area 8 Secretary