

Central California Area Assembly

Of Alcoholics Anonymous – Area 93

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AREA ASSEMBLY

March 18, 2007

MINUTES

Chairman Jeff J. brought the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Leslie read the 12 Concepts in English and Gino read them in Spanish.

Secretary's Report: Sharon G. took the roll call. There were 53 GSRs, 14 DCMs, 5 Alternate DCMs, 14 Committee and Subcommittee Chairs, 2 DCMCs, 3 Past Delegates, 6 Area Officers, and 26 guests in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Val. H. advised that Group Contributions, 1st Quarter and Income & Expense Reports were available on the back table. At the beginning of each year we have several expenses so our balance may appear unfavorable, but it will level out. She distributed to each Chair their committee's 2007 budget for review. The balance is 10,741.48. Our balance is slightly over the lower limit.

Registrar's Report: Ken S. reported that New York is changing their data base and Ken will be doing the same. Since the new program isn't expected to be operational for at least another 2 months, Ken will continue using our current program to keep registration current until then.

Chairman's Report: Jeff J. reported as follows:

District Visits: - District 07 Elections of DCM (Mike G.) and Alternate DCM (David S.) Officers also in attendance were Sharon G. & Val H. It was also nice to see Eddy and Peggy D. District 02 I had a nice visit with Julian and the Spanish speaking district in Bakersfield. I spoke about the general service structure & I answered a few related questions.

Two Items for Calendar: Reminder next ACM is on Saturday April 14th, 2007, The 2008 budget setting meeting is on Saturday June 30th, 2007 at my home in Mission Hills.

Officers Meeting: I met with the other officers on March 10th in West Hills. We met for about three hours. We opened with the serenity prayer and closed with the responsibility declaration. We checked in with each other to see if we were comfortable in our positions and if any additional training was needed. We went over what we are responsible for each of our respective duties. And just coming off of PRAASA, we exchanged some thoughts prompted by discussions in Portland, OR.

ACM: At the Area Committee Meeting two actions were taken; One to refer to G&P committee a set of guidelines be drafted for inactive officers and inactive standing committee chairpersons and the other to form an Adhoc committee to research the efficacy of a Bridging the Gap committee to serve Area 93.

PRAASA impressions: I really enjoyed this year's PRAASA, and NO I do not have a 10 page report to submit. I thought I'd take it easy and sit back and listen. Madeleine P., Regional Trustee gave an excellent report on the current state of affairs at the general service office. I have a copy of her report and can send it to you if you request it; just drop me an email. She was also the speaker at the Saturday night banquet and has a great story. If you ever get a chance to hear her speak, you will be moved. Area 93 participants on panels were Maureen M., Brian F. and Debbie J. All of the panelists did an excellent job and I was particularly proud to be a member of Area 93. I really enjoyed the chairperson's round tables. It was a great time to bond with other area chairpersons and exchange ideas and methods for carrying on the smooth functioning of area work. We also scheduled a lunch together on Saturday and put together a roster of pacific region chairs that we may stay in touch throughout the year.

4 Area Guidelines - no action taken: I met with the chairs from areas 5, 8 and 9. We met to discuss the possibility of hosting guidelines common to all four areas for the 4 Area DCM sharing sessions. After much loving discussion, we decided no action would be taken, but that each chair would be responsible to our liaisons to pass on traditions with a small "t" pertinent to the smooth hosting of said event.

Equipment purchase = 529.85 (see emergency expenditure procedure): I brought a check to PRAASA 07, approved by our assembly, for the missing translation equipment. The vendor showed up shortly after PRAASA began and returned last year's equipment to the PRAASA translation chair. After meeting with the PRAASA host delegate, Vicki B, Madeleine P, PRAASA translation chair & treasurer, it was agreed that we were still responsible for the timely return of said equipment and were responsible to purchase a replacement package to get PRAASA up and running. The total purchase price was 529.85. This is 29.85 over the approved amount and, as per our guidelines, I approved an emergency expenditure for the difference and I am reporting it to you. It was also decided that in the best interest of future PRAASAs that we would leave the returned equipment with the host committee to pass on to PRAASA 08 for use with translations of round tables or whatever future committees would determine to be the best use of it.

May Assembly Preparations: I'll be working with Debbie, for the upcoming delegate report back assembly in May, to schedule a visit from Judge Flores - the nominating committee's selection for Class A Trustee from our own Area 93, who we are anticipating being confirmed at the 2007 General Service Conference. Jeanine will have more on this in her talk later, but sometime before we hear from Judge Flores in May, I would love it if everyone would read what the service manual has to say regarding qualifications and election procedures for Class A Trustee: (see pages S60 & S61 - A.A. Service Manual 2006-2007 edition)

Qualifications of an Effective Trustee (S60)

A.A. has been fortunate over the years in having many competent trustees, both A.A. members and nonalcoholics, and the choice of trustees remains one of the most important factors in ensuring A.A.'s future. There are no hard-and-fast rules governing qualifications. In general, though, there are certain things to look for.

NONALCOHOLIC TRUSTEES: In seeking candidates for Class A trustee, the board looks for men and women with a proven track record in their own fields, and with a demonstrated interest in Alcoholics Anonymous and some experience in working with A.A. and its members. It would be safe to say that the busiest people have made the largest contribution and shown the greatest dedication and judgment.

Nonalcoholic (Class A) Trustees (S61)

A.A.'s debt to those who do not share our disease but willingly share our problems is immense, going back to the beginning. Bill W. wrote: "In the days when A.A. was unknown, it was the nonalcoholic trustees who held up our hands before the general public. They supplied us with ideas. . . . They voluntarily spent hours on end, working side by side with us and among the grubbiest of details. They gave freely of their professional and financial wisdom. Now and then they helpfully mediated our difficulties." Written in 1966, those words hold true today. Nonalcoholic trustees remain a rich source of wisdom and perspective, and since they need not maintain anonymity, they are available to appear in public on behalf of A.A.. The ratio plan calls for seven nonalcoholics, each of whom may be elected to serve two consecutive three-year terms. If necessary, the chair of the General Service Board - after approval by that board - can extend the

term of a Class A trustee by one additional term. The chair serves for no more than four consecutive years. Board members make an effort to choose Class A trustees from a variety of professional backgrounds, and the board has included doctors, lawyers, clergy, sociologists, business people, and financial experts among its members. Whatever their backgrounds, the bylaws make one key provision for nonalcoholic trustees: they "shall be persons who are not and have not been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and who express a profound faith in the recovery program upon which the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded."

ELECTION PROCEDURE: Class A trustees are nominated and elected by the General Service Board itself, after an extensive search and interview process that begins by asking current and past members of the board, directors, delegates, and G.S.O. and Grapevine staff to submit names and background information for "friends of A.A." to fill a vacancy. The list is narrowed down by the trustees' Nominating Committee, and the best qualified prospects are invited to a quarterly trustees' meeting to meet all members of the board. The Nominating Committee then recommends the election of one person for each vacancy, and after approval by the full board of trustees, the name (along with a resume) goes to the Conference for disapproval, if any. The board of trustees then elects the new trustee(s) at their meeting following the Conference.

Newsletter Chair Still Open: I am still looking for a newsletter chair from amongst our ranks. It is my hope that you'll search the far corners and make requests of your past servants in Area 93.... plus add a prayer or two. We really need someone with area service experience to help us out.

Service Sponsorship: I would like to encourage any one who takes their service commitment seriously to find a service sponsor. Some one who has walked the path before you and can guide you when and if you need the help.

Today's Agenda: Please remove from new items "#1 letter of support" from today's agenda; I received the following letter from San Luis County Young People in AA:

Thank you so much for including the letter of support for ACYPAA in the agenda. We had a committee meeting last night, and for a number of reasons the group actually voted to revoke our decision for SLOCYPAA to be a bid committee. So for this year, we no longer need the letter of support. Thank you so much for your help. It is definitely inspiring to know that we have the support of Area if we decide to try to go through with it next year. I'm sorry that I'm telling you this after you sent out a revised agenda! Thank you again for your support -- we really appreciate it! - Jessica (sent 3/12/2007)

Alternate Delegate's Report: Alberto reported that he had spent the last month preparing for the workshop assembly and was pleased with the participation. He then introduced the new GSRs.

Delegate's Report: Debbie J. reported as follows: I want to thank all of you for the work you have done during the Preconference and that you will continue to do until I leave for the Conference in New York on April 19. Please continue to circulate and discuss the Delegate Opinion Polls. Let the members know that they do not have to fill out all six- just complete however many they wish. Remember they are posted on the website in English and in Spanish.

I am giving each DCM the background material on the question as to whether we should consider Class B Trustees as Chairman of the Board. As you may have heard, Class "A" Trustees are "amateurs", non-alcoholic and Class "B" are boozers- alcoholic. I am asking each DCM to decide how to share this information with their districts- there are 138 pages to review. The background material is not available in Spanish so for the Spanish speaking DCMS, I am hoping that there are members in your District and groups that will be able to help. You probably want to try to summarize it like the information that I shared with you from Area 6. I would like the DCMS to bring me a written summary of their Districts ideas and give it to me at the ACM on April 14 in Goleta.

Many of you will be sharing your PRAASA experience with us today and I just wanted to let you know that Eric, the Delegate from Oregon Area 58, let me know that this year Area 93 had 47 registered members attend PRAASA. I hope that you can all start saving plans now for PRAASA 2008 in Alaska. PRAASA 2009 will be held in Oakland, Ca. At the conference, the Pacific Regional Delegates will be considering bids for PRAASA 2010 and

2011. So when I return I can inform you where those years PRAASAs will be held. I received a statement from GSO regarding Area 93 contributions for the twelve month period ending 12/31/06. In the year 2006 , 44% of Area 93 groups contributed to GSO. This is up from 2005 so we are heading in the right direction but when you read a report that shows some Areas in Canada have a 97% contribution rate, you see we have a long way to go. I also received a letter from the Treasurer of the General Service Board stating what it might be like if each member contributed \$5.75 a year or each group contributed \$131.00 per year and we were self supporting. "Literature would be priced at cost. More literature would thus be available to reach the still suffering alcoholic. Complete control over all AA Literature would rest within the Fellowship. We would establish a strong financial base to insure that our Service Structure remains in place to serve future generations. Most importantly, the entire Fellowship should have a strong spiritual connection to services provided beyond the home group" I have always believed that if you let an alcoholic know about a need, they will fill it. I really believe that if each one of you goes back to your groups or spreads this message to groups without GSRs, that our contributions would increase rapidly. When I was a GSR, our home group was not contributed to our District. We knew nothing about this. When I informed my group about this, they immediately began contributing to the District. The same hold true for Area 93 contributions. We just need to inform about our 7th Tradition and supporting our services at all levels.

Along those lines, I have brought Birthday envelopes for you to bring back to your group. This is a long standing practice where a member sends in \$1.00 to GSO for each year of sobriety on their AA Birthday. Of course if a member cannot afford to send a dollar for each year, just sending something is a wonderful way to give back that which we have been given so freely. I would love to see all of you bring these back to your groups and perhaps drop some off at meetings without GSRs.

I also want to share with you some highlights from AA World Service. Our Archives department continues to preserve Bill's handwritten correspondence, minutes of the Alcoholic Foundation and to weed and reprocess Archives subject file. One item I am particularly thrilled about is they are interviewing Bob P, Past Trustee and past GSO General Manager and a man I have had the pleasure of passing time with in many airports as he is a frequent attendee at PRAASA. Bob also is the author of my favorite story in the Big Book which I began reading daily before I even met him. He has touched my life in many different ways. And for those of you who have met Bob, you know they will need a lot of tape to capture his memories!

Fellowship New Vision our new electronic records keeping project is proceeding on schedule and within budget. Training and activation for Area record keeper - referred to in our Area as the Registrar will begin by late March.

Just to let you know how busy we keep our GSO staff , in 2006, GSO staff members responded to a total of 31,982 written inquiries- 11,669 letters, 19,896 emails and 387 faxes! If you ever have an occasion to call them, this will amaze you as they treat each one of us as if they had all the time in the world and are friendly and informative. On one recent day, our International desk responded to correspondence from Bahrain, Costa Rica, Croatia, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Uruguay. In ONE DAY!!! Let your groups know - this is why they want to contribute, this is how their 7th tradition funds carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Regarding publications, the pamphlet "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic" was taken out of general distribution as of February 1, 2007 as per our Conference Advisory Action. Remaining copies will be available to service committees for 90 days after that.

I want to remind all of you that I have will be serving on the Conference Agenda Committee for the next two years so if there are ideas that you want to submit to have discussed at a future Conference, talk about it in your groups, at your District, have your DCM bring it to the Area Committee or submit them to me.

I would like to remind all the DCMS that it is not too soon to schedule the Delegate report back in your county or your Districts. When we began Area 93, we thought it would be great to have the report after the Delegate returns from the conference, scheduled on a county basis but if you prefer having a report for your District only, that is also fine. Please contact me regarding possible dates as soon as you can so that I may get them all scheduled.

Thank you again for working so hard to help prepare for the General Service Conference. I promise to represent you to the very best of my ability.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: There were 7 in attendance. Our Treasurer reviewed the Income and Expense Budget v. Actual and we discussed it. We discussed the Budget Setting Meeting. We discussed the responsibility of GSRs to make sure their group's contributions are correctly reported.

CPC: There were 14 in attendance. We passed out 2 items on the conference agenda for review. These were the CPC workbook and related materials and the TF workbook and related materials. Our Delegate has asked us to review these and send her our opinions. We had reports back on the PRAASA roundtables. Michelle spoke to us regarding an update on Bridging the Gap. We discussed the ad hoc committee that was formed. There is a new resource available to us called the PI/CPC NewsExchange that was started to help Areas exchange ideas nationwide.

Accessibility: The committee focused on barriers to the deaf/heard of hearing and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation. We have identified and are pursuing two projects – 1) identifying ASL needs and the financial means of providing ASL interpretation in AA meetings and 2) production of ASL DVD's for AA stories.

Central Office Liaison: There were 5 in attendance. Our past Intergroup Chairperson shared his experience as a Board member. We discussed a concern from a visitor from District 16 as to how people are selected for the 12 Step Call List. We agreed there was no set method other than random.

Website: Website address is www.aaarea93.org. There were 4 people in attendance. Today's agenda included 4 possible projects for the website subcommittee this panel:

- 1) Website Guidelines and Policies for anonymity. There has been substantial discussion surrounding this with area officers, past delegates, and members of the area. In discussions at the PRAASA website roundtable this year, it was found that other areas are experiencing similar difficulties. We will be contacting GSO as well as some other area webmasters to gather additional feedback before making a recommendation to clarify anonymity requirements of documents to be posted to the website in appendix W of the our guidelines and policies.
- 2) As discussed at last month's assembly, once we have come to a conclusion on #1 above, we will put together a quick list of requirements for documents to be posted to the web.
- 3) At PRAASA, the delegate for Area 6 mentioned that their website is in both English and Spanish. Although Area 93 makes some documents available on the website in both English and Spanish, we have started discussions with Area 6 as well as our translation committee to look into doing something similar.
- 4) One final item which will tie all three items above together, and was mentioned at PRAASA by Greg, the GM of GSO, was that they have adopted a program of doing an inventory of the www.aa.org website with each rotation. We discussed this today, and all agreed that it is a good idea to do at least a mini inventory on the Area's website. More information to follow.

Grapevine: There were 9 people in attendance. The committee made 5 Grapevine cans and discussed ways to encourage groups to use them. As noted in the Grapevine Workbook, the Alternate GSR is traditionally the Grapevine Rep for that group. Anyone can go on-line at aagrapevine.org to register as a Grapevine Rep. They will send a packet including the workbook. Our next Assembly will be at Lake Isabella and District 50 is going all out for our Grapevine Birthday Celebration. Everyone is invited to this exciting event.

Audio Visual: The AV committee has doubled in size with the individual of a volunteer. We will be in Bakersfield for the 34th Annual Golden Empire Roundup April 21 and 22. Area 93 owns a set of CDs from PRAASA 2007 in both English and Spanish. Debbie will be using the English version for awhile but the Spanish version is available for borrowing now.

Registration: There were 7 people in attendance. Robert H. reported on the PRAASA Registration Roundtable. GSO is testing the new data base and hopes to have it on-line by April 16. The new system will allow for direct input from the Area Registrars. GSO has requested as many updates as possible be done by May for the GSO directory. All Districts need to turn in any changes. The committee is working on getting maps with both English and Spanish overlays. We also discussed changing sign-in procedures and adding a new sign-in for the Spanish districts. We also need a bi-lingual volunteer to help with the process.

La Vina: Melvin distributed information he received at PRAASA regarding La Vina. Melvin also discussed visits to Districts 5, 6, 14 and the DUH. They discussed how to motivate and encourage Spanish speaking members to subscribe. They are going to put together a collection of all issues of La Vina and are asking the membership to donate them. The committee plans to visit Districts 3 and 4 in the month of April.

Public Information: There were 12 in attendance. We first reviewed and learned what the responsibilities of P.I. might be, since we were all new to P.I. We also discussed the duties of an alternate P.I. committee chair. We will be obtaining literature for the committee members, especially the P.I. Kits. As a project, we discussed the traditional methods of information distribution: Libraries, public places, etc. To this end we must aid and encourage districts to do most of the distributing. We discussed ways to fund these activities for cash strapped districts. We also want to determine which districts do not have P.I. activities and ways the Area can help. We also reviewed some difficulties with PSAs, mostly cost now that PSAs have been deregulated.

Archives: There were 9 in attendance. The Akron Archivist is developing a new program for indexing inventory of items in archives. We put together 20 new Archives packets. We still need group histories, longtimers stories and any publications that groups or districts may want to contribute. We will be requesting funding not to exceed \$500 for the Archivist to attend the Archives Workshop. We still need Docents for the Repository. Please sign up. The Archives display will be taken to the San Luis Obispo Convention held August 24, 25 and 26. We discussed ways to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the Repository and decided to have a cake on March 31 at 10:00a.m. We encourage everyone to attend. Jeanine R., past Delegate, donated the 2006 PRAASA Notebook and a letter from GSO regarding Judge Flores nomination as a Class A Trustee to the archives.

Foro Update: The committee held their first meeting March 11 in District 6. No location has been selected yet. The next meeting will be held on April 1 in District 14. They have a balance of \$409.05 seed money.

Literature: There were 9 people present. We discussed the pamphlet "Native North America" deadline for stories June 30. The new revised "Too Young," "It Happened to Alice," and "It Happened to Joe" are in print and will be available as the old stock is depleted. We discussed the literature that is available from GSO that may not be in the local Central Offices and ways of letting groups know about additional literature to order through their local Central Offices. Leo advised that there are approximately 10 Central Offices in Area 93 - 7 English and 3 Spanish. Rick W. talked about ways literature is translated. A possible project for our committee will be to determine literature needs for different meetings, i.e. recovery homes, prisons, etc.

Translation: We began our meeting with the Serenity Prayer. We spoke about the translation program through the computer. The problem with this program is that the computer translate word by word and does not translate the meaning or intention of the report. But it will be tried and will see the results. We will be asking for 5 headphones from the ones at the Depository. We bought some batteries. We will be keeping note of the assistance of the members with the need of the equipment so I can report an average and according to this a petition could be made on whether buy more or keep working with what we have. at the Pre-Conference, 16 were used and today's Assembly 26. Our CMCD from the DUH, Jeanine our Past Delegate and Jose from the Intergroup Office were present at this meeting. We keep looking for bilingual volunteers with computer to help with this committee.

Guidelines & Policies: We discussed language for a motion changing the Guidelines and Policies in connection with how to deal with inactive officers and committee chairs. Scott will finalize for the ACM. We also discussed the pros and cons of posting our guidelines on the Area 93 website.

OLD ITEMS:

1. 2nd Vote to Change G&P, p. 4 Area Committee Membership. The following motion was made, seconded and approved:

G&P, p. 4:

AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

BESIDES AREA OFFICERS AND DCM's, THE AREA COMMITTEE INCLUDES DCMC'S, CHAIRPERSONS OF STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES, ~~LIAISONS TO AND FROM CENTRAL OFFICES AND H&I INTERGROUPS~~, AND ALL C.C.A.A. PAST DELEGATES.

2. New Class A Trustee from Area 93. Jeanine advised us that Judge David Flores from Santa Maria has been nominated as the New Class A Trustee and will be confirmed at the Conference. Jeanine has known and worked with Judge Flores for many years and suggested him for the nomination. He has agreed to join us at a future assembly.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Support letter for ACYPAA - Tabled. (See Chairman's Report)
2. Ask it Basket. The following questions and answers were given:
 - Q Why is the new GSR Orientation always held in the smallest, hottest room?
 - A Jeff J. discussed the challenges of various meeting halls and reminded everyone of what the guidelines for hosting an assembly are.
 - Q Will there be presentations done at the General Service Conference on the same topics we covered here and at PRAASA? If so, who gives them.
 - A Vicki B responded - Yes. They have workshops on the questions and the presentations are given by Delegates selected by the GSO staff.
 - Q If the Agenda topics come out as a .pdf can they be made available at the earliest possible opportunity (i.e. uploaded to the area website, made available either on CD or available to be downloaded at the Assembly to electronic storage devices [IPods, etc.] so background information can be made available for discussion by members at all levels?
 - A Debbie J. responded: The Agenda topics are available on CDs. They cannot be posted on the website because they are confidential and not for general distribution.
 - Q What is a "wet drunk."
 - A Robert H. defined a "wet drunk" as someone who is still drinking.
 - Q If so many divergent groups have requested special forums, there seems to be a compelling need for them. What justification has the Board given for discontinuing a service asked for, supported and wanted by the fellowship?
 - A Rick W. responded: Changing from Special Forums to Local Forums put on by local groups increases the opportunity for GSO staff to come to local events. It also encourages more input from the local communities as to forums requesting participation from GSO.
 - Q How does a Delegate become a committee chair at the conference such as Vicki - Literature. Does it have to be a second year Delegate and is the position elected or appointed by the outgoing chair?
 - A Jeanine answered - Committees meet 3 times during Conference week. At the third meeting the committee votes for the chair for the following year so all committee chairs are second year Delegates.
 - Q What is "common welfare?"
 - A Joe V. responded - AA as a whole being together looking after AA as a whole.
 - Q Understanding that each group is autonomous - what is your opinion on the use of 7th Tradition money being used to purchase speaker gifts, sobriety chips, etc.
 - A Debbie J. responded - We have no opinion on what groups do with their 7th Tradition monies.
3. PRAASA impressions from first year attendees.
 - § Great to see 1400 people in service

§ Great to meet past and present trustees.
§ No words for the love and support I felt in the room - the roundtables were great for answers.
§ Everyone was very helpful.
§ Filled up with the big picture

4. Pacific Regional Forum bid 2010 - The 2008 Regional Forum will be held in Spokane, WA. Debbie J. has looked into the possibility of and prepared a bid for the 2010 Regional Forum to be held in Area 93 at the Marriott Woodland Hills (where we hosted PRAASA 2006) and asked for a sense of the Assembly if there were interest. The Assembly unanimously agreed.
5. Written bids for the August Assembly. The Gold Coast bid and was accepted for May at the Performing Arts Center in Oxnard.

OPEN SHARING: District 13 is holding a Secretaries and Service Workshop on April 21, 2007 at the Salvation Army, 622 Wooley, Oxnard. Refreshments and lunch will be served.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G., Secretary

DATES TO CALENDAR FOR 2007:

April 14 -	ACM, Goleta, CA (NOTE THIS IS A SATURDAY – NOT SUNDAY)
May 20	- Area Assembly, Lake Isabella, CA
June 30	- Budget Setting Meeting, Jeff J.'s home
July 15	- ACM (All DCMs, Area Committee Chairs and Officers)
August 19	- Area Assembly
October 21	- ACM (All DCMs, Area Committee Chairs and Officers)
November 18	- Area Assembly
December 16	- ACM (All DCMs, Area Committee Chairs and Officers)