

# *Central California Area Assembly*

Of Alcoholics Anonymous – Area 93

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## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2007

### MINUTES

Chairman Jeff J. brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Carlos read the 12 Concepts in English and Julian read them in Spanish.

**Secretary's Report:** Sharon G. took the roll call. There were 17 DCMs, 3 Alternate DCMs, 11 Committee and Subcommittee Chairs, 2 DCMCs, 1 Past Delegate, 6 Area Officers, and 6 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 will e-mail each Chair their 2007 budget for review. The balance is \$9,184.05 but there is a deposit that isn't entered yet. After the deposit, our balance will be over the lower limit. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.

**Registrar's Report:** Ken S. reported that he will change the DCMs check-in back to the books. Asked that all DCMs pick up the GSO reports. The instructions for filling them out are on the top. DCMs need to return them at the Assembly in March. New York is changing their data base and Ken will be doing the same.

**Chairman's Report:** Jeff J. reported as follows: In January, I was invited along with Alberto to attend district 11's elections and partake of some Armenian food. It was fun assisting them with the voting. I also attended District 17's meeting on New Years Day. I am still trying to hook up with District 2 for a visit.

I met with Tamara & Alberto at the site of our pre-conference workshop and assembly. This location will work for most of our needs for the 2 days, but there are no breakout rooms which may make it difficult for the 10:30am committee meetings to function. I am not sure how this has worked out, but it seems that we (and I've been guilty of this too) have let our standards slip from our own suggested guidelines for hosting an assembly. This is why, in your DCM folders, I have included appendix H from our guidelines which includes a bid form. It is important that these committees have breakout rooms and I just want to encourage you to take a good look at these guidelines before submitting bids for future assemblies.

When consulting these guidelines, please be mindful of our present budget, our guidelines do not reflect the current moneys (as indicated on appendix H, page 3) for the rent and food. We are currently budgeted at 800 for rent and 600 for food. Also, I want to pass along this; When ever inquiring about a facility or food, etc. we never ask for a discounted price based on being Alcoholics Anonymous, but rather we would be glad to accept any deal that would

be offered to any other non-profit organization. If you have any questions regarding hosting, please don't hesitate to ask.

On Feb 3rd Debbie and I were both asked by district 1 to be on the GSO panel at the SFV Convention and I had a wonderful experience. It was very interesting to learn how the convention was started by our first panelist Eddie. Then on the 4th I helped to moderate a discussion at the 4 Area DCM Share hosted by Area 09. Our table's subject was "group visitation strategies" and I learned a lot about how our neighboring areas approach their groups. At this year's PRAASA, I am going to meet with the chairs from the other Areas involved in this event and try to assemble a loose set of "customs" for hosting that will be common to all four areas to aid in planning and preparation. Area 93 will be hosting the 4 Area DCM Share in 2008; so please remember your experiences and make note of things that went well and maybe not so well and share them with me.

Our Guidelines & Policies Chair, Robbin, has asked to step down. He has agreed to stay on as long as it takes to fill the position. So I need your help in polling your districts for someone, either a past committee chair or past dcm... or someone who has served on an area committee, but did not rotate back for this panel. Any and all suggestions please contact me by phone or by email at chairman@aaarea93.org or catch me during the break.

I am also still looking to fill the newsletter position, although we do have someone here who is interested and has experience who is visiting us today from district 16. He's checking us out.

I am looking forward to this year's Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) at the end of next week in Portland and I hope to see many of you there.

I have something else that I am excited about, but I am going to let Jeanine share this with you a little later on. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Alternate Delegate's Report:** Alberto E. reported as follows: attended my first H&I meeting. One interesting thing I heard is that the State of California at the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla was developing a new Volunteer Orientation Guide which the State has prepared. It was given to this committee for comments, and they should return it by February 15th. I also picked the flyers for the 49th YCYPAA, and the 26th Annual So. CA H&I Conference in April 27-29, which I e-mailed to all of you guys. This last one has the registration information on it. Another thing of interest to us, the Alternate Delegate from Area 08 introduced a motion that when selecting the date for the H&I Conference, consideration will be given to avoid conflict with the April GSC in New York. It was approved unanimously. I also attended the 4 Area DCM Sharing Session. I helped translate the opening remarks.

I was invited by District 1 to attend their meeting and it was a great experience, thank you Lisa. Also District 3 invited me to help encourage their GSRs to attend PRAASA. Thank you Juan Carlos, DCM for District 3.

Now regarding the dinner and speaker from New York in March, the price will be \$14. Remember that it needs to be prepaid. I would like to ask all DCMs to please start getting names from anybody that wishes to attend this dinner. I need a true count of people that will attend so I can tell the caterer how much food I will need. You can email me your list or call me with names. The dinner will be after all the panels on Saturday March 17. The speaker will be Rick W. from GSO.

And last but not least, I have copies in the back of the final Pre-Conference Workshop agenda.

**Delegate's Report:** Debbie J. reported as follows: I received the background material for the 2007 General Service Conference and Alberto and I immediately got together and started working on the final Agenda for the Pre-Conference Workshop and the Group Opinion Polls. I want to first thank Alberto for all his patience and hard work and Jesus and Alberto for the fastest translation job ever. I brought six opinion polls with me today and have placed them in the DCM folders. I would ask that the DCMs make copies and distribute them to your GSRs and work

particularly hard at getting them out to groups in your District that do not have a GSR. I forwarded them to Randy to post on Area 93's website.

I am so excited to inform you that a judge from the Santa Maria area, Judge Rogelio Flores has been nominated to serve as a Class "A" Trustee for Alcoholics Anonymous. Jeannine had submitted his name, encouraged him to apply for the position and he attended the January 2007 General Service Board weekend. His name will be forwarded to this year's conference for confirmation. I know that Jeff has already contacted him about participating in one of our Assemblies.

I want to share with you some highlights from our Pacific Regional Trustee's report after she attended the January Board Weekend at our General Service Office.

#### AAWS Report

The Fellowship New Vision (FNV) System is reportedly on schedule and within budget. They are currently transferring the data from the old system to the FNV platform. The employee training and system testing will be taking place January and February 2007 and the Area record-keeper access will begin in late March 2007, projecting to add 10 record-keepers each week. Be patient with the process.

#### Publications

Translation projects completed in the Fourth Quarter of 2006 were *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Fourth Edition in Croatian, "Information on A.A.," "A Brief Guide to A.A." and "This is A.A." in Farsi, the Public Information Workbook in Greek, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, Fourth Edition in Indonesian, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and "What Happened to Joe" in Thai and the Public Information Workbook and "Twelve Concepts for World Services Illustrated" in Turkish.

#### Grapevine Report

Projects completed this quarter included *El Grupo Base* (the Spanish-language edition of *The Home Group*); recording of an audiobook edition of *Best of Bill* in English, and a large-print edition of *Language of the Heart* went to press.

#### Literature Committee

A reminder that the request for stories submissions for "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet has a deadline of June 30, 2007. To date, they have received 34 stories. Please encourage those Native American members to submit their stories.

The Final Report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos* will be submitted to the Conference Committee on Literature.

#### International Committee

For this I will quote our Pacific Regional Trustee, Madeleine:

"I know I am guilty myself of getting caught up in the minutia of carrying out my service position in A.A. and losing sight of the big picture – that of carrying the message to the alcoholic who hasn't found our program yet. I forget that some still can't *get* to our program. Greg and Dorothy shared about their attendance at a convention where the local A.A.'s could not put up any signage advertising the location of the convention as it was illegal to meet. The Literature Table was covered with a blanket so as to not draw attention to it and

only uncovered when someone needed to obtain a piece of literature for themselves. Did you know it is illegal for citizens to say they have ever had a drink there? And the punishment is 18 lashes? And you thought the “lash of alcoholism was bad?!” Dorothy and Greg shared about members from Iran (*our disease knows no boundaries and neither does our program of recovery*) who attended the convention who, when handed 6 A.A. pamphlets translated into their native tongue of Farsi, sat with tears streaming down their faces, filled with gratitude to read the “language of the heart” for the first time in their native language. They shared how there were no A.A. groups in the open in Iran as it was illegal but there were several thousand N.A. meetings as they were not illegal. They shared how the police raid the A.A. meetings, arresting those in attendance. It makes no difference how long one has been sober, there is still a penalty for admitting to drinking alcohol. GSO’s best “guestimate” is that A.A. is in approximately 160 countries today but that doesn’t detail the circumstances surrounding that presence. I think many of us here in our conference came to A.A. to *avoid* the police and incarceration, not *incur* it! Please don’t misconstrue my words for a political or religious commentary as they are not meant to be one. The situation just reminded me of how that “buck in the basket” helps to carry the message to those who can’t get to it, can’t read it or otherwise hear it. I believe there is a serious responsibility for those of us here in the U.S./Canada, being the oldest conference, to help where others can’t. Somebody somewhere had to go out of their way to bring the A.A. message to your town, your neighborhood, your prison – someone like Ebby had to spend his own time and money to make a trip to an old friend to share his recovery. So when we feel bogged down in personalities or dotting the I’s and crossing the T’s, let’s all remember why we do what we do.”

So I want to thank all of you for the work you are doing and will continue to do in getting ready for the Pre-Conference Workshop and therefore, getting me ready to go to the Conference in April. I think that with all the communications that I received in the last few weeks from other Delegates and GSO and getting the Conference background material and reading, reading, reading, that I am starting to feel like your Delegate.

#### DCM REPORTS:

District 1: Michelle from District 7 met with us in January and gave us a presentation on Bridging the Gap. Our Alternate Delegate Alberto visited District 7 in February and inspired all present with his love of General Service. District 1 participated in the 4 Area DCM Share and received lots of insights, useful ideas and suggestions. We are considering hosting a Traditions and/or Concepts Workshop and hosting a lunch for Professionals in the San Fernando Valley to support Bridging the Gap. We would like to extend an invitation to the other Districts to participate. The bus bench project is also moving forward.

District 6: Our District had a visit from La Viña Committee to motivate the RLV (La Viña Representative) to participate at the DUH and our comrade Alberto has send me information through Internet so I can distribute this to the GSRs from the District. I want to thank our comrades for the encouragement to participate.

District 11: District 11 held their elections in January. Alberto and Jeff attended to help us with the election. District 11 manned the GSO table at the San Fernando Valley Convention, with volunteer help from Districts 1, 16 and 17. We would like to thank all who helped. We also welcomed our newest district member, Past Delegate Vicki B who graciously volunteered to be the District 11 Grapevine Chair. We look forward to working with the other districts on projects that are in the works and others that are still in the idea phase.

District 22: District 22 had its elections in January and would like to thank Jeanine R., past Delegate for facilitating. We are funding 6 people to PRAASA, the DCM, Alt. DCM, Registrar and 3 GSRs. We had 2 new

groups at our District meeting. We are planning an annual Traditions Celebration. We usually have 2 or 3 people talk on the traditions and all of Area 93 is invited.

District 7: Our DCM had to step down and we will be holding an election in March for a new DCM. We are looking into local public service announcements and will be working on our District inventory.

District 15: Districts 10 and 15 held their first joint meeting in January.

District 3: As of now our District has 7 GSR's out of 12 groups. We visit one group a week. We are motivating the groups to send new GSRs to the District. We are working with the PI committee and the 7th Foro and we continue meeting with District 4 and the San Fernando Valley Office the last Friday of the month. We are ready for PRAASA.

District 17: District 17 held its elections in January and Maureen is the new DCM. Several GSRs went with the DCM to District 1 to hear the Bridging the Gap presentation. Our Big Book and 12&12 library and school placement program has placed 19 books to date and will expend to include our senior centers. We are still participating in the monthly Parolee Orientation program at a local rehabilitation center and would appreciate any volunteers from the S.F. Valley to continue this effort. I participated at the 4 Area DCM Share both the event and the planning and learned a lot.

District 23: District 23 will host a pre-conference District Workshop to discuss the 2007 Conference Questions. We did not have enough funds to send someone to PRAASA this year but intend to discuss setting aside funds for the future. The District continues to be an active participant in PACT. The new Website is being designed. We are continuing to update registration and reach out to groups.

District 13: District 13 held their elections and Brian B. was elected DCM. District 13 will be having a Secretaries and Service Workshop on April 21. They are working on updating their Secretary Handbook and are putting together a PowerPoint presentation. District 13 is also working on getting more GSRs and registering more meetings.

District 16: In the past we had a lot of GSRs coming to the meeting straight from work and leaving early to go eat before going to meetings - so now we have pizza at the meeting. We have GSR opening sharing at every District meeting. We now read the long form of the Concepts and have a GSR share their point of view. We will be visiting the meetings without GSRs to do a presentation on suggested donations and why it is important to have a GSR from each group.

District 52: We had 19 people at our District meeting. This is very encouraging because we have had low participation in the past. Our GSRs attend the committee meetings at the Assembly and report back. We are working on our Guidelines and Policies and discussing ways to fully fund our DCM to Area functions. We are also discussing changing our District No. to 25.

District 24: All of our chair positions have been filled and we hope the enthusiasm shown at the February meeting will continue. The District has funded the DCM to PRAASA and one of our meetings funded their GSR to PRAASA. Our CPC Chair has been funded to send literature to the top 100 employers in the Simi Valley.

District 10: We established a PI committee chair and held our first joint meeting with District 15. The Tehachapi Mountain Group is asking for help with a group inventory and needs a few volunteers.

District 50: District 50 is looking forward to hosting the May Assembly. They have a new phone answering service so now they have 24/7 coverage. The District has a new Archivist and she is putting together a history of AA in the area. At the last District meeting there were 15 in attendance for 11 groups.

DUH COMMITTEE: We had our first meeting in District 3 in the San Fernando Valley. Districts 2, 3, 5, 6, 14 and 18. We had the visit from Area 93 La Viña Chair. We had the presentation of the new DCMs of the Districts.

We are encouraging the participation of the MCDs and GSRs at the Pre-Conference Workshops March 17<sup>th</sup> and the attendance at the Assembly March 18<sup>th</sup> and, also to attend PRAASA. Thank you; Francisco R. DCMC

PRESENTATION OF CONCEPT 3 - Matt E. gave the following presentation:

When I think of spirituality, I must direct my thoughts on something greater than myself, I must think of the first time I entered an AA meeting and from that moment a higher power began to manifest itself in my life and I have been driven ever since. So for me, spirituality or the spiritual will never be lacking when I turn to our third legacy, Service or may forget that first experience.

On looking at Concept 3 you can see Tradition 2 and the prayer in Step 3 where it says relieve me of the bondage of self and take away my difficulties that I may bear witness to those that I would help. And to be of service. And that is what we do in Concept 3. We delegate our authority asking that they go out and be of service for us, you know how our group feels and know the group conscience.

If you need guidance we will give it to you. But go do the work and vote your heart and we trust you to vote through your God and we know you may be exposed to a different vision. But the delegate who cannot act on his conscience in a final conference vote is not a "trusted servant" at all; he is just a messenger and that is no leadership at all.

CONCEPT III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the conference, the AA General Service Board, and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives, and thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

The group conscience of Area 93 may not at the time of the general service conference be what's best for AA as a whole as in Concept 1 states and you may change our vote based on that moment. That is the spirit of Concept 3 - the right of decision.

This is a 24 hour program and those decisions are never binding and opinions always change and live through debate and no decision is binding on the next body. That is why knowing what God's will for us today may be different tomorrow so we must trust the decisions of our trusted servant to act for us in the moment and make the best possible decision. The entire program of AA depends on mutual trust. We trust God, we trust AA and we trust each other. That's the letter of Tradition 2 - "Trusted Servants" - that we ought to trust our responsible leaders to decide. The Right of Decision is the symbol of our implicit confidence. Therefore, the traditional and practical principle has to be used at all levels to continuously balance the right relation between ultimate authority and delegated responsibility.

OLD ITEMS:

1. More central location for ACM.  
Ad-Hoc Committee Report on Relocation. Vicky B. discussed the history of the committee and how the location of Santa Paula was arrived at. She has been in contact with the Moose Lodge, the Knights of Columbus and a local hospital. She is planning a second trip to Santa Paula and will report back at the next ACM.
2. New Class A Trustee from Area 93. Jeanine advised us that Judge 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. Bridging the Gap. Michelle W. is the District 7 Chair for Bridging the Gap. She will be attending the Workshop in September. Jeff J. proposed an ad hoc committee be formed to determine the benefit of having an Area Bridging the Gap committee or if Bridging the Gap should be part of an existing committee on an Area basis.
2. Guidelines for inactive officers. Jeff J. gave the background on this item. This was brought up as part of the Area inventory. Jeff requested a sense of the ACM to refer the matter to the Guidelines & Policies Committee to draft a motion to amend the Guidelines & Policies to provide for dealing with inactive officers and committee chairs. This will be done at the next Assembly.
3. Archivist - Voting Member. After discussion it was agreed that our Delegate Debbie J. would poll the other delegates to see how this is handled in other areas and will report back at the next ACM.
4. Budget Setting Meeting. Finance Chair Pam said the date will be June 30, and after discussion it was agreed the meeting would be held at Jeff J.'s home.

OPEN SHARING: Registrar Ken S. asked that anyone needing to change the roster do so today. He also reminded everyone that the Roster is a confidential document.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G., Secretary

DATES TO CALENDAR FOR 2007:

April 14	-	ACM, Goleta, CA ( <b>NOTE THIS IS A SATURDAY – NOT SUNDAY</b> )
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)