SCAAN QUARTERLY





SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF AREA 05

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

To inform SCAA members and the AA fellowship at large of selected items from GSO, the Area and items of general interest from the Districts

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CULTURAL SAFETY In The Rooms Of A.A.

I was recently invited to speak on the topic of "Cultural Safety" for a Virtual Conference hosted by Idaho Area 18. I believe I was asked because of my recent experience with helping to start a Chinese-Speaking A.A. Group. Though it was actually the matter of creating access to A.A. that motivated the genesis of our group and not the matter of creating cultural safety, I found this topic to be a very relevant concern and worthy of our attention, especially now as we strive to preserve our unity at a time when many are feeling a sense of disunity and discord in greater society. I hope that by talking about this, we can help to create more cultural safety in our rooms and in our Fellowship so that we can stay united and so that any alcoholic who wishes to recover can feel welcome among us.



As an aside, the Chinese-Speaking A.A. Group was started this year in response to hearing from the Los Angeles Central Office that, while they received about one request each week from people looking for an A.A. Meeting in Chinese, one did not exist anywhere in the vicinity. Looking into it more, we found that there was hardly a Chinese-Speaking A.A. Meeting to be found anywhere in our Conference. We established the meeting, and it has been growing steadily. We share in both English and Chinese, with volunteers interpreting between the two languages. We have had some wonderful meetings and our membership now spans the globe. I invite you all to come and visit or become a regular member of our group too. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:30pm (Zoom meeting ID: 289 612 772) and Saturdays at 7pm (Zoom meeting ID: 841 0216 5908).

So, what is Cultural Safety, anyways? I take "Cultural Safety in the Rooms of A.A." to mean keeping our

rooms open, available, and welcoming to all people no matter who they are and no matter what differences in culture they may bring. Simply put, "cultural safety" means being able to be your truest and most authentic self without having to defend your rightful place in A.A.

Cultivating and ensuring

cultural safety, though, is not a simple matter, and cannot be simply achieved by calling all cultural differences "outside issues" and leaving them at the door. The fact of the matter is that culture is so deeply ingrained in us that it is impossible to be conscious of where our culture ends and the rest of us begins.

Cultural conflicts and offenses can arise in the most innocent of ways. For example, one common reaction to the unfamiliar is amusement. If I have never heard a particular language before or encountered some style of mannerism or dress before, or are not used to samesex relationships or seeing someone whose gender does not match their sex, it can sound, look, or seem funny. What is amusing to me, though, could be hurtful to others.

An example of this happened in the Chinese-Speaking A.A. Meeting just this past April. It was only the

second time we had our meeting online, and we were infiltrated by a massive wave of "zoom bombers" who relentlessly interrupted our meeting with racial slurs and epithets and offensive imagery. We eventually got a handle on the situation and managed to stay calm and endure the onslaught, but it was intensely unnerving and hurtful. When it was time for participation, a young lady shared. She was caucasian, and I noticed that she had been listening intently the whole meeting. She shared that she was actually trying to attend her homegroup's meeting that night. When she asked another member of her homegroup for the link, he sent her our link, and she thought he probably did this as an April fool's joke. She was very gracious and told us how she was actually very glad that it had happened and that she had gotten a lot from the shares at our meeting.

To me, though, this was unexpected and it hurt to find out that on a night when a bunch of kids on the

Simply put, "cultural safety" means being able to be your truest and most authentic self without having to defend your rightful place in A.A. internet decided to mess with us, that someone from within A.A. had treated our meeting like a joke too. As a person who loves to joke around and laugh, I could instantly see the humor in the prank - sending someone unexpectedly into a room of people speaking Chinese.

However, I learned a

very important lesson that night, because I have been all of those people before - the person having fun at others' expense. It is okay to joke and be funny, or to be genuinely amused by the unfamiliar, but it is a mistake when we make our amusement, our feelings, and our experience more important than the feelings and experience of others involved.

Offenses can also arise from issues within the person offended, like their own resentments and other spiritual wounds that have not yet healed. Sometimes, it only takes something very slight or even imagined to trigger pain from childhood memories in which similar situations led to teasing, bullying, and even violence and hatred. People might also lack the maturity needed to be strong in themselves and be able to withstand others' perceptions. I think this is a very common trait in newly recovered alcoholics who are only just learning to be their authentic selves.

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So, what can we do about these offenses and violations of cultural safety? I believe that these types of encounters are unavoidable. They are just a natural part of being human and relating to other humans. We live, we experience, we grow. The important thing is that we grow in a positive way. Are we growing towards being more accommodating, more understanding, more tolerant, more enlightened, and more loving? Or, are we growing towards the negative - digging in to defend and protect, preserve and exclude, bolstering our justifications, and ruminating with resentments?

On the whole, I think we simply need to continue forward with the path that we have already been on. Here, I mean to continue on our path into new territory, not retreading the same path by failing to enlarge and adapt our ways. We need to continue to drive our movement across new boundaries and into the reaches of more people.

Our steps teach us humility, acceptance, and how to turn away from our own selfishness and selfcenteredness in order to be of maximum service to others. They teach us how to sacrifice our egos, let go of our defects of character, and straighten out our pasts so that "we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know." They teach us how to make things right when we have stepped on toes, and how to reach beyond ourselves and our ideas in order to allow the presence of a Higher Power to direct and transform us and manifest things in our lives we could never have imagined.

I have faith that a good practice of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts naturally puts us in a posture of love and service, and that this continually carries our movement across boundaries of culture. You can see this in our history and in the way that A.A. has always been able to grow in diversity, and reach larger varieties of people in regions all over the world. This does not just happen on its own. It happens through the efforts of many people everywhere, and we need to continue this work.

We need to be conscious of approaching and welcoming every person that comes through our doors.

I need to remind myself not to simply approach those I naturally gravitate towards, whom I sense I would hit it off with, whom I would be comfortable approaching. Instead, I need to practice contrary action and approach those whom I would normally avoid. Whether the interaction goes well or not, we experience, learn, and grow, and over time, the cultural divides between us begin to fade. But we must have those encounters.

As a fellowship, we need to stick to our primary purpose, trust ourselves, trust each other, and respect group autonomy. When members of our Fellowship speak up and ask our Conference for things that would help break barriers, such as creating a new lower reading-level translation of the Big Book, or changes to our literature that could make them more accessible, inclusive, or less offensive to certain culture groups, we need to listen to these members and hear their reasons. Then, we need to take an honest assessment of how it would truly affect us, and then be as supportive and accommodating as possible to those who are expanding the reach of our A.A. program.

And, if we are ever on the other side of things, having asked the Conference for something only to find that no action was taken, we have to trust that a Higher Power has spoken through the collective conscience, and that A.A. was not meant to change in this way, at least not yet or not now. That does not mean that certain groups cannot change right now. By group conscience, groups can modify their readings, their format, and change their ways of doing things to help reach more alcoholics.

There is of course so much more to be said and so much more experience to share on this topic. This conversation always continues, and I hope that you will feel inspired to discuss and share some of your own ideas and experiences with fellow A.A.s. I hope that we may always grow in our reach to help new people, and that we are judicious enough to step aside when we find ourselves standing in the way of love. May we always let love lead us, bring us, and keep us together.

Brian P. Area 05 Accounts Treasurer Panel 69



DELEGATE'S REPORT

My inspiration for this SCAAN Article comes from a couple to be married the afternoon of August 15, 2020, the day of Area 05's Assembly. I sponsor the groom but obviously I cannot be in social distancing attendance. This young couple did something that took me by surprise. In lieu of material or monetary gifts, they asked for prayers and mass intentions.

I am in the process of reading again Pass It On - The Story of Bill Wilson and How the A. A. Message Reached the World. In 1941 while Alcoholics Anonymous was experiencing growing pains and the problems of unplanned rapid disorganized growth, Bill and Lois's life was at a very pleasant turning point. They finally had a house and enough money to support them. As I see it, the big difference in their lives was prayer and consistent quiet meditation together.

I see a parallel in A. A.'s life then and now. The COVID-19 pandemic has required our Fellowship to change our meeting form, pattern of socializing and financial stability. Bill's answer to his and Lois's problems as they moved from their Manhattan apartment to their new home upstate New York might be our best answer today. Bill wrote a prayer that he and Lois shared every morning while having coffee in bed and quiet time. You may find this custom of benefit in your home today. My hope is that it quiets the hearts and minds of so many restless souls in our Fellowship today as it has done for me.

"Oh Lord, we thank Thee that Thou art, that we are from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be Thy holy name and all Thy benefactions to us of light, of love, and of service. May we find and do Thy will in good strength, in good cheer today. May Thy ever-present grace be discovered by family and friends – those here and those beyond – by our Societies throughout the world, by men and women everywhere, and among those who must lead in these troubled times. Oh Lord, we know Thee to be all wonder, all beauty, all glory, all power, all love. Indeed, Thou art everlasting love. Accordingly, Thou has fashioned for us a destiny passing through Thy many mansions, ever in discovery of Thee and in no separation between ourselves." (p. 265)

> I can't say upon what occasion or upon what day I came to believe In a power greater than myself, but I certainly have that belief now. To acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A. A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could. (Twelve and Twelve p. 27)

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas S., Delegate Area 05 Panel 69



We as a District found ourselves in the need to take a break to reflect on what was to come and our odyssey began in mid-March 2020. The conscience of the groups communicated to us their concern about what was happening for the the COVID-19 pandemic and the information that was being received through the GSO and Area 05 as well as the government restrictions.

And they asked us: What is going to happen with the group? The groups needed to stay united, so we looked for new ways to stay united like the castaway who clings to the lifebuoy. The groups that met daily decided for the common good to meet three times a week, other groups decided to have their meetings by Zoom. In agreement to the reports that we have received as a District we have the blessing of colleagues who have knowledge in technology, brothers of the same Spanish-speaking pain joined from different countries such as Mexico, Central America, and South America who connect with us by phone and most continued to meet daily with the protocols required by the health department recommendations: Use hand sanitizer, 10 people maximum, keeping a social distance of six feet and wearing a mask.

Although we miss the people who came from court and new ones who were staying, many of us are adapting to the use of technology since it is a very drastic change in our lives, although a wave of fear overwhelms us, even so we continue to learn and we are waiting for what is happening and what is to come.

This note was written by the District # 49 service desk, we want to extend a thank you to Area 05 and servers for the support they are giving us and give us the opportunity to share this experience.

"LOVE AND SERVICE"

Julio B. DCM District 49

A GOOD TEAM SERVING THE ELDERLY



My name is Antonio and I'm an alcoholic.

At the present time, I serve as the chair of the Area 05 committee for the Cooperation with the Elder Community (C.E.C.).

My service sponsor once told me that A.A. has a tool that everybody can use on every aspect of service in Alcoholics Anonymous, and that tool is communication. Taking this into consideration, the C.E.C. alternate chair, Bea D. and I are in constant communication talking about how to do our service in the best possible way, carrying this life saving message to others with alcoholism. As C.E.C. chair, our priority is to inform the elder community about this growing problem.

This committee has one goal in mind and it is to form a committee at the district level for all of the 34 districts in Area 05. There are 28 Englishspeaking districts and 6 Spanish-speaking districts in Area 05, and just as Area 05 is a bilingual area, so is our committee. The alt. Chair Bea is fluent in English and I consider myself fluent in Spanish - so we form a good team!

Our agenda consists of visiting districts in the area and encouraging them to form a C.E.C. committee at the district level. This effort has

paid dividends already; all of the Spanish-speaking districts have their own C.E.C. committee.

Our committee members carry the message to convalescent homes and to senior citizens living in apartments. They attend health fair events in their community and visit A.A. groups to inform them about this new committee in the districts. We understand that we still have a long way to go but the results that we are seeing are good. What do we get by doing this service? Our sobriety, I strongly believe that.

Alcoholics Anonymous publishes a pamphlet "A.A. For The Older Alcoholic: Never Too Late" that has been a great help. Hopefully, in years to come, we will have more literature concerning this matter.

All of this is about "**love and service**" as Dr. Bob wrote.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a stop to many of our plans but we have faith that our Higher Power knows better. Its will be done.

Thank you,

Antonio A. C.E.C. Chair Area 05 Panel 69 Bea de la R. C.E.C. Alt. Chair Area 05 Panel 69

Do you speak Spanish or another language?

"Our primary purpose is to stay sober, and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety." -- from AA preamble

Area05 is beginning to compile a foreign language databank listing Area05 AA members who would be interested in helping alcoholics who do not speak English.

We are particularly looking for members who can volunteer as Spanish Language Interpreters for various events; this is a

huge need for our area. If you are available to interpret Spanish-English or English-Spanish please consider being of assistance to our sizeable Spanish speaking community.

We are looking for members who speak other languages as well. Assisting a non-English speaking alcoholic may involve interpreting a meeting or event, even making a phone call to someone -- really, it's up to you to decide how to help. To serve as a contact you need not be perfectly fluent; sometimes just a little help in his/her native language is enough to let a suffering alcoholic know that we care about him or her.

Date:
Name:
City/District:
Phone number:
Email:
What languages do you know:
Are you willing to accompany an alcoholic to a meeting?
Are you willing to help alcoholics outside your district?
If there are any restrictions or requests you have, please list below:
Email to: Intepretation@Area05AA.org



Yes....these are not good things for us. Loneliness and isolation can be very detrimental to us alcoholics. We are used to being together and having a common bond. We want to take care of A.A. as a whole yet, we are completely out of touch.

Still, where there's a will, there's a way. We are resilient! I have spent even more time with you all than I probably would have had we not been locked down. And I haven't really felt polarized by our lack of face-to-face contact. I mean, what would we have done if there were no Zoom meetings? We would surely be running in the streets begging for help. A phone call will work in a pinch but it's not the same as looking in someone's eyes.

Reopening meetings is not an option at this point. The rate of infection of the Covid-19 virus is higher right now than it has ever been in Los Angeles County. We follow the mandates of the State of California and the CDC recommendations for safety. The public health mandate for masks is more important than ever.

This poses more than just an "in-person" problem. Connecting with our fellows in any way possible other than personally is our mandate. I have been on Zoom Meetings, planning events like Unity Day and the Foothill RoundUp, Area 05 officer meetings, Assemblies, Area Committee Meetings, regular A.A. meetings around North America and delegate reports from all over the country. I have met and become friends with people from all around the Pacific Region and beyond, from coast to coast. I feel connected this way and none of the work of our area has been hindered...except for that one thing - a hug, a chat in the back of the room, a

i-so-la-tion

/ˌīsəˈlāSH(ə)n/

noun the process or fact of isolating or being isolated."the isolation of older people"

Similar:

separation Segregation quarantine insulation seclusion closeting protection shielding partitioning loneliness friendlessness lack of contact (sense of) exile aloneness remoteness inaccessibility

Opposite: contact accessibility

wave from across the assembly and the feeling in the room that we are all united.

Another thing I am worried about is for people not connected virtually, those who can't attend the assembly because they don't have internet service or a smart phone. There are many of our fellows in Area 05 that have connectivity restrictions. Who is checking in on them? Are they receiving our message? I have a few ideas that may be helpful to those with either accessibility or connectivity issues. The Grapevine/La Viña is one of these ideas. Can you send someone a Grapevine or La Viña subscription? Can you reach out to someone you haven't seen at one of our meetings or even someone from your group who seems absent? Not only will this journal help someone to hear from another alcoholic, it will be an easy way to connect with them until we can be together again.

Then there is the newcomer. I have been in some meetings lately on Zoom where there have been newcomers and I am amazed that they found us! Some have been returnees but some are brand new. I wonder how my alcoholism might present itself and advance in quick increments sitting alone at home drinking. The desperation, the loneliness,

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the hopelessness would all be magnified to a degree that I couldn't handle. These newcomers are brave and desperate and are having moments of clarity just as we were and did when we got here. What are we doing to ensure they can connect? The Los Angeles Central Office has been hard at work to improve its "phone tree" so that anyone, 24 hours a day can speak to another alcoholic, find a virtual meeting and get literature. Some of you may not be familiar with the central office and what they do for us but they are working hard to help those who need help during this time. www.lacoA.A..org

Area 05 has been rolling along with the changes that are forced on us, and adapting our meetings to a virtual world. There has been a huge learning curve yes but really, it has been very exciting too. The attendance at our meetings has been very good and we even have people from all over the country tuning in to watch how we do it. Perhaps General Service is reaching an even wider audience than before. Spreading the work of the conference, keeping in touch with our New York offices and securing A.A. as a whole is the primary purpose of all areas.

Accessibility can be a challenging hurdle and we have been able to have ASL and Spanish interpreters at our meetings. Wherever there is a need - the hand of A.A. will always be there. However, there have been events outside of our area, that are not Area 05 events here in Southern California that have no budget for such things and have had to ask for volunteers. This has proved difficult but so far we have been able to find members who want to be of service. The Unity Day Meeting hosted by Area 8 is a perfect example of that. The Foothill RoundUp will be over by the time you read this article but I wanted to pass on that we have had no volunteers come forward to help out yet. This is a hard thing to fulfill. There are not many people fluent in both English and Spanish in our area and most ASL interpreters are not members of A.A. We are still holding out hope that someone will arrive to help us but... how can we prevent this from happening around our areas? We never want to exclude anyone.

u·ni·ty /'yōonədē

noun: unity; noun: unity of time; noun: unity of place; noun: unity of action

the state of being united or joined as a whole."European unity"

Similar:

union unification integration amalgamation coalition federation confederation

Opposite: division disunity Finally, this brings me to the 7th Tradition. In looking at our latest draft of the 2nd Quarter financial documents, there are still contributions coming in from groups and individuals but we are not seeing the same numbers as we did in the first quarter. Of course, that makes sense. A large portion of our meetings are not meeting and most of the ones who are do not have a virtual basket set up. This can be hard to overcome as it takes someone to be responsible for a virtual banking solution but, there are meetings who are setting these up as time goes on. We have online contributions set up on our website for just this purpose. The General Service Office in New York, has had to draw down on its reserve in order to stay solvent and with delayed openings in most cities, this has also posed a problem. I ask you all to consider setting up some kind of virtual fund to make sure that the GSO in New York, LA Central Office, Area 05 and H&I are funded and able to continue to keep the hand of A.A. always outreached to help.

I am awaiting the day that we can all be together again but I am sure we can continue to carry our message to those who need help. I am very proud of the hard work our committees, DCMs, GSRs, Members and Officers continue to do. Please continue your work and attend the Area meetings. We must be diligent as well as resilient.

I remain your trusted servant as always. Thank you all for your willingness to be of service to A.A. as a whole.

Lauren A Alternate Delegate Area 05 Panel 69

Area 05 In Tech: CPC Embraces Digital Resources to Aid Recovery

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, online requests for help came from individuals seeking meetings but also concerned about the anonymity issues of attending a meeting in person. A.A.'s Twelfth Tradition states: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Despite this steadfast principle of

anonymity in A.A., some individuals still worry about the stigma related to alcoholism and feel more comfortable attending meetings online, explains Homer M., a longtime member of A.A. and a director on the Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS) Board.

Thankfully, for these individuals and others, there are

many different options for online meetings, virtual fellowship and other accessible support. Online meetings and local intergroups (each with its own website of resources and meeting listings) have been an integral part of the virtual presence of Alcoholics Anonymous for many years. Even prior to this pandemic, many A.A. members around the world – whether homebound, living in remote areas or stationed on far-flung bases – have counted on participating in A.A. remotely through A.A. literature, phone calls with other members, correspondence by letter or email and meetings online.

One of the digital resources maintained by the General Service Office is a YouTube channel with a broad list of subscribers. There are informative playlists for professionals, including video stories from A.A. members in recovery and short public service announcements. On YouTube, individuals can also explore the A.A. Grapevine channel, which provides audio stories recorded from A.A.'s international monthly journal, Grapevine. Once again, it's another attending an actual meeting. Particularly now, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic,

if a professional is looking to refer a patient who is struggling with alcoholism to an online meeting, there are five basic formats to choose from:

way that people can be introduced to A.A. without



I. Email meetings where an email is sent out on a specific topic

2. Chat (text) that includes a live chat following the same format as a face-toface meeting

3. Discussion forums or message boards where a topic is posted and group members post 24/7

4. Telephone, where

meetings are conducted via a conference-call format

5. Meetings on a variety of audio/video platforms such as Skype, Web-Ex, Zoom and others

As the world keeps changing, A.A. members continue to adapt how they reach out to people who are seeking help and how they might best cooperate with the professional community in finding recovery resources for suffering alcoholics. "We're going to see a significant increase in the use of technology for day-today communications," concludes Homer in reference to the current environment of the pandemic. "I'm a firm believer: Technology makes its greatest leap when there is a significant need. This is going to have a lasting effect on how A.A. reaches out to the newcomer."

(Excerpts from About AA: A Newsletter for Professionals – Summer 2020)

Faith B Area 05 Webmaster



I'm an Alcoholic. My sobriety date is 12/19/1983. My first A.A. International Convention was in 1985 when I was a year and a half sober. I've been to five Internationals, the last one being in 2005. I was looking forward to the 2020 International Convention in Detroit, titled "Love and Tolerance Is Our Code," for a few reasons. One was to celebrate A.A.'s 85th anniversary and to experience the thrill of everything that is Alcoholics Anonymous. I also wanted to celebrate my 60th natal birthday at the Convention. It was going to be a weekend of celebration, and that

was my plan until COVID-19!

With the beginning of Stay Safer at Home and everything being shut down, postponed or canceled, like most of us I was waiting to see what would happen with life as I knew it on hold. Once again, A.A. came through with a solution: Zoom online meetings, virtual conferences, Founders Day, Virtual

Speaker Jam, West Hollywood Sober Pride, Fellowship of the Spirit, Vancouver Celebrates Sobriety and the A.A. 2020 International.

When I logged onto the 2020 International Convention: A Virtual Experience on AA.org, I expected it to be like other virtual conferences that I've been attending, with topic meetings, workshops, many speakers and fellowship. So I was surprised to see just a table of contents on the web portal. It reminded me of a tutorial. However, I was glad to know that the page was a couple of hours. Fortunately, I was able to log on and off at my convenience. I started with the welcome message from the

going to be up for the entire month of July even

though I probably could have gotten through it in

Chair of the General Service Board. Then, I went on down the list. "A.A. Stories" had 13 speakers from Iran to New Zealand. "Oldtimers" had seven speakers with 50-65 years of sobriety. All had great messages of experience, strength, and hope.



One of my favorites was "Friends of A.A." I appreciate and am grateful for the nonalcoholic friends of the Fellowship and their service. I was especially touched by the message of the Interpreter for the Deaf, and also the Executive Director of New Beginnings Youth Home, Inc.

The presentation of the 40 millionth copy of the

Big Book to the Director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) was also touching and humbling. "Past International Conventions" brought back many good memories. "Carry the Message Pavillion," "GSO Archives," "Grapevine/La Viña" were informative.

The Flag Ceremony, if you have ever been to prior Conventions, is awe-inspiring. It's like the Olympics of A.A. It's a reminder for me of what a small part of a much bigger thing I am. I'm thankful that all the committee members and volunteers were able to bring a glimpse of what happens at the International with this Virtual Experience. I can't imagine the disappointment of the convention being completely cancelled. The Virtual Experience has given us an alternative, especially for those who are unable to physically attend. Hopefully for Vancouver 2025 this will still be an option.

Part of the last paragraph of the forward to the 4th edition has never been more relevant:

"Taking advantage of technological advances, for example, A.A. members with computers can participate in meetings online, sharing with fellow alcoholics across the country or around the world. In any meeting anywhere, A.A.'s share experience, strength, and hope with each other in order to stay sober and help other alcoholics. Modem to modem or face to face, A.A.'s speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity."

With you in the fellowship of the spirit,

Karos L. CSR Zone B.

2020 CA	LENDAR (F	Revised)		Notes
January Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 1/1 New Year's Day 1/20 Martin Luther King Day 1/20 1/20 1/20 1/20	February Su M Tu W Th F Sa 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 Z/14 Valentine's Day Z/17 Presidents Day	Su M Tu W Th F Sa Su M Tu V Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2/23 Sun 3/6 Fri - 3/8 Sun 3/21 Sat 4/4 Sat - 4/5 Sun 5/16 Sat - 5/19 Tue 6/7 Sun 6/28 Sun 7/11 Sat 7/18 Sat	Steering Committee Meeting Pre-Conference Workshop General Service Conference Spring Area Assembly 4 Area DCM Sharing Session Area Committee Meeting 4 Area Unity Day
April Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May Su M Tu W Th F Sa 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	June Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 - - - 6/21 Father's Day - - -	8/15 Sat 9/12 Sun 9/26 Sat 10/18 Sun 11/1 Sun 11/14 Sat	Steering Committee Meeting Summer Area Assembly Area Committee Meeting Steering Committee Meeting Fall Area Election Assembly El Foro de Servicios Generales Area Committee Meeting Steering Committee Meeting 1/25 Assembly - Hollywood Combined
July Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	5/25 Memorial Day	September Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	4 Area Share:	2/23 ACM - District 30 4/4 PCW Day 1 - District 3 4/5 PCW Day 2 - Westside Combined 6/7 Assembly - District 30 7/11 ACM - District 3 8/15 Assembly - District 33 & CIH 9/12 ACM - Hollywood Combined 10/18 Assembly - District 14 11/14 ACM - Westside Combined Host Area 93
October Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3	November Su M Tu W Th F Sa	December Su M Tu W Th F Sa	Cancelled Events:	7/2 - 7/5 International Convention 8/21 - 8/23 Pacific Regional Forum 9/18 - 9/20 So. Cal. Convention
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 -	Updated: Update approved at	June 7, 2020 Spring Assembly: June 7, 2020
10/12 Columbus Day	11/11 Veterans Day 11/26 Thanksgiving	12/5 Hispanic Women's Wrksp 12/25 Christmas		

DISTRICT CONTACTS

COMBINED DISTRICTS (DCMC = District Committee Member Chair)

Comite Interdistrital Hispanos (Districts 33, 34, 35, 49, 50, 55)	DCMC Alt DCMC	cih@area05aa.org altcih@area05aa.org	Juan Manuel P Amado G
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Vestside Combined Districts	DCMC	wcd@area05aa.org	Sandra C
Districts 5, 6, 8, 15, 19, 25, 36, 37/38, 39/40, 41, 43, 45, 46)	Alt DCMC	altwcd@area05aa.org	Eli J
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istrict 4: Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, La Puente, West Covina	Alt DCM DCM	altdistrict3@area05aa.org district4@area05aa.org	Mataji B Amy O
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PAST DELEGATES

To email all past delegates, use:	pastdelegates@area05aa.org	
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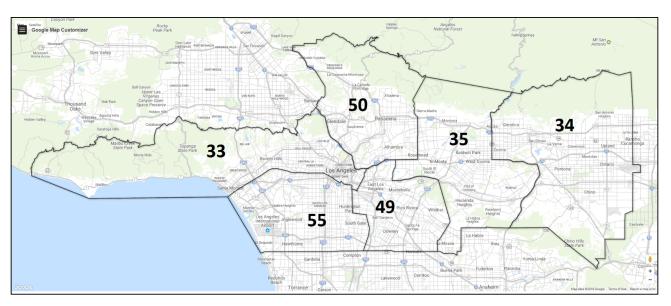
* If delegates live elsewhere and participate in another area, they are not voting members of Area 05.

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AREA MAP (English-Speaking Districts)

AREA MAP (Spanish-Speaking Districts)



A.A. AREA 05 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA SPRING ASSEMBLY Minutes Sunday – June 7, 2020 Via Zoom

Call-to-Order:

Area Chairperson, Zoraida R., opened the meeting with the Serenity prayer in English and Spanish, a welcoming statement and opening comments at 9:13 a.m. Being our first virtual Assembly it took some time to get things coordinated, members registered and allowed into the proper breakout room and enable translation. Zoraida thanked the Registration committee and Technology Ad-Hoc Committee for their support transitioning to virtual platform.

Acknowledgments & Readings:

A.A. Birthdays for anniversary dates falling between and including January 26, 2020 through June 7, 2020 were recognized, applauded and serenaded.

The 12 Concepts were read in Spanish by Olga M., Alt. DCM, District 33 The 12 Concepts were read in English by Susan P., DCM, District 2

New General Service Representatives and Alternates were welcomed. Bypassed customary introductions at the microphone due to the present circumstances. The Area Chair suggests we resume this practice once we're back in person.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairperson Zoraida R. presented the Assembly Agenda. *Made a motion to approve the agenda as presented*. Explains process to vote on Zoom. *Motion was seconded by Lionel and approved*. *None opposed*.

Roll Call provided by Area Registrar, Nikki U.:

	Total	Voting	Non- Voting	Secondary Role*
General Service Representatives	52	46	6	
Alternate General Service Representatives	13	10	3	
District Committee Members	23	20	3	3
Alternate District Committee Members	6	2	4	
District Committee Member Chairs	2	2		
Alternate District Committee Member Chairs	0	0	0	
Committee Chairs	13	13		
Alternate Committee Chairs	5	1	4	
Area Officers	7	7		
Past Delegates	5	5		3
Visitors	37		37	

Subtotal	163	106	57	6
Adjustment for Individuals Serving in Multiple Roles*	-6			
Total Attendance	157			
* These individuals serve in another area role (e.g. a Committee Chair that is also a GSR.) So that they are not counted twice, there presence in this role is not being counted towards total attendance.				

Approval of Assembly Minutes from January 25, 2020:

The Secretary advised that the Minutes of the January 25, 2020 Assembly were in the SCAAN (Area 05 newsletter) which had been distributed via shared folder (somewhere in the cloud), and via email to the Area distribution list, for approval. There was a question in chat regarding folder, since there are two links for English and Spanish. *Motion to approve was seconded and approved.* None opposed.

Delegate's Report Back: 70th General Service Conference (G.S.C.), "What I Saw, Heard and Felt"

Thomas S., reports: Welcomed visitors, acknowledged the Past Delegate of Area 5, that was delegate when Area 5 split into 2 Areas: 5 and 93. Thomas recognized the passing of past Officer, Chris S., Panel 65 Contributions Treasurer. Thomas thanked Alt. Delegate, Lauren A., for assisting in getting today's virtual Assembly and helping him prepare. Also thanked Past Delegates that have helped him throughout the process. Thanked Web Master for the work she did organizing feedback submitted via the Area 5 website, SCAAN editor, Technology Ad-hoc Committee Chair, and the interpretation from Patricia and other interpreters that serve our Area.

Addressing the Assembly, you were asked to address questions to Lauren A., regarding the 70th G.S.C., she will organize questions addressed to Thomas during his report. Please send questions to Lauren as they come to mind. He gave his first report back only 3 days after the 70th G.S.C. at the Third Legacy Meeting, hosted by Districts 3, 4 and 13, held May 23, 2020.

First part of the report back will not be G.S.C. agenda items, but his experience of the conference, spiritual nature of what occurred and insight to the agenda items. Kyle will share files as appropriate. Slide 1: Shared a photo of his parents and described the spiritual principles they taught him. Slide 2: Service photo of his military service medals, (Purple Heart and Bronze Star, among others. Slide 3: The only photo he has of himself in Vietnam. Slide 4: A list of the Past Delegates from 1951 (Panel 1, Cliff W.) through 2020 (Panel 69, Thomas S.). Slide 5: Current Delegates of the Pacific Region taken while attending 69th G.S.C. Slide 6: Pacific Region Delegates from a screenshot while attending the (virtual) 70th G.S.C. Slide 7: a photo of the 70th G.S.C. photo of NYC with the Theme: A Clear Vision for You.

Slide 8: Shared a photo of Bill W. and Bob S. wearing masks, since they were specials guests. Thomas read a presentation made by Bill W. during the first G.S.C. where Bill turned A.A. over to the Fellowship on the permanent basis. And another article in the Grapevine written in 1960 on technology in A.A. Slide 9: a photo of his desk where he attended the 70th G.S.C. from his home. Thomas described challenges of time zone differences from N.Y. to Hawaii. Breaks were sometimes reduced to five (5) minutes. It was a labor of love, but was an arduous task. Slide 11: a photo of snacks he received while attending the conference from home. Slide 12: Shared a thank you letter from the Third Legacy Meeting Chairperson for his participation.

Introductions: Alt. Delegate, Lauren A., introduced additional visitors attending today's Assembly.

Thomas next went into the documents made available via online folders: Agenda Items, Floor Actions and three (3) items that referred to our Spanish Districts, which he will cover as well. Explained to the guests, in case they were not aware, Area 5 has two (2) official languages: Spanish and English.

Agenda Committee (I): Thomas explained he's covering these first because the theme, workshop and presentations topics for the 71st G.S.C. should be a focus of the DCMs/DCMS, GSRs between now & next year's conference.

Agenda Item I.A.: Committee reviewed suggests for the 71st G.S.C. (2021) theme and recommended, 'AA in a Time of Change.' G.S.C. had 135 voting members and voting was done electronically. He wondered, "How voting would be taken?" Yes: 134, No: 1. (135 votes total). No minority opinion was voiced so the theme passed.

Agenda Item I.B.: Committee Recommending that the following presentations/discussion topics for the 71st G.S.C. (2021): Practicing A.A.'s Spiritual Principles in a Changing World: 1. Recovery In A Changing World, 2. Unity in a Changing World, and 3. Service in a Changing World. Yes: 128, No: 2. (130 votes total).

Agenda Item I.C.: Committee Recommending that the following workshop topics for the 71st G.S.C. (2021): To inform-communicate, Involve-Act, Inspire-Attract. Yes: 126, 9 No (135 votes total).

If you have questions, please send them to Lauren. Thomas is not able to cover every agenda item discussed at the conference.

Trustees Committee (XI): (Thomas S. serves on this committee). Essential business items can't be deferred. Some items, considered non-essential, will be deferred due to the reduced scheduled this year.

Agenda Item XI. A.I.: Election of two (2) Regional Trustees: Following the review by committee, Delegates of a particular Area become first contingent of voters on the new Regional Trustee candidates. The West Central Region has 8 Areas, so they had eight (8) Delegates. To complete the voting contingency, there are four (4) members from the Board of Trustees Nominating Committee, and four (4) members from the Conference Committee on Trustees, to make up a total of sixteen (16) voting members. Thomas was chosen to vote on the new Regional Trustee, as well as Kathi F., the Pacific Regional Trustees.

Agenda Item XI. A.2: The other Region, Western Canada has four (4) Areas, so there were four (4) Delegates voting and two (2) random selections to vote. Kathi F., was randomly selected again! And Thomas S.'s name came up again there! Very unlikely. Very long odds!

Last Slide: Kevin, the Delegate from Area 3, AZ, "You should buy a lottery ticket today based on getting drawn twice today for the elections!" Thomas followed his advice, however he got nothing!

Agenda Item XI. A.3: In addition, the Committee reviewed the slate of trustees and officers for the General Service Board of A.A., Inc., which was approved. Committee reviewed slate of Directors for the Grapevine and La Vina, which was also approved. There was some controversy in the election based on definition of eligibility of the Past Delegate's eligibility for the Board position. Definitions were explain differently in two separate documents. The Committee did not approve the slate with that candidate due to the definition discrepancy. Left his name off the slate.

Break from 10:40 to 10:50 a.m.

Introductions: Lauren A., Alt. Delegate., introduced and welcomed another visitor.

<u>Question</u>: From chat: "When will we get the list of Advisory Actions, Additional Considerations and Recommendations that did not result in Advisory Actions?"

<u>Answer:</u> The Area will receive a list shortly and Thomas S. will share those when available. Each Committee was given only forty-five (45) minutes to present. Whatever was not discussed got passed over. Some of the Considerations passed over during their allocated time, may have been handled as Floor Actions. He will cover those later today. There was concern about length of time and inability to extend the Conference. Many items did not get discussed as a result. He will a document to the Area when available.

The committee recommended the slate of directors for A.A.W.S. Corporate Board, was approved to be elected, minus the one name due to procedural/interpreted request for applications. However, there was strong feeling among some members the committee was over-stepping its bounds. The day prior to their presentation, the General Manager, sent a resignation letter if the slate with the one member was not to be approved. The Board of Trustees ruled Thomas' Committee out of order.

However, it was a Delegate from the Pacific Region who reminded the Conference Chair, and everyone else at the Conference, that policy is decided by the Conference and not the Board of Trustees. The Chair of the Nominating Committee indicated the Chair was Out of Order by ruling the Committee was out of order. They ran out of time due to the 45 minute limit. Call the question. Vote: Yes, 115, No: 12. However, time ran out. Two Floor Actions were raised later in the Conference to address the issue. The Floor Action raised to approve the slate was approved. He does not know the resolution at this time.

Finance Committee (IV):

Agenda Item IV.A.: Review the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix." There are three (3) parts:

- •IV.A.1.: Consider a request to revise the pie chart percentages on page 12
- •IV.A.2.: Consider a request regarding contribution percentages to service entities.
- •IV.A.3.: Consider draft language related to the "virtual basket."

The committee recommended the committee (IV.A.1) Consider request to revise the pie chart percentages, on page 12, and (IV.A.3), Consider draft language on the "virtual basket."

The committee recommended (IV.A.3) the draft language be included in the pamphlet: "Some members wanted to pass the basket virtually to collect 7th Tradition digitally. Question: How could we do this?"

Answer: A number of groups had utilized digital payment platforms as an adjunct to passing the basket in the conventional sense, in order to provide opportunities for cashless contributions. There are different digital payment platforms and it's up to the Group to decide which one to use. Some Groups have found that a smartphone-based app is the most efficient, seamless and minimally disruptive solution providing a digital contribution platform. The Group Treasurer is a likely choice to handle digital contributions. Though some Groups add more than one trusted servant to share the responsibilities, or create a new service position to inform the Group about digital payment options, and assist other Group members who are interested in contributing this way. It's up to each individual Group to decide." Vote: Yes: 128, No: 2. (130 total votes). Item passed.

<u>Floor Action #1</u>: It was recommended that the Finance Committee to expand # 2, to revise the pie-chart percentages in order to emphasize more clearly that any percentages included in the pamphlet are only suggestions and samples. Not recommendations This was forwarded to the 71st G.S.C in 2021.

Question from chat:

Q. Was the A.A.W.S. Directors elected by the Trustees on only the slate passed out? A: Thomas does not know result at this time.

Thomas' next scheduled report back will be at the Assembly 8/15. He will have the entire slide presentation that was presented to the Conference by Leslie B., who is Treasurer for the Board of Trustees. When it was presented to the conference the audit by CPAs were not complete. Some of the finance numbers shared were not final. Once the audit is complete he will have full-revised presentation.

<u>Financial Status</u>: Thomas read an email sent to the Pacific Regional Delegates mid-May regarding emergency draw down of the reserve fund due to decreased literature sales and contributions as fallout from COVID-19. The draw down takes the reserve fund from 9.4 months to 7.9 months operating reserve. We are encouraged to inform the Fellowship and share the news. Contributions can be made online and may be scheduled as recurring.

<u>Question from chat</u>: After salaries and rent what are other large expenses, and whether A.A. has applied for PPP (Congressional stimulus) or not? Answer: The numbers will be included in the Final Conference Report, and he's not certain about PPP application.

Grapevine Committee (V): Agenda Item V.G: "Consider a request to change the name of the General Service Conference Committee on Grapevine to the Conference Committee on Grapevine and La Viña." The committee recommended to change the name. Vote: Yes, 130. No, 4. (134 total votes). Passed. The new name is now in effect.

The state of Georgia (Area 16) has a program that provides certificates for La Vina to incarcerated individuals. There are 93 Areas in the North AmErica Conference (US and Canada). Area 16 allocated three (3) certificates of La Viña to a Spanish to Area 5. Our Corrections Committee will make those recommendations and will work with the Grapevine and La Viña committee here. Suggesting we increase that to five (5) since there are five Spanish Speaking Districts in Area 5.

Agenda Item V.E.: The committee considered the request to Consider a request to change the language of the first sentence of the A.A. Preamble as follows: "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share..." The committee took no action on both D and E.

Following items were forwarded to the Grapevine and La Viña corporate Board the following La Viña books in 2021 or later:

1.A.A. and Families in Recovery (working titles)

2.Spanish Speaking A.A. Members Share Experiences About How Drinking Affects The Whole Family and How A.A. Helps Repair Them from the pages of La Viña.

3.Oldtimers Stories

4.Long Time Spanish Speaking Members Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope, from the pages of La Viña

5. Twelve Steps: Spanish Speaking A.A. Members Share their Stories of Experience with A.A.s Twelve Steps from the pages of La Viña.

Questions from chat:

1.Can you explain why there was no action taken and what's next? Answer: The committee is not taking that agenda item to the floor. They had only 45 minutes, due to the shortened conference schedule.

2. Will it be referred to the next year? Answer: No action was taken and no referral to 2021.

3. When will the Committee Considerations will be available? Answer: Thomas, needs to look at the Delegate Dashboard. Once they're available he will download and share with everyone.

Literature (VI):

Agenda Item VI.F.: Review progress report regarding the development of the pamphlet for Spanish- speaking women in A.A. This item was deferred to the 71st G.S.C.

Agenda Item VI.G.: Review draft update of the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure." The committee recommended the updated draft video be approved. Vote: Yes, 131. No, 2. (133 total votes).

Agenda Item VI.J.I.: Review "A.A.W.S. Policy on Publication of Literature: Updating Pamphlets and Other A.A. Materials" approved in January 2020. The committee recommended be acknowledged and accepted by the G.S.C.

Agenda Item VI.O.: Consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic." The committee recommended the pamphlet be updated to include fresh stories and updated title that is respectful and inclusive.

The Literature Committee had many items to discuss and consider. Everything not discussed was deferred to 2021. However, there was a Floor Action #5 (Delegate Area 27): Recommended that the pamphlet from VI.O. was made and sent to the Board Of Trustees Literature Committee. Some progress was made. Whatever progress will be forwarded to the 71st G.S.C. in 2021.

<u>Other considerations</u>: Agenda Item VI.N.: Consider development of a draft Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*. And the agenda items dealing with changes in the Big Book were all deferred to 71st G.S.C. in 2021. (See the full agenda from 70th G.S.C. for details).

Floor was opened for people to ask questions:

Q: Why was the conference shortened in the first place?

A: The Board felt they do this in four (4) days rather than customary seven (7) days. Thomas offered the following. It is very different sitting in the conference for seven (7) days compared to being home for four (4). It was grueling sitting down for four (4) days. A suggestion to extend the conference by one (1) day was offered during open-mic, but, since In addition, there was a Floor Action (#2): It was recommended that, since many agenda items from shortened 70th virtual G.S.C. will be forwarded to the 71st G.S.C. in 2021, the 71st G.S.C. Trustees consider an extension to seven (7) days. That be considered regardless whether face-to-face or in-person. That did not pass.

Q: Item K and L. about the plain language, and gender neutralized, changes to the first 164 pages, etc. A: The committee considered proposals for Agenda Item VI.K.: Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as workbooks to help study the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, can be addressed with a common solution. The committee requested Trustees continue to explore these topics. The committee requested the Trustees make available, as soon as possible, in Spanish, English and French, the presentation. They want the notes and discussion that took place regarding this to be distributed to the Fellowship. The committee noted the importance that the Fellowship be informed of the nature of the accessibility challenges with regard to A.A. literature. Committee request a progress report be brought back to the Conference Committee on Literature.

Wrap Up:

•The committee on Remote Communities Committee was not held since they were remote. It is generally held Saturday evening before the official opening of the conference. The newsletter that is published by his committee, The Communicator, resulting from the Committee meeting, has not been published yet. He has multiple submissions that will be included in that newsletter.

•Article developed by the Coperan Library (?): Objective is to evaluate whether peer-led A.A., professionally delivered treatments that facilitate A.A. involvement, called Twelve Step Facilitation (TSF), achieve important outcomes

•The 85th International Convention has been cancelled.

•The 2020 Pacific Regional Forum has been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. There is discussion about a virtual forum to replace that. It was to hosted by Area 42 in Las Vegas in August 2020.

Thomas S. thanked everyone!

Lunch: Assembly broke for lunch and reconvened at 12:40 p.m. Zoraida extended the lunch break so the Interpreters would get a full half-hour break.

Area o5 Financial Update: (Contributions Treasurer, Sharron S. & Accounts Treasurer, Brian P.). <u>Brian reported:</u> Obviously, we're not doing business as usual. People are wondering how the pandemic is impacting the Area finances. Brian shares a document and forecasting due to the impacts. Savings will result due to rent, we paid in advance for 2020, and we're now using Zoom conference platform. Increased cost for holding New GSR orientation day before the Assembly. We're coming in about \$2200-2800 under budget. Just because we're not meeting in person, doesn't mean we don't have expenses. Some changes due to G.S.C. being virtual and those will be adjusted accordingly. The Pre-Conference Workshop came in under budget. The 4 Area DCM sharing Session will be virtual, Hispanic Women's Workshop is still budgeted, however, we do not know whether that will be virtual or in-person. Mileage budget will be reduced, and possibly, eliminated. Printing costs have been greatly reduced as well. H&I Conference was cancelled. We'll see how things go. A lot is up in the air. Altogether reduction of \$12-16K anticipated. Still need to cover web site fees, professional fees, and other items, such as software costs.

Sharron reported: Shared our contribution numbers for the year, most recent quarter, and the reports are in the shared folders. COVID has impacted Group contributions, since many Groups are not meeting in person, or are not collecting 7th Tradition. QICY2020 was close to budgeted. About 25% of contributions were online. Very excited about the transition. Physical contributions are transitioning downward as they go online. Area 5 enabled online contributions March, 2019. Q2 figures are not yet available since the Assembly is June 7, 2020. More will be revealed end of Q2. Please support Area 5 with your individual contributions. You can schedule recurring contributions via the web site.

2021 Budget: Nadine S., Finance Committee Chair: Nadine described the budget process. Goal is to have a balanced budget. She encouraged all those interested to attend the budget planning virtual meeting, tentatively scheduled, June 21, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Area Registrar, Nikki U., describes eligible voting members and how the registration process works.

Unfinished Business:

Motion for New Guidelines on Area 05's Process for Proposing Conference Agenda Items: Thomas B., Guidelines & Policies Chairperson and Panel 67 Past Delegate: Thomas read the proposal and made a motion to "Approve the new Article XIII as presented (below)." Per Area Guidelines and Policies, the proposal and motion was approved at the February, 23, 2020, ACM. Today's motion was seconded. Motion passed. None opposed. (Yes: 45; No: 0)

The proposal was emailed to the Area Committee the prior week and the proposed new Article XIII document was made available via the shared folder:

ARTICLE XIII

How SCAA Area 05 Recommends an Agenda Item to the Conference: Per the A.A. Service Manual, a good idea for improvement of AA Literature, policies or finance can come from anywhere within our Fellowship ---- from an AA Member, a group, a district, an area service committee, the area committee, an assembly, a delegate, officer, trustee, or GSO staff person (see Service Manual, Chapter 7, The Annual Conference Meeting, "Sources of Agenda Items"). Nothing in this Article is intended to discourage or prohibit submission of a Conference Agenda Item suggestion from any of these sources.

But if a Conference agenda item suggestion is to be recommended by Southern California Area 05 as a whole, then our long-standing practice to insure due process and full consideration requires that any formal recommendation by Area 05 of a Conference Agenda Item be vetted in the manner described below:

A Conference agenda item to be recommended by SCAA Area 05 as a whole requires:

(A) That the text of the Conference Agenda Item proposal together with any supporting background information be (1) presented in writing to the Assembly in English and Spanish, (2) presented, discussed, voted on and approved by over a 2/3rds substantial majority vote of the next Area Committee, and if approved, (3) presented, discussed, voted on and approved by over a 2/3rds substantial majority vote of the following Area Assembly. In all instances, minority opinion shall be asked for, expressed and considered, and an opportunity for re-vote, when applicable, shall be afforded.

(B) Upon the Area's approval of a Conference Agenda Item suggestion through this process, the Delegate shall submit the Conference Agenda Item suggestion to the Conference Coordinator by the date Conference Agenda Item submissions are due, along with its background information and a description of the Area's vetting and approval process.

(C) The above approval process shall also be applied for any Area recommendation of an AA Service piece to the General Service Office.

New Business:

Motion for Area Zoom Subscription with Techsoup.com, *Kyle H., Ad Hoc Technology Committee Chair:* Kyle presented background on the benefits, and cost comparison if Area does or does not acquire the annual subscription at the reduced price (\$1,189.50 -vs-\$199.99 monthly from Zoom directly).

Motion: "Approve purchasing an annual Zoom subscription from Techsoup.com for \$1189.50" was made by Kyle and seconded by the Finance Committee. The Chair opened the floor for questions. There were questions whether this was an 'unbudgeted expense request' or a 'rent' category, since we're not meeting in person due to pandemic. Rent for 2020 was prepaid to Westminster Presbyterian Church late 2019. The Area Chair decided the vote would proceed.

Finance Committee reiterated the savings, rent credits from the Church for each meeting we don't meet in person, and break-even point by November, after 6 months.

Motion to table was made and seconded. Motion to table failed with vote count: Yes: 7 and No: 42. (Total: 49). Required a simple majority [50%+1] to pass.

Motion to acquire annual Zoom subscription from Techsoup.com passed with none opposed. Vote count: Yes: 57, No: 1. (Total: 58). Minority opinion heard. No one from the prevailing side wanted to change their vote. Motion passed.

Presentation to make the Ad Hoc Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) committee a standing committee, Jennifer S., Committee Chair: *Jennifer read the proposal to make the Ad Hoc committee a Standing Committee. Full background document was emailed to the Area Committee and via the shared folder.*

Establish a standing Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) committee to continue efforts to make A.A. available to this remote population.

"The purpose of the Area 05 CYC committee is to bring the A.A. message to spaces where young people are - and to those who work with them - to help them understand how and why A.A. works, and that they are not "too young" to find recovery in A.A. We meet this aim by liaising with existing Area committees such as Corrections to establish youth-related projects, working with organizations outside A.A. that serve young people, and utilizing the engagement and experience of A.A. members who have gotten sober young (YPAA) as a resource for volunteer efforts and identifying youth-related sober events."

Presentation from New Ad Hoc Technology Committee Chair, *Kyle H.:* Kyle presented: Mentioned the information from the A.A. Technology Workshop last year was very helpful for the Area due to current pandemic.

Found myself in fear getting this off the ground. Discussed challenges starting the ad hoc committee. He was invited to participate in the 70th G.S.C. to help with the Zoom conference. Shared ideas about using timers, how to handle online voting and presentations. It was a great experience. Admitted he can't do this alone. Mentioned Claude (Alt. Chair) and Andrea, and encouraged members to join the committee.

4 Area DCM Sharing Session, *Amy O. and Jacobo M., Liaisons:* (This agenda item was originally scheduled before the Delegate's Report. However, it was inadvertently skipped.) Amy .O., presented: Committee is meeting weekly. Earlier had decided on a location, but due to COVID-19, this will be help virtually. Three topics assigned to Area 5: 1) Challenges on reopening meetings, 2) How can C.P.C. Zoom be used to reach professionals?, and, 3) How can Zoom be used with H&I? Date: June 28, 2020, starts at 9 am. They have a flier and it will be translated into Spanish before sharing.

Jacobo M., presented in Spanish. Patricia translated to another channel, which was not recorded. Switched to English. Continued reading the topics, date of the event and Zoom meeting information.

Officer Reports:

<u>Alternate Delegate, Lauren A.</u>, Including the Audit Subcommittee Report: Lauren reports, thanked our Delegate for his report and all others that have participated so far. Attended District 14 Spring Fling and District 13's meeting. Attended the H&I Intergroup meeting (Liaison from Area 5). The annual H&I Conference was cancelled and they're planning to use the same location in La Mirada. Corrections: Members can still write to inmates. Directed us to to aa.org. Attended the LA Central Office Intergroup. They are still answering phones and shipping literature. The Office Manager position has not be filled yet. Attended the Foothill Round Up planning meeting. Date: 8/1 and 8/2 as a virtual event. There will be Spanish Speaking meetings, Young People participation and our Delegate will speak. Held GSR Orientation meeting yesterday (June 6). There will be a 4 Area Unity Day (Areas 5, 8, 9 and 93) meeting held July 18th. She keeps in close contact with Thomas S., Area 5 Delegate, and has learned a lot. Lauren is available to attend District meetings. Reach out to her to coordinate. Audit Sub-Committee Report: Received the finance reports today and haven't had a chance to review the documents. She will send it out via email once it's ready.

<u>Secretary, Doug S.</u>: Including Amendments to 2020 Calendar, Doug reports: Since the last Assembly he has prepared the minutes for January Assembly (1/25/20), which was approved earlier today and February ACM (2/23/20). Doug thanked the Translation Committee for their hard work translating the reports into Spanish. Attended District 14 Spring Fling.

Doug presented updated Area 5 2020 Calendar. The Secretary is responsible for creating and maintaining the Area's business calendar. Changes were recently required to accommodate changes as a result of the current pandemic. The 70th G.S.C. was moved, which affected today's Assembly and other meetings through September, 2020. None of our October, November and December meetings were affected. Doug made a motion to: "*Accept the updated Area 5 2020 Calendar*." The calendar was shared prior to today's meeting via email and the shared folder. Doug described all changes made.

Motion: "*Approve the revised SCAA 2020 Calendar as presented*." Motion was seconded by Andrew L., and approved. None opposed. (Votes: Yes, 48. No, 0).

<u>Registrar, Nikki U.</u>: Nikki reports, thanked everyone for their patience during today's online meeting registration process. It's new territory for her as we're working through the challenges in this virtual world. Will follow up with

the DCMs to ensure we/she has accurate information from all their G.S.Rs. As you know, NY G.S.O. implemented a new ERP system. Combined with COVID-19 that has caused havoc. Nikki maintains her own database for the Area since, when Group or GSR changes go into N.Y., she feels it's going into a black hole. Thanked everyone for their patience.

<u>Accounts Treasurer, Brian P., Including Presentation of 2020 1st Quarter Financial Report:</u> Brian reports, Chinese speaking A.A. meeting that was started recently had help from Carlos G., PI Committee, getting it established. It's going very well and it's also online. Originally intended for it to be Chinese speaking only. However, by vote, they decided it should remain bilingual.

Online contributions affects the Treasurers' ability to generate reports in a timely manner to Audit Subcommittee. They rely on one another to sync up and they're getting caught up. QI is in the shared folder added into meeting chat. Report included spending -vs- budget and is just presenting today. Approval of the report will first occur at the ACM.

<u>Contributions Treasurer, Sharron S., Including Presentation of 2020 1st Quarter Contributions Report:</u> Sharron reports, the two (2) documents are in the shared folder. The contributions report finance numbers match Brian's report. Sharron describes the report, how the online and Group contributions are recorded and presented. There are new Group numbers from G.S.O. following the updates to their ERP system.

<u>Chairperson, Zoraida, R.</u>: Zoraida reports, thanked everyone for their participation, having their voices heard, especially in this online world. A lot has happened since our last ACM. Obviously, COVID. We were fortunate to attend PRAASA, which, has turned out to be the last in-person meeting. Her and Brian recently got engaged! Fortunate she has visited lots of the District meetings, and other Area meetings. She's excited about the Chinese speaking meeting that has world-wide attendance. The entire Area has access to the Zoom account. If you need access please talk to the Technology Committee. Zoraida reflected on the passing of Chris S., past Contributions Treasurer (Panel 65), District 3 DCM, and spearheaded the Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) committee.

Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

<u>Audio Visual, Miguel M., Chair:</u> Miguel reported, we're a supporting committee. We participate and stay active in all Area assemblies, ACMs, pre-conference and other Area 5 event. Our functions are as follows. The Audio Visual Committee provides and coordinates the presentation of videos to A.A. Groups, Districts, conventions and Area Committees. We were able to fulfill those commitments before the pandemic hit. We're looking into AV materials from the G.S.O. The committee plans to purchase AV equipment that is in their budget. We're preparing the 2021 budget estimates for the Finance Committee. AV committee has been asked to participate in the Foothill Round Up this August. Thank you.

<u>Archives Committee, Mary T., Chair:</u> Mary reported, apologized to the interpreters for not having a written report. She thanked Ken for the article in the SCAAN. They wear masks and gloves to protect the documents in the storage facility in Pasadena. They were meeting once a month before the pandemic hit to go over the documents, remove staples, paperclips, etc. And they found what the committee believes are treasures. They'd like to purchase a quality scanner to preserve the documents. They have found a number of documents from '50s and '60s, such as, Area 5's Panel 2 Delegate was Chuck C., wrote, "A New Pair of Glasses". Encourages members to reach out to volunteer: archives@area05aa.org. <u>Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) Committee, Joan R., Chair from WCD:</u> Joan reported, we've had lots of success past two (2) years going to senior centers in various communities. We visit with pamphlets and books. She's excited about creating a P.S.A. for Elders and put that on T.V. Seniors tend isolate, display anger, take medications, but they watch TV! Heard the C.Y.C. idea of the magazine. They would be great to develop and share with seniors. Many cross the line when they're no longer working. Please join and help! (Antonio is Chair and Bea is the Alternate.

<u>Bea, Alt. Chair:</u> Bea reports, we have not been together in a while. We're fending for ourselves right now. That being said, we're very active in Spanish community. Works with Joan and Bert in Pasadena area. Collectively, we haven't had a chance to meet.

<u>Website Committee, Shawn A., Chair</u>: Shawn reported, he facilitates communication within the Area and members of the Area. We had a 33% decrease of online surveys for the G.S.C. Not certain why the decrease and hopes it'll be better next year. If you would like post event fliers to the website, have them translated in both English and Spanish, and the committee will post. Thank you.

<u>Interpretation Ad-hoc Committee, Jamie W., Chair:</u> Jamie reported, the committee is small but mighty! We arrange to have ASL or Spanish interpretation. She will make herself available to events that aren't specifically Area events, but are within the Area. She coordinated Spanish speaking volunteers for the 3rd Legacy Meeting. She thanked Jacobo, Rogelio and Estella. If you know another language please let me know! If a need arises, she wants to be ready. Miss seeing everyone and committee members.

<u>Registration Committee, Joe T., Chair:</u> Joe reported, we are a small committee. We haven't been meeting a lot, but got together recently to prepare for today's assembly. He thanks everyone for their help getting everyone registration covered today: Crystal, Kyle, Claude and Andrea.

<u>Grapevine and La Vina Committee, Mike C., Chair:</u> Michael reported, he described purpose of the committee. Announced that all 2020 issues of Grapevine and La Vina are available on aagrapevine.org for free. Displayed a flier for Hawaii Area writing workshops, June 20 and July 18, at 6 a.m. (PDT). Described purpose of the committee. Thank you.

<u>Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Committee, Jennifer S., Chair</u>; Jennifer reported, went to Area 72 quarterly meeting they host. Will, YPAA Chair, invited her to attend. She was able to obtain an online YPAA meeting list for meetings across the country. She has a checklist of questions for considerations for working with minors. Such as, getting approvals from parents when kids are minors. They participating at the Foothill Round Up: Camp Spirit Fire with a scavenger hunt, a panel on relationships, a panel of over-21 members coordinated by OldyPA. In additional, there will be a talent show. Lastly, she thanked Ken and Ann for the article in the SCAAN.

<u>Accessibilities Ad-hoc Committee, Phranc G., Chair:</u> Phranc reports, right now it just Tim and herself. It's important that virtual meetings need interpreters too. Awareness around contributions. WCD implemented a 'gold can' for additional contributions specific to interpretation (ASL). Now have another member: Cynthia.

<u>Guidelines & Policies Committee, Thomas B., Chair</u>: Thomas reported, described the purpose of their Committee. Assists in reviewing other SCAA documents and policies for possible conflict with SCAA Guidelines and Policies and/or the A.A. Service Manual. They are not meeting lately due to COVID-19. They will being to meeting virtually. How are we going to implement guidelines and adhere to government compliance to reopen meetings? Need a master list. Thanked his committee members. <u>Corrections Committee, Dayna D., Chair:</u> Dayna reported, these are challenging times to support H&I since panels have been paused due to the pandemic. It's now more important than ever that our new members can find us. Her email is <u>corrections@areo5aa.org</u>. They need male volunteers for correspondence with inmates. Currently no virtual meetings in jails and institutions. However they are working to bring virtual meetings into transitional facilities. Dana mentioned the La Vina subscriptions Thomas S. referred during the Delegate's Report.

<u>Treatment Facilities Committee, Jim I., Chair:</u> Jim reported, there's not much happening. Though they just received a request from G.S.O. for some sort of treatment facility in District 17, which has not been active in decades. They will try to get some H&I literature over there.

<u>Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee, Kristy L., Alt. Chair:</u> Kristy reported, she's overwhelmed by the passing of Chris S. We're available for professionals: doctors, law enforcement, counselors and other facilities. Treatment facilities rely on A.A., but we don't have access right now. If you'd like her or Raymond to visit your District, please reach out to Raymond or myself.

<u>Finance Committee</u>, Nadine S., Chair: Nadine reported, Sam P. is the Alt. Chair. She encouraged Committee Chairs to submit budget requests so they can continue the 2021 budget process. They will meet soon.

<u>Technology Ad-hoc Committee, Kyle H., Chair:</u> Kyle reported, Claude X. is the Alt. Chair. Encourage members get involved. We're here to help folks leverage technology. Can be reached via email: technology@areao5aa.org

<u>Public Information Committee, Carlos G., Alt. Chair:</u> Carlos reported, thanked everyone for working for A.A. Started work with Chinese speaking meeting. People from all over the world are joining the meeting. Attendance is now about 27. Very excited.

<u>Translation Committee, Jose Luis E., Chair:</u> Jose Luis reported, thanked everyone to keep him busy! He's still learning. He's working with CIH. They appreciate everything we're doing. He misses sharing cilantro soup with us.

Good and Welfare Announcements:

•Sandra C., DCMC, going to host a virtual 'Not a Glum Lot Service Festival' on 6/21/20. Can be reached via email: info@westsidedistricts.org

•Jacobo M., Hispanic Foro, 42nd edition. Started in 1979. District 33 will host/organize the event. Recently started getting together again. Scheduled 11/1/20 Not certain whether it'll be in person or virtual. •Hispanic Women's Workshop will happen 12/5/20. Might be zoom.

Motion to Adjourn:

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting, closing with the Responsibility Pledge in Spanish and English at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug S.

A.A. AREA 05 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA SUMMER ASSEMBLY AGENDA Sunday – August 15, 2020 Zoom Meeting ID: 852 3461 1591 Passcode: area05

9:00 Welcome and Opening Comments

9:05 Call-to-Order

- AA Birthdays (June 16-August 15) The Twelve Concepts (Short Form) - Spanish and English Welcome New General Service Representatives and Alternates
- 9:25 Approval of the August 15th Assembly Agenda (Chair, Zoraida R.) Approval of June 7th Assembly Minutes (Secretary, Doug S.)
- 9:35 Delegate's Report-Back: 70th General Service Conference (Thomas S.)
- 10:35 Zoom Presentation (Technology Chairperson, Kyle H.)
- 10:50 Morning Stretch / Coffee Break
- 10:55 Area 05 Financial Update (Contributions Treasurer, Sharron S. & Accounts Treasurer, Brian P.)
- 11:05 **2021 Budget Report** (Finance Committee Chair Nadine)
- 11:15 Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports
- 12:15 Unfinished Business
- 12:20 New Business
- 12:30 LUNCH
- 1:00 Officer Reports:
 - Alternate Delegate, Including Audit Subcommittee Report (Lauren A.)
 - Secretary, Including Amendments to 2020 Calendar (Doug S.)
 - Registrar (Nikki U.)
 - Accounts Treasurer, Including Presentation of 2020 1st Quarter Financial Report (Brian P.)
 - Contributions Treasurer, Including Presentation of 2020 1st Quarter Contributions Report *(Sharron S.)*
 - Chairperson (Zoraida R.)
- 1:40 Spanish Foro Update, Foro Chairperson (Arturo, Dist. 33)
- 1:50 Presentation Reopening Our AA Groups (Guidelines & Policies Chair/Past Delegate, Thomas B.)
- 2:10 Round Tables
- 2:50 Round Table Report Backs
- 3:25 Good and Welfare Announcements
- 3:30 **Closing:** Moment of Silence and the Responsibility Statement (English & Spanish)