



# SCAAN

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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## **What Happens Next for Zoom and AA?**

COVID-19 has had a profound impact on our fellowship. In a matter of a few days in March 2020, we suspended nearly all physical meetings and facilitated an ascendancy of virtual meetings. Now as national vaccinations roll out and the COVID threat diminishes nearly every day, what's next for AA's virtual meetings? I started to explore this by reaching out to members of the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous, (OIAA) for their experiences before and after the pandemic began.



The OIAA has catered to the virtual world of AA for more than 25 years and is officially recognized by the General Service Office as a service entity for AA meetings without a physical location. It is self-supporting; gets no funds from GSO or from anywhere other than its groups. There are no paid workers. It provides no telephone services, and no publishing/physical-distribution of literature. OIAA and all its registered groups are just like the 600 or so other inter-groups except that it is structured to be of service and carry the message online and is not - as a service entity - represented at the General Service Conference except as local members participate in the "conference process."

It facilitates five distinct meeting formats: chat, email, video, phone, and forums. Before the

pandemic, there were 170 groups listed in the OIAA directory conducting meetings around the world in 16 different languages; 12 of those meetings used a video format such as Skype. As of the one-year anniversary of the shutdowns due to COVID (March 2021) there are an estimated 3,500 meetings in the OIAA directory, with over 90% of them using Zoom as their (video) format. More details are available here: <https://aa-intergroup.org/>. I am an IGR for OIAA (the exact analog to a GSR but for meetings without a physical location) and a

member of its PIC (Public Information Committee). My understanding of and facility with the AA traditions has vastly improved in the last three months as a result.

For example, a surprising number of people email me to protest about this or that group because the secretary was rude, or they did or did not read something, or the format was wrong (the list is long). Initially I wanted to say, there are no rules - we are not cops - get over it.

Now I find myself quoting tradition 4 (each group is autonomous), tradition 3 (the only requirement), tradition 2 (our leaders are but trusted servants), tradition 1

(AA unity), tradition 5 (primary purpose), tradition 12 (principles before personalities). I now look at a new email and think which tradition would best inform my answer. Sadly, my study of the traditions has not improved my forecasting abilities. I have absolutely no idea how the passing of the pandemic will impact the virtual meetings and in what form they might continue.

Homer M. of Area 51 (North Carolina) was a member of the AAWS Board from 2016 to

For my daily home meeting, zoom has doubled the average meeting size. I estimate that one-third of virtual attendees used to attend the physical meeting & about one-third are members who live remotely...

2020, a delegate for Panels 63-64, and has been an OIAA member for 15 years, including presently serving on its PIC, Unity, and CPC Committees. In his humble opinion, “AA has fundamentally changed in how we conduct meetings and carry the message. The changes are far-reaching, profound, and irreversible.” Homer sees numerous advantages to the virtual formats in carrying the message. It can reach the housebound, the remote, members constrained by various challenges both mental and physical, and it provides convenience and ease of access to members. The one big unsolved problem is money. The virtual groups are not sending money to their districts, areas, GSO/AAWS at nearly the rate that in-person meetings do. “That will have to change,” said Homer.

Lauren A., our Area05 delegate for the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference (GSC), is also not sure what the future portends for virtual meetings. She notes that participation is way up in the last year in area events. “We had more than 200 people attend the last virtual area assembly.” She thinks the convenience of virtual participation will assure that the virtual meetings continue in some form. “Consider the GSC,” she noted, “it used to be that the delegates went to New York never having met any other delegates or Trustees... and just had all this stuff dumped on them on arrival. Now

we are having delegates meet on a weekly basis for an hour on zoom. I feel like I know who they are, and that we are collectively far better prepared than in years past.”

For my daily home meeting, zoom has doubled the average meeting size. I estimate that one-third of virtual attendees used to attend the physical meeting, about one-third are members who live remotely but now attend virtually and regularly, and about one-third are hard to categorize. All that ignores the many attendees at the physical meeting who have chosen not to zoom. How will we serve all these disparate needs? Looking for guidance, I “consulted” our founder. Bill Wilson said and wrote many things, but I am flabbergasted by what he penned for Grapevine more than 60 years ago! It is timely and it challenges all of us to rise to the occasion over the next few months. It feels natural to give him the last word here.

*“A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches... nothing matters more to AA’s future welfare than the manner in which we use the colossus of modern communication. Used unselfishly and well, it can produce results surpassing our present imagination.”* – Bill W., Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., November 1960.

Jon H. - SCAAN Committee, District 3

# DELEGATE'S REPORT

I am writing this article as I await the 71st General Service Conference beginning this Saturday, April 17th. The excitement and anticipation of the coming week is palpable in my household. I am so honored that you elected me to be your delegate at the conference and filled with gratitude to be able to serve in this way. I am ready.

I have been reading the background for each and every agenda item and concentrating this week on my Public Information Committee assignment. There are seven items in the background and all of them apply to the public and their awareness of what AA is and isn't. I look forward to my committee meetings, the Delegate's Caucus where we will elect the Pacific Regions candidate for Trustee At Large and all of the presentations I will be listening to. *The Areas participation in the Panel 71 survey and the attentiveness to our two-day Pre Conference has been incredible. I receive emails every day from General Service Representatives and Committee Chairs from Area 05 asking questions about agenda items and I am always amazed at the level of commitment you all have. There have been over 300 (probably more by this reading) responses to the survey already and the feedback I received at the Pre Conference was outstanding. Great job Area 05!*

I have been able to connect with conference members, committee members, GSO staff, and trustees via Zoom this year and from what I hear from our Past Delegates, this is an amazing way to prepare and one that they were not able to experience previous. I have been prepped by the conference on how to vote, how to ask for a point of order or point of information, and how floor actions will be handled on Zoom.

Last year's Panel 70 conference was just four days and one month into the pandemic lockdown with so much up in the air and so little known about how to connect virtually. It was a difficult time. As you all know many items were forwarded to this year's conference because of the time crunch and panel 71 will be picking up those agenda items and more this year. I have been assured by the Conference Coordinator Patrick C. and several Trustees that we will have enough time for every presentation, every discussion, and every minority opinion this year. I certainly wish I could be with the conference members in person but Zoom will have to do. I am very comfortable with the trial run we had recently and that we will all be heard and all voices considered.

As we step closer and closer to being in person ourselves, we must still be cautious and aware of all mandates by L.A. County and the State of California to assure our safety. We are not through this yet and I hope you are all hanging in there, being safe and still participating in your meetings virtually. I know we will all be together again eventually and I look forward to that day. The day when I can walk around among you all and have those little chats in the back of the room, share a lunch table with you and shake a hand or receive a hug. We all miss the contact with each other and living through this time in our history will lend itself to some amazing stories. I also want to give my sincere condolences to all of the families who have lost someone due to the Covid-19 virus. It also visited our family. I hope we can all carry on without those loved ones and keep them in our hearts forever.

I had an interesting conversation with a member yesterday who was concerned that meetings in our area are not practicing the Seventh Tradition. Some reasons are technical and some are just that some members feel there is no responsibility to contribute since there is no rent to pay and no coffee to make. The technical reasons may be that some members are not comfortable with virtual money exchanges and the security issues that may arise and that is very real, but the second half of the sentence above is what concerns me the most. Thankfully I know that our General Service Rep's and other Area Committee members understand the

importance of the 7th tradition and what its purpose is. From the Green Card on SELF SUPPORT:

*'The Seventh Tradition states that Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting through our own contributions. The contributions help to cover the group's expenses. But the Seventh Tradition is more than simply paying for rent and other group expenses. It is both a privilege and a responsibility of individual groups and members to ensure that our organization, at every level, remains forever self-supporting and free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose. The monetary amount of each contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that joins us in unity with A.A. groups around the world.'*

This is so important. I urge you all to remember this when you are meeting virtually and continue to celebrate the Seventh Tradition at each and every meeting and continue to let your group know it's spiritual significance.

I look forward to being with you on May 16th to share my experience at the conference, all of the pertinent information I receive and all of the actions of the 71st General Service Conference. Until then, be safe and responsible!

Best Regards,  
Lauren A. - Delegate  
Area 05 Southern California  
Panel 71

**Join us for the Area 5  
Monthly Archives Committee Meeting  
Every last Saturday of the month at 1 PM  
Zoom ID is 817 2080 2278  
Password - area 05**

## The In's and Out's of Virtual Recovery

*A Virtual interview with Jamie W. of District 3, Mataji B. - SCAAN Chair*

**Q:** Being that there have been some in person meetings available in the last year, have you attended any and have you gained a preference for either live or virtual meetings?

**A:** I've mostly attended in person meetings held at a local park in Pasadena. We're outside, socially distanced and masks are worn by some. I'm drawn to live meetings because that's how I found my recovery and well, they/you are my people. I attend a Women's only zoom sporadically (it conflicts with other recovery meetings I attend) and I do enjoy attending the large 24 hour style AA meetings. There tend to be hundreds of people. I can lurk and get to hear recovery from many different walks of life.

**Q:** Aside from AA meetings, what general service meetings have you attended on zoom at both the district and area level.

**A:** I attend the District 3 General Service business meeting each month. I've also

attended PRAASA, the Winter Assembly, ACM, Steering Committee and the Pre-Conference Workshops at the area level.

**Q:** What have your experiences been like? How did zoom elevate these events and what have been some challenges?

**A:** My experience overall has been really good. I feel people have done a wonderful job orchestrating the online area meetings I've

attended. They go smoothly, with few tech issues. Great job guys!

Assemblies and ACM's are made better by Zoom because I can "zoom in" from

wherever I am. However, Zoom is challenging for me. I can be easily distracted, whether I'm at home, on the road or someplace else. I live alone and miss the energy of a room of people when we're in person. There's also accountability. I can't goof off or zone out too much when the person sitting next to me asks me a question about what's being talked about.



Q: You attended PRAASA this year on zoom. Were there any unexpected joys (or sorrows) that came from your experience?

A: I loved the online Hospitality Room at PRAASA. It was really fun to go in there for trivia and fellowship breaks. I wish it had been open longer! The least satisfying part of PRAASA was not being able to see my fellows, except in the Hospitality Room and during the roundtables. I know that during the main sessions we were limited by technology, but I did miss getting to see what would have been a sea of faces in little boxes.

Q: What were some of the ways people got really creative and innovative with recovery in zoom over the last year?

A: District 13 (I think?) put on a virtual movie night. It was fun to be able to watch a movie together. I attended an "All Accessibilities" committee meeting happening online once a month. We meet virtually to discuss and share ideas. At one AA meeting I attended, the cake person would draw a birthday cake for those celebrating. It was so cute to see what he would come up with. My favorite creative zoom event was put on by Camp Spiritfire (formerly Service Summer Camp and hosted by CHD). I'm a Camp Spiritfire counselor and in lieu of not being able to do camp last year, we put on a virtual Halloween/Day of the Dead shindig, 'Camp Spookyfire'. We dressed up in costumes,

made and shared altars, had a "spooky" sharing meeting and I hosted a s'mores cook along to name a few of the activities that spanned over two days. It was super fun!

Q: In regards to our three legacies of unity, service and recovery - how has 'working the triangle' been for you during the pandemic?

A: My triangle's been a bit challenged throughout the last year. Being home alone, not seeing other people reminded me of my final years suffering through my alcoholism. The tools in my toolbox have served me well, allowing me to survive and even thrive throughout this experience. I ended one type of service and transitioned into another at both the District and Area levels. The pandemic has given me time to devote to learning about my new responsibilities. There are things that keep me going. I have a wonderful sponsee and sponsor and I connect with people through zoom at both my monthly district meeting and my Camp Spirit Fire committee meetings. I love in person meetings. Can't wait to get back (hopefully mask-free at some point) and drink coffee, eat cake and give hugs, oh and hear the message of recovery of course. I do hope that meetings stay hybrid though because if I can't be there in person, it is wonderful that I can show up virtually.

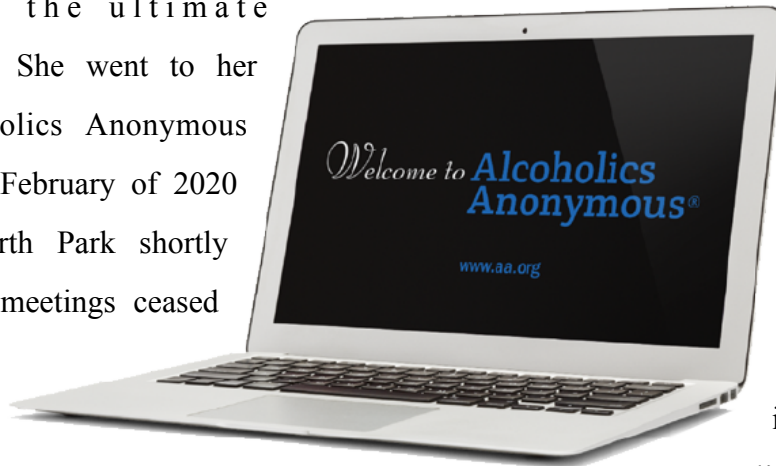
Jamie W. - Area 5 Ad Hoc Accessibilities & Interpretations Chair, District 3 Treasurer



# Getting Sober During a Pandemic

*I spoke with a fellow trudger Elizabeth P. about her experience getting sober during a pandemic. The following narrative is based on our conversation.*

When asked about what finally brought her to Alcoholics Anonymous, she shared that towards the end of her drinking people started leaving. “I was losing all my friends, and my boyfriend gave me the ultimate ultimatum.” She went to her first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in February of 2020 at Farnsworth Park shortly before AA meetings ceased to meet in person.



She recounts those first few in-person meetings, “I was so uncomfortable.” The anticipation of receiving hugs made her cringe. Small talk was not something she wanted to face.

Being a newcomer in a meeting and trying to remain incognito was familiar to me. Enter March 2020 and our first serious lockdown. As soon as AA came alive online, it gave her the opportunity to really dive head first into the ‘rooms.’ We discussed how virtual meetings

have given everyone the opportunity to attend as many meetings as possible.

“I did 3 meetings every day when I first started virtual”, she told me. In those early pandemic days, the ability to “travel” from West Hollywood to Long Beach within seconds added a new enthusiasm to 90 meetings in 90 days. She realized that

“online meetings opened more doors than it shut.” There were times, however, when she struggled to find all the east coast and overseas meetings everyone in the zoom rooms were raving about. The online lists do not always show accurate information, such as meetings no longer existing, or passwords being outdated.

So what kept her coming back virtually? She loved seeing everyone’s face all at once, people wearing their best P.J’s, cats jumping onto

screens, and the intimacy of virtually “sitting” in someone’s humble abode. The backdrops, the props, and yes, even the singing. She was also inspired by the unique, quirky ways people performed their service commitments to fit the virtual meeting vibes. “I’m sure there isn’t anything in comparison to an in-person birthday cake”, she says, downplaying her own virtual cake commitment. “I call it a tooter”, she laughs, blowing at the party instrument in her hand.

It is apparent she finds joy and gratitude in all the things recovery has given back to her. Just this morning, she woke up at 7 a.m. to celebrate her father’s 34 years of sobriety, “Something I never thought I’d do”, she tells me. Her father is among the people in her life who encouraged her recovery, having saved a seat for her until the day she asked. He told her to get a sponsor –

a female sponsor – and to make female friends, a concept that was almost foreign to her.

“A.A has shown me what true friendship looks like. People actually showing up for you.”

I never imagined that while interviewing Elizabeth that she would share with me that I gave her her very first chip back in those early days of her first in person meetings in the park. She never imagined hearing someone tell a story about losing their mother at 24 years old, and of having a drinking career that lasted 3 years, but unsurprisingly, she did hear her story. “We’re not snowflakes!”, she cries out. The comradery she has found in the zoom rooms reminds her not to try to do this on her own. “If you think you can do this without a tribe, don’t.”

Lauren R. - SCAAN Committee, District 3 GSR



## 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 their native language is enough to let a suffering alcoholic know that we care about them.

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: [Accessibilities@Area05AA.org](mailto:Accessibilities@Area05AA.org)

## Area 5 Committees

- Accessibilities
- Area Archives
- Audio Visual
- Cooperation with the Elderly Community (CEC)
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)
- Corrections
- Finance
- Grapevine/La Vina
- Guidelines and Policies
- Spanish Speaking Women's Conference
- Interpretation
- Literature
- Newsletter (SCAAN)
- Public Information (P.I.)
- Registration
- Translation
- Treatment Facilities
- Website/Tech (AREA05AA.ORG)
- Spanish Speaking Women's Workshop Ad-hoc
- Cooperation With the Young Community Ad-

## WEBSITES

[aa.org](http://aa.org) - General Service in New York. (GSO and World Services)

[area05aa.org](http://area05aa.org) - Southern California Area Assembly (Area 05)

[aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) - A.A. Grapevine (A monthly journal of A.A. stories and articles of interest.)

[aagrapevine.org/espanole](http://aagrapevine.org/espanole) - A.A. La Vina (A.A.'s Spanish Language Magazine)

# 2021 CALENDAR

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 New Year's Day  
1/18 Martin Luther King Day

February						
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						

2/14 Valentine's Day  
2/15 Presidents Day

March						
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			

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	

4/4 Easter  
4/15 Tax Deadline

May						
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					

5/9 Mother's Day  
5/31 Memorial Day

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			

6/20 Father's Day

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

7/4 Independence Day

August						
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				

Date TBD Foothill Roundup

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		

9/6 Labor Day  
9/24-9/26 SoCal Conv.

October						
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						

10/11 Columbus Day

November						
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				

11/11 Veterans Day  
11/25 Thanksgiving

December						
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	

12/25 Christmas

## Notes

1/23 Sat Winter Area Assembly  
2/21 Sun Area Committee Meeting  
2/28 Sun (Tentative) 4 Area DCM Sharing Session  
3/5 Fri - 3/7 Sun PRAASA  
3/27 Sat Steering Committee Meeting  
3/28 Sun & 4/3 Sat Pre-Conference Workshop  
4/18 Sun - 4/24 Sat General Service Conference  
5/16 Sun Spring Area Assembly  
6/12 Sat Steering Committee Meeting  
6/26 Sat Area Committee Meeting  
7/24 Sat Summer Area Assembly  
8/15 Sun Area Committee Meeting  
9/11 Sat Steering Committee Meeting  
10/17 Sun Fall Area Assembly  
11/7 Sun (Tentative) El Foro de Servicios Generales  
11/13 Sat Area Committee Meeting  
12/4 Sat Hispanic Women's Workshop  
12/11 Sat Steering Committee Meeting

**Host Districts:** 1/23 Assembly - (TBD)  
2/21 ACM - (TBD)  
4/3 PCW Day 1 - (TBD)  
4/4 PCW Day 2 - (TBD)  
5/16 Assembly - (TBD)  
6/26 ACM - (TBD)  
7/24 Assembly - (TBD)  
8/15 ACM - (TBD)  
10/17 Assembly - (TBD)  
11/13 ACM - (TBD)

**4 Area Share:** Host Area 08 / Date 2/28 (Tentative)

**Updated:** December 1, 2020

**Approved at the Winter Area Assembly:** January 23, 2021

# DISTRICT CONTACTS

## COMBINED DISTRICTS *(DCMC = District Committee Member Chair)*

<b>Comite Interdistrital Hispanos</b> (Districts 33, 34, 35, 49, 50, 55)	<b>DCMC</b> cih@area05aa.org	Antonio A
	<b>Alt DCMC</b> altcih@area05aa.org	Antonio M
<b>Hollywood-Wilshire-Downtown Combined Districts</b> (Districts 9, 10, 26, 56, 58)	<b>DCMC</b> chd@area05aa.org	Jo S
	<b>Alt DCMC</b> altchd@area05aa.org	Terry B
<b>Westside Combined Districts</b> (Districts 5, 6, 8, 15, 19, 25, 36, 37/38, 39/40, 41, 43, 45, 46)	<b>DCMC</b> wcd@area05aa.org	David W
	<b>Alt DCMC</b> altwcd@area05aa.org	Joe C

## DISTRICTS *(DCM = District Committee Member)*

<b>District 2:</b> La Cañada, La Crescenta, Montrose, Sunland	<b>DCM</b> district2@area05aa.org	Jim A
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict2@area05aa.org	Susan P
<b>District 3:</b> Altadena, Highland Park, Pasadena, S. Pasadena, San Marino	<b>DCM</b> district3@area05aa.org	Mark S
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict3@area05aa.org	Aidan S
<b>District 4:</b> Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, La Puente, West Covina	<b>DCM</b> district4@area05aa.org	Matt W
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict4@area05aa.org	Deena L
<b>District 5:</b> Culver City, West LA	<b>DCM</b> district5@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict5@area05aa.org	
<b>District 6:</b> Brentwood, West LA	<b>DCM</b> district6@area05aa.org	Sean C
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict6@area05aa.org	
<b>District 7:</b> Hollywood, West Hollywood	<b>DCM</b> district7@area05aa.org	Carl B
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict7@area05aa.org	Barnaby S
<b>District 8:</b> Beverly Hills, Century City	<b>DCM</b> district8@area05aa.org	Hanny P
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict8@area05aa.org	
<b>District 9:</b> Downtown LA, Echo Park, Silverlake	<b>DCM</b> district9@area05aa.org	Elizabeth M
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict9@area05aa.org	
<b>District 10:</b> LA - Wilshire Corridor	<b>DCM</b> district10@area05aa.org	Chris S
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict10@area05aa.org	
<b>District 13:</b> Alhambra, Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, El Monte, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, South El Monte, Sierra Madre, Temple	<b>DCM</b> district13@area05aa.org	Jenny P
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict13@area05aa.org	
<b>District 14:</b> Downey, Bell Gardens, Montebello, Paramount, Pico Rivera	<b>DCM</b> district14@area05aa.org	Susie P
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict14@area05aa.org	Christopher B
<b>District 15:</b> Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo, Westchester, Crenshaw	<b>DCM</b> district15@area05aa.org	Rich T
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict15@area05aa.org	
<b>District 17:</b> South Gate, Watts, Huntington Park	<b>DCM</b> district17@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict17@area05aa.org	
<b>District 18:</b> Whittier, La Habra, La Mirada, Hacienda Heights	<b>DCM</b> district18@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict18@area05aa.org	Carlos C
<b>District 19:</b> Compton, LA - South/Central	<b>DCM</b> district19@area05aa.org	Marquese H
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict19@area05aa.org	David R
<b>District 25:</b> Culver City, West LA, Marina Center	<b>DCM</b> district25@area05aa.org	Bill R
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict25@area05aa.org	
<b>District 26:</b> Eagle Rock, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Mount Washington, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Elysian Park, Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, El Cerrito, Palmdale, Lancaster, Lancaster, Palmdale, Lancaster	<b>DCM</b> district26@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict26@area05aa.org	
<b>District 30:</b> Ontario, Upland, Pomona, Claremont, La Verne, Alta Loma, Rancho Cucamonga, Chino, Diamond Bar	<b>DCM</b> district30@area05aa.org	Alex H
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict30@area05aa.org	Armando L
<b>District 33:</b> (Spanish-Speaking) Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Glendale	<b>DCM</b> district33@area05aa.org	Miguel Canseco S
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict33@area05aa.org	Arturo F
<b>District 34:</b> (Spanish-Speaking) San Dimas, Pomona, La Verne, Glendora, Ontario, Montclair, Claremont, Chino	<b>DCM</b> district34@area05aa.org	Tomas R
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict34@area05aa.org	Juan A
<b>District 35:</b> (Spanish-Speaking) San Gabriel East, Azusa, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Pomona, Whittier	<b>DCM</b> district35@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict35@area05aa.org	
<b>District 36:</b> West LA, Ohio Ave.	<b>DCM</b> district36@area05aa.org	Paul D
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict36@area05aa.org	Jacy K
<b>District 37/38:</b> West LA, Pico Boulevard, Bel Air, Westwood	<b>DCM</b> district37-38@area05aa.org	Susan D
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict37-38@area05aa.org	
<b>District 39/40:</b> Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica	<b>DCM</b> district39-40@area05aa.org	Allan H
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict39-40@area05aa.org	Sarah P
<b>District 41:</b> West LA, Palms, Rancho Park, Culver City	<b>DCM</b> district41@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict41@area05aa.org	
<b>District 43:</b> West Hollywood, Fairfax, Beverly Hills	<b>DCM</b> district43@area05aa.org	Zoey T
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict43@area05aa.org	Carmen R
<b>District 45:</b> Marina del Rey, Westchester, Playa del Rey, Venice, Santa Monica	<b>DCM</b> district45@area05aa.org	Mark M
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict45@area05aa.org	Bobbi T
<b>District 46:</b> Santa Monica	<b>DCM</b> district46@area05aa.org	Freedom R
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict46@area05aa.org	Jennifer W
<b>District 49:</b> (Spanish-Speaking) LA East, Lincoln Heights, Bell/Cudahy, Montebello, Pico Rivera	<b>DCM</b> district49@area05aa.org	Juan Antonio M
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict49@area05aa.org	Eddy H
<b>District 50:</b> (Spanish-Speaking) Glendale, Altadena, Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights, El Sereno	<b>DCM</b> district50@area05aa.org	Mario Rogelio A
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict50@area05aa.org	Guario R
<b>District 55:</b> (Spanish-Speaking) LA South/Central, Lynwood, Inglewood, Culver City, Santa Monica	<b>DCM</b> district55@area05aa.org	Hector Rolando Lo
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict55@area05aa.org	Mario R V
<b>District 56:</b> Hollywood, Los Feliz	<b>DCM</b> district56@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict56@area05aa.org	
<b>District 58:</b> Wilshire, Melrose	<b>DCM</b> district58@area05aa.org	
	<b>Alt DCM</b> altdistrict58@area05aa.org	

# AREA CONTACTS

## OFFICERS

Delegate	delegate@area05aa.org	Lauren A
Alternate Delegate	altdelegate@area05aa.org	Doug S
Area Chair	chairperson@area05aa.org	Nikki U
Secretary	secretary@area05aa.org	Brian P
Accounts Treasurer	acctstreasurer@area05aa.org	Zoraida R
Contributions Treasurer	conttreasurer@area05aa.org	Shawn A
Registrar	registrar@area05aa.org	Miguel M

## PAST DELEGATES

<i>To email all past delegates, use: <a href="mailto:pastdelegates@area05aa.org">pastdelegates@area05aa.org</a></i>		
*Panel 49	panel49@area05aa.org	Marita H
Panel 51	panel51@area05aa.org	Mary T
Panel 53	panel53@area05aa.org	Jim I
Panel 55	panel55@area05aa.org	Jim W
*Panel 57	panel57@area05aa.org	Gustavo T
Panel 59	panel59@area05aa.org	Mike P
Panel 61	panel61@area05aa.org	Marcus F
Panel 63	panel63@area05aa.org	Juan M
Panel 65	panel65@area05aa.org	Scott M
Panel 67	panel67@area05aa.org	Thomas B
Panel 69	panel69@area05aa.org	Thomas S

\* If delegates live elsewhere and participate in another area, they are not voting members of Area 05.

## COMMITTEES

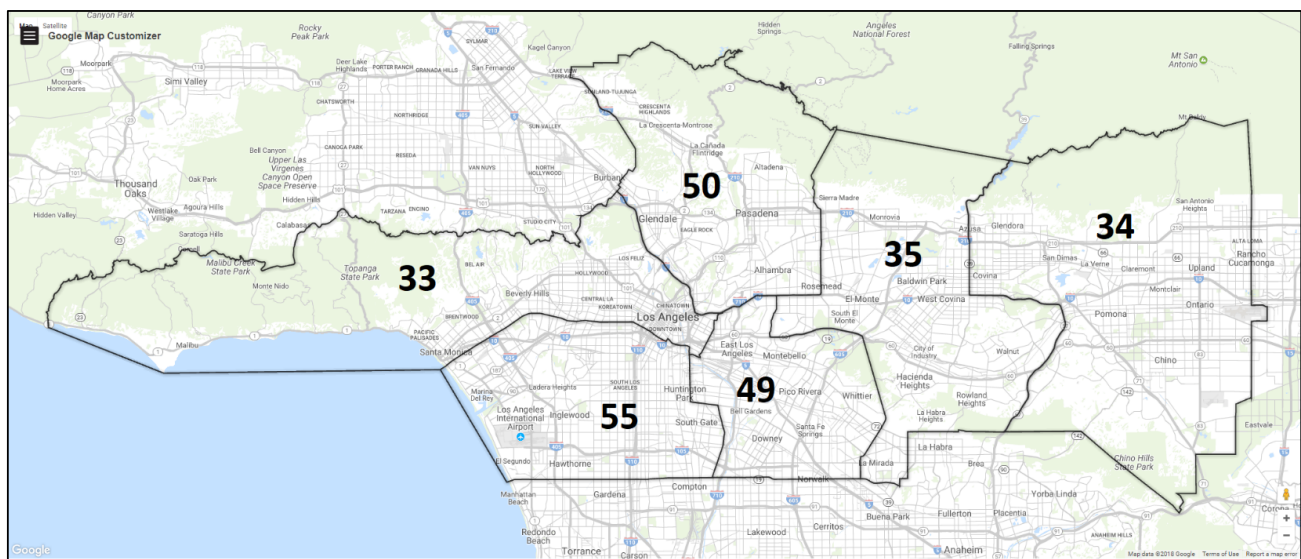
Archives	Chair	archives@area05aa.org	Sandra C
	Alt Chair	altarchives@area05aa.org	Kristy L
Audio Visual (AV)	Chair	av@area05aa.org	Juan Manuel P
	Alt Chair	altav@area05aa.org	
Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC)	Chair	cec@area05aa.org	Amy O
	Alt Chair	altcec@area05aa.org	
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	Chair	cpc@area05aa.org	Joe C
	Alt Chair	altcpc@area05aa.org	
Corrections	Chair	corrections@area05aa.org	Mimi T
	Alt Chair	altcorrections@area05aa.org	
Finance	Chair	finance@area05aa.org	Nancy H
	Alt Chair	altfinance@area05aa.org	Susan P
Grapevine & La Viña	Chair	gvlv@area05aa.org	Jacobo M
	Alt Chair	altgvlv@area05aa.org	Paul D
Guidelines & Policies	Chair	gap@area05aa.org	Bobbi T
	Alt Chair	altgap@area05aa.org	Jenny P
Literature	Chair	literature@area05aa.org	Armando L
	Alt Chair	altliterature@area05aa.org	
Public Information (PI)	Chair	pi@area05aa.org	Mike C
	Alt Chair	altpi@area05aa.org	Sean C
Registration	Chair	registration@area05aa.org	Samuel P
	Alt Chair	altregistration@area05aa.org	
SCAAN	Chair	scaan@area05aa.org	Mataji B
	Alt Chair	altscaan@area05aa.org	Nadine S
Translation	Chair	translation@area05aa.org	Arnulfo G
	Alt Chair	alttranslation@area05aa.org	Fidel M
Treatment Facilities	Chair	tfc@area05aa.org	Mike M
	Alt Chair	alttrf@area05aa.org	
Website	Chair	webchair@area05aa.org	Kyle H
	Alt Chair	altwebchair@area05aa.org	Claude D
Accessibilities/Interpretation (Ad-hoc)	Chair	accessibilities@area05aa.org	Jamie W
	Alt Chair	altaccessibilities@area05aa.org	Jose Trejo M
Cooperation with the Young Community (Ad-hoc)	Chair	cyc@area05aa.org	Gola R
	Alt Chair	altcyc@area05aa.org	Sharron S



## AREA MAP (English-Speaking Districts)



## AREA MAP (Spanish-Speaking Districts)





**A.A. AREA 05 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
MINUTES FROM THE WINTER AREA ASSEMBLY  
Saturday - January 23, 2021  
(via Zoom)**

*The 2021 Winter Area Assembly Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 23, 2021 by Nikki U., Chairperson, with a silent meditation, welcoming remarks, and opening comments.*

**Introductions: Officers, Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Alternates**

Nikki asked all Officers, and Committee Chairs and Alternates to introduce themselves:

- Delegate – Lauren A.
- Alt Delegate – Doug S.
- Secretary – Brian P.
- Accounts Treasurer – Zoraida R.
- Contributions Treasurer – Shawn A.
- Registrar – Miguel M.
- Archives Committee – Sandra C. (Chair), Kristy L. (Alt. Chair)
- Audio Visual (AV) Committee – Juan Manuel P. (Chair)
- Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) Committee – Amy P. (Chair)
- Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee – Joe C. (Chair)
- Corrections Committee – Mimi T. (Chair)
- Finance Committee – Nancy H. (Chair), Susan P. (Alt. Chair)
- Grapevine & La Viña Committee – Jacobo M. (Chair), Paul D. (Alt. Chair)
- Guidelines & Policies Committee – Bobbi T. (Chair), Jenny P. (Alt. Chair)
- Literature Committee – Armando L. (Chair)
- Public Information (PI) Committee – Mike C. (Chair), Sean C. (Alt. Chair)
- Registration Committee – Sam P. (Chair)
- SCAAN Committee – Mataji B. (Chair), Nadine S. (Alt. Chair)
- Translation Committee – Arnulfo G (Chair), Fidel M. (Alt. Chair)
- Treatment Facilities Committee – Mike Mc. (Chair)
- Website/Technology Committee – Kyle H. (Chair), Claude D. (Alt. Chair)
- Accessibilities/Interpretation Ad-hoc Committee – Jamie W. (Chair), Jose T. (Alt. Chair)
- Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Ad-hoc Committee – Gola R. (Chair), Sharron S. (Alt. Chair)

**Orientations**

***Assembly members split off into breakout rooms for the following orientations:***

- New Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Alternates (*led by Nikki U., Chair, Miguel M., Registrar*)
- New GSR and Alternate GSR Orientation (*led by Doug S., Alternate Delegate*)
- Returning GSR and Alternate GSR Orientation (*led by Lauren A., Delegate*)
- DCM, DCMC and Alternates Orientation (*led by Thomas S., Panel 69 Past Delegate*)

**Coffee Break/Morning Stretch**

*After orientations, the assembly recessed for a coffee break and morning stretch.*

**Call-to-Order**

*The assembly was called back to order at 10:00 AM with 2 minutes of silent meditation.*

Nikki read a tribute to Robert G. written by Carlos C. Robert was elected to serve as DCM for District 18 but passed away recently from COVID-19. The meeting resumed with the Serenity Prayer.

People with A.A. Birthdays (Anniversaries) from October 19, 2020 to January 24, 2021 were recognized and serenaded with the birthday song. Birthdays: Nikki U. – 1/4, Ann H. – 1/5, Susie P. – 11/14, David B. – 11/22, Sam P. – 12/24, Joe C. – 1/4, Don C. – 1/1, Nancy H. – 1/7, Alex W. – 11/30, Gola R. – 12/29, Jamie W. – 12/7, Cara L. – 11/5, Brian P. – 10/28, Mark M. – 11/6

Miguel S. (District Committee Member, District 33) read *The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)* in Spanish  
Freedom R. (District Committee Member, District 46) read *The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)* in English

Nikki U., Chairperson, invited all District Committee Member Chairs (DCMC) and Alternates, District Committee Members (DCM) and Alternates, and new General Service Representatives (GSR) and Alternates to introduce themselves.

Introductions:

- Comité Interdistrital Hispanos – Antonio A. (DCMC)
- Hollywood-Wilshire-Downtown Combined Districts – Jo S. (DCMC), Terry B. (Alt DCMC), Bud O. (GSR), Alexis R. (GSR), Louie (GSR)
- Westside Combined Districts – David W. (DCMC), Joe C. (Alt DCMC)
- District 2 – Jim A. (DCM), Susan P. (Alt DCM), Darlene B. (GSR), Holly P. (GSR)
- District 3 – Mark S. (DCM), Aidan S. (Alt DCM), Greg V. (GSR), Rob P. (GSR), Margaret C. (GSR), Georgia (GSR), Marina (GSR), Sharon H. (Alt GSR), Nicholas (GSR), Salvador H. (GSR)
- District 4 – Matt W. (DCM), Dina L. (Alt DCM)
- District 6 – Sean C. (DCM), Cara L. (GSR)
- District 7 – Carl B. (DCM), Barnaby S. (Alt DCM), Marcus B. (GSR), Trevor H. (GSR), Tripp M. (GSR)
- District 8 – Belinda T. (GSR)
- District 9 – Liz Mc. (DCM), Angela (GSR)
- District 10 – Chris S. (DCM)
- District 13 – Jenny P. (DCM), Don H. (Alt DCM), Moriah L. (GSR), Jerry S. (GSR)
- District 14 – Susie P. (DCM), Christopher B. (Alt DCM), Matt (GSR)
- District 15 – Rich T. (DCM), Claire B. (Alt DCM)
- District 18 – Carlos C. (DCM), Valerie G. (GSR)
- District 19 – David R. (Alt DCM)
- District 25 – Bill R. (DCM)
- District 30 – Alex H. (DCM), Armando L. (Alt DCM), Lowell D. (GSR)
- District 33 – Miguel S. (DCM), Arturo F. (Alt DCM), Bill L. (Secretary)
- District 36 – Paul D. (DCM), Dean B. (GSR), Alex W. (Alt GSR), Gola R. (GSR)
- District 37/38 – Susan D. (DCM), Bill S. (Alt DCM), Marilyn R. (GSR)

- District 39/40 – Monica J. (Alt GSR), Marci (Alt GSR), David B. (GSR), Ned S. (GSR), Tori F. (GSR)
- District 43 – Carmen R. (Alt DCM), Mike Mc. (GSR)
- District 45 – Mark M. (DCM), Bobbi T. (Alt DCM)
- District 46 – Freedom R. (DCM), Ann H. (GSR), Pam S. (GSR), Barb (Alt GSR), Robbie J. (GSR)
- District 49 – Juan Antonio M. (DCM), Eddy H. (Alt DCM)
- *Not present or not represented: Districts 5, 17, 26, 34, 35, 41, 50, 55, 56, 58*

### Roll Call

Miguel M. (Registrar) reported the day's attendance:

#### Area 05 Winter Assembly January 23, 2021

Potential		Present
Area Officers	7	7
DCMs	26	18
Alt DCMs	13	8
GSRs	129	29
Alt GSRs	29	4
Total	204	66

Potential		Present
Past Delegate	9	8
Committee Chair	16	16
Alt Chairs	8	6
DCMCs	3	3
Alt DCMCs	2	1
Total	38	34

Total Present	
Voting Members	79
Visitors	63
Total	142

Serving in Multiple Positions	
Individuals	15

DCMC/ALT DCMC Panel 71				
	CIH	HCD	WCD	Area 05
DCMC	1	1	1	3
ALT DCMC	0	0	1	1

Area Officers: 2021 - 2022 Panel 71					
Delegate	1	Secretary	1	Registrar	1
Alt Delegate	1	Accts Treasurer	1	Total 7	
Chairperson	1	Cont Treasurer	1		

District	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	13	14
DCM	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
ALT DCM	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
GSR	0	9	1	2	1	1	1	4	0	1	0
ALT GSR	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	12	2	2	2	3	2	4	1	2	2

District	15	17	18	19	25	26	30	33	34	35	36
DCM	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
ALT DCM	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GSR	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	1	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	2

District	37-38	39-40	41	43	45	46	49	50	55	56	58
DCM	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
ALT DCM	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
GSR	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
ALT GSR	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	2	2	3	1	0	2	0	0

### Approval of Agenda

*Nikki U., Chairperson, made a motion to approve the Assembly Agenda. The motion was seconded by Sam P., Registration Chair. The motion passed unanimously 26 to 0.*

**Approval of October 18 Assembly Minutes & 2021 Area Calendar**

*Brian P., Secretary, made a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 18<sup>th</sup> Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Doug S., Alternate Delegate. The motion passed 56 to 1. Minority Opinion: There were discussions at the assembly that were not included in the minutes. No one from the prevailing side declared a desire to change their vote after hearing minority opinion, so no motion to reconsider was made.*

*Brian P., Secretary, made a motion to approve the 2021 Area Calendar. The motion was seconded by Nancy H., Finance Chair. The motion passed unanimously 58 to 0.*

**Presentation: Service (Third Legacy) through Concept 1 (Collective Conscience) & Tradition 1 (Unity)**

Don C., GSR and Chair of 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting, gave a presentation on Tradition 1 ("Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.") and Concept 1 ("Final responsibility and ultimate authority for world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship"). Don referred to the books *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and *The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and to the service materials *Concepts Checklist* and *Traditions Checklist*. Don also stressed the importance of working all 3 sides of the triangle (Unity, Recovery, and Service).

Don also mentioned the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy meetings held in our area on the third Saturdays of the February, May, August, and November. (Dates subject to change if they conflict with other area meetings). The February meeting focuses on topics and concepts being discussed at General Service Conference this year. The May meeting features a report back from our Area Delegate. The August and November meetings focus on the Twelve Concepts.

Nikki remarked about the concepts of Unity and also of Kindness.

**Delegate's Report**

Lauren A., Delegate, introduced herself and welcomed everyone to 1<sup>st</sup> assembly of panel. She expressed that she was excited and honored to be elected as delegate.

She promised not only to make herself available to the area but also to transmit everything she receives to the area. Whatever she receives, she will send to DCMs. DCMs then need to send it to their GSRs. "Don't let the buck stop at the DCM desk; let the information flow."

She created and distributed a GSR activity calendar and a DCM activity calendar, which are tools to help navigate the Conference process throughout the year.

Lauren addressed new GSRs and reminded them of all assembly members' responsibility to attend all area meetings and of their responsibility to share information with and from their groups. She stated that theirs is a big responsibility that requires dedication and work. She thanked them on behalf of everyone for volunteering and for keeping AA safe and moving forward.

Addressing the area's committees, she mentioned how their work coincides with the committees of the General Service Conference and is very important to making changes or not making changes in AA.

Addressing District Committee Members, she listed some of their responsibilities, which include organizing their GSRs, getting group conscience, helping them make announcements, helping new groups and GSRs get established and registered, talking about conference agenda items, paying attention to groups' needs and proposing them to AA. She acknowledged that projects that create unity in districts or the area are important, but indicated that carrying the group conscience and relaying information from AA World Services, the AA Grapevine, and the General Service Conference are top priority.

She noted our duties of keeping the Fellowship informed and keeping the hand of AA outstretched to those coming in, today and in the future.

She shared that she has been assigned to the Public Information Conference Committee. They are dedicated to making sure people can find us in the digital age.

Lauren then moved to the topic of the General Service Conference. She shared that the theme of this year's Conference is "AA in a time of change" and read the 6 warranties of the Conference from Concept 12. She described the General Service Conference's week-long schedule, which typically runs morning to evening Saturday to Friday, and mentioned some of the activities at the conference, which include committee meetings, presentations, workshops, and Trustee elections. She explained how each delegate serves on one of the Conference committees, which meet earlier in the week and do the principal work, and how the last two days are spent discussing and voting on committees' recommendations. She informed the assembly that this year's Conference, while virtual, will likely follow this traditional schedule, and that there are 93 delegates.

She then addressed the question "How does an agenda item get on the agenda [for the General Service Conference]?" She explained that agenda items can come from individuals, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, or directors and staff from AA World Services, Inc. or AA Grapevine, Inc. A GSR who has an idea for an agenda item would probably want to discuss it with their group, then district or area, who can forward it to the staff member serving as Conference Coordinator. An AA member who is not a part of the general service structure could give their idea directly to their GSR or directly to the Conference Coordinator. Whatever the origin of the item, it will be studied by GSO staff members who will look at them in the context of past Conference actions and then pass it on appropriate Trustees' committee. The Trustees' Committee will determine if the item would be appropriate as a workshop or presentation subject, a proposal, or a committee concern.

Lauren shared that she had received a preliminary agenda that she has shared with all DCMs. It included 56 items that were already on the committees' agendas along with 50 new proposed agenda items, 37 of which were still under consideration by the Trustees or corporate boards. They were to discuss them in their upcoming January meetings. As of July 2020, there were 11 items carried over from previous years, 4 of which were still under consideration by the Trustees' committees or corporate boards. Lauren said that we should be finding out what the final agenda items would be soon.

Lauren shared that she had been assigned to the Public Information Committee. They were all very excited, having met for a meet and greet and also a meeting with their trustee. They were excited to get to work once the final agenda items came in. The Pacific Region delegates were meeting together for now to talk and have an AA meeting.

She explained that our area was in the Pacific Region, which consisted of 15 areas: Alaska, Arizona, Southern California, California Northern Coastal, California Northern Interior, San Diego / Imperial, Mid-Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Western Washington, Eastern Washington, and Central California, and our Pacific Region Trustee is Kathy F from Area 03 Arizona.

She further explained that we all meet every year at the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA), which is held on the first weekend of March. This year's PRAASA would be hosted by Area 93. Registration was available at [praasa.org](http://praasa.org). She explained that hosting PRAASA rotates between the 15 areas of the Pacific Region and that our area would be hosting in 2023.

Lauren informed us that the purpose of PRAASA was to "develop greater unity among the members, groups, and areas of the Pacific Region, encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences, provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous, and foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous." She said that PRAASA was a great place to meet with GSRs from the Pacific Region, that there were roundtable discussions for GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, and Officers. She shared that she had made lifelong friends there and encouraged all to register for the event, which would be held March 5-7, 2021.

Lauren then shared highlights she received from our Pacific Region trustee:

The Meeting Guide App version 3.3.4 launched on September 23, 2020 and now has support for approximate locations for meetings, which means meetings do not have to have an address and online meetings can now be listed using a general location.

There was a service app proposal. Lauren has also asked the area Website/Tech Committee to create one for the area. The app they were discussing came as a proposal from the Conference PI Committee. They were discussing what the content would be and whether hard copy kits are still effective. The proposed app would be created using Glide and provide access to information on our website, such as conference agenda background, area calendar, new GSR kit, etc. The Website/Tech Committee had been tasked to create it for us.

The Grapevine was developing samples on how Instagram might be used to carry the message. It would have daily quotes and other passages from current books. The samples would be sent to the 71<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference for discussion. They were also looking at creating a podcast and would combine efforts with AA World Services. The Public Information Committee was researching aspects of creating a podcast, such as costs, content, equipment, etc. The Grapevine also had the Carry the Message Project which generated over 3,000 subscriptions for use by the General Service Office's Corrections desk to provide subscriptions to anyone behind the walls who contacted them to ask for literature. The current issue of Grapevine (at the time) featured sponsorship, and stories of hope during the COVID-19 crisis. The Grapevine was impacted financially by COVID-19 and was facing challenges so all were encouraged to support it by subscribing. They were also asking for story submissions for upcoming issues. Topics: Silver Seniors (due 2/15/21), Young and Sober (due 3/15/21), Cooperation with Professionals (spring 2021). The Grapevine would be publishing a prison book titled "Free on the Inside."

La Viña's website is up and running at aalavina.org. They were going to be publishing a book for Hispanic women in spring 2021. La Viña was also facing financial challenges due to COVID-19. Their current issue featured the home group. They were also asking for story submissions for upcoming issues. Topics: The Annual Prison Issue (due 3/15/21), The Family (due 5/30/21). They were also always looking for submissions on individual steps and traditions.

GSO Archives received a 45 vinyl record of an old PSA from the 1970s or 1980s donated by a local AA archive. They are still considering a new AA history book about the period from 1955 to the present.

The Cooperation with the Professional Community reviewed and provided suggestions for a draft pamphlet "AA in Your Community" asking for an updated draft to be brought back in January. They also asked Trustees to record some sample audio quick clips from the pamphlet that might be posted to the YouTube channel or LinkedIn page.

The Corrections committee discussed how to make the Corrections Correspondence Service more inclusive and discussed how best to address the needs of transgender inmates wanting to participate. Since many committees have not been going into facilities due to COVID-19, many had developed lists of inmates and had been writing to them in their local area. Some were also making inroads to provide inmates with digital items, but the approval process was happening on a case-by-case basis, prison by prison. Lauren shared that when she was our Liaison to Hospitals and Institutions, she learned how tedious and lengthy the process to change things with correctional facilities can be.

Financial figures from 11/30/2020 showed contributions of \$8,868,455. With 92% of the year lapsed, 90% of the expected amount had been received. Since contributions normally peaked in December, we were on track to exceed expectations. Gross literature sales were \$8,681,943. With 92% of the year lapsed, 88% of the expected amount had been generated. Literature sales also normally peaked in December, so we were coming close to meeting forecasts.

The revenue was split 41% literature, 59% contributions, which was different from the usual, which was historically 58% literature, 42% contributions in the past.

In Publishing, the book Living Sober has been posted on aa.org in both printed and audio versions for free in English, French, and Spanish. There were holiday offers that were still good through 1/31/21 that offered a 15% discount for orders over \$100, and a free replica first edition first printing big book for each copy of the book Our Great Responsibility purchased.

In Technology, the Director of Technology Services gave an update on Fellowship Connection which was previously known as My Portal. Fellowship Connection went live 12/14/21.

In Literature, a pamphlet for Spanish-Speaking women has been drafted and reviewed. Appointed Committee Member Amalia C was working with Publishing on an updated draft to be presented at the Conference. A final draft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Pamphlet would also be presented at the Conference. Accessibility of the Big Book: Common Solutions had been recorded in English, and they were working on captioning it in French and Spanish. They were working on requests to update the pamphlet A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic with fresh stories and a more respectful and inclusive title.

Public Information was discussing a request to create podcast. The committee reviewed the Communication Services Department's research regarding possible formats, discussion topics, target markets, and other subjects. They requested that the staff secretary send a memo to the chair of the General Service Board because of a need for more comprehensive discussion. They were in the very beginning stages. They had been using Google Ad Words and were trying to establish a baseline so that they could benchmark results of using them. From September 9 through October 6 the total grant spend was \$1,000. There were two groups of ads: one for those seeking help and one for finding a

meeting. The data for the 29 days showed more interest in the one for finding a meeting, with the most clicks coming from men ages 25-34, and the second most clicks coming from women 25-34. These are categories that General service has been trying to reach and increase visibility with. The program was on pause, due to some keywords being flagged, which was a normal occurrence for those in the health care space. They were working with Google to get it cleared up.

Lauren then spoke about the upcoming Pre-Conference Workshop. To her, the Pre-Conference Workshop was the most important area meeting. Addressing GSRs, she told them it was their responsibility to receive their group's conscience on as many agenda items as possible, bring them to the workshop, where there would be roundtable discussions and report-backs. The workshop is where she would get their feedback to bring to the Conference. She said that she would be listening. She suggested getting started by distributing the preliminary agenda items to get conversations started. Then, when the final agenda items were distributed, they could ask their group's Secretary if they could have some time to talk about the Conference and choose one or more items to discuss that the group would be interested in. She explained that GSRs would receive background information to go along with the items. She suggested having a separate zoom meeting or asking the Secretary to leave the meeting open afterwards for a discussion.

Lauren informed us that she had been told that she would be receiving the final agenda in English on February 15 and in Spanish a few weeks after. When she received all of the versions, she would send them to the area. She and the Alternate Delegate, Doug S. were starting work immediately on the Pre-Conference Workshop which was scheduled for Sunday 3/28/21 and Saturday 4/3/21. There would also be a survey posted to our area website where all the items would be posted with the background.

Lauren announced that she would be holding a "Meet with the Delegate" zoom meeting on 2/6/21 where all could come and visit and ask questions or share about topics for 2 minutes each. She wanted to meet and communicate with everyone as much as she could. If it were successful, she would consider making it a monthly or quarterly meeting.

Lauren offered to join district meetings but noted she might not always be available leading up to the Conference. She was going to announce some dates for her report-backs soon and would report back at the May assembly.

Lauren closed by sharing that Tradition Two says that AA groups are to be the final authority and that their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only. Bill called our society "a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to ensure that our democracy of World Service will work.

She thanked the assembly for listening to her first report and then moved on to answering questions.

"What can we as DCMs do besides get more GSRs to help out our Delegate?"

Lauren answered that they could work on the agenda items and make sure that whatever information was sent to them got to the GSRs – it was all pertinent information. The GSRs need to know so they could report it to their meetings and spark interest in World Services. Getting more GSRs would give the area more voices to hear from but dissemination of information was very important.

"How do I obtain a copy of the Conference Report?"

Lauren answered that it was available on our website [area05aa.org](http://area05aa.org)

"There were a number of dates you were rattling off. I couldn't write them all down."

Doug sent the person the area calendar and activity calendar with all event dates.

"Would you mind sharing again how a local meeting can get its meeting ID and password onto the Meeting Guide?"

Lauren suggested sending your group's information to our Registrar, Miguel, or sending it directly to the Registration desk at the General Service Office.

Someone asked about what the other Google Adwords were besides "Find a Meeting". Lauren answered that it was "Seeking Help", and reiterated that "Find a Meeting" was the most clicked on

"Is there a written Delegate's report that you can post in the chat today?"

Lauren answered "no", but explained that she has a report in the SCAAN, and said that maybe it's something she needs to think about and that maybe she could condense her notes and put it on the website.

Lauren thanked everyone and directed all to email her at [delegate@area05aa.org](mailto:delegate@area05aa.org) or call her if they had questions. She would be happy to talk.

*The Area Assembly recessed for lunch at 12:02 PM*

*The Area Assembly was called back to order at 12:32 PM*

### **Approval of ACM Approved 2021 Area Budget**

Nancy H., Finance Chair, presented the 2021 Area Budget, which was preliminarily approved at the 11/13/21 Area Committee Meeting, with the following amendments: (1) Line 350-25 Cont. Treasurer Mileage was increased from \$200 to \$1000 to provide more funds for the Contributions Treasurer to drive between his home and the Area's P.O. Box every two weeks. (2) Line 300-19 Del. NY Conf Addit'l Cont was increased from \$156 to \$400 in response to a letter from the General Service Office that detailed the costs to fully fund our Delegate to the Conference.

With the amendments, the total income remained as it was at \$39,701, but total expenses increased to \$40,785, so the presented budget was not balanced.

Nancy also mentioned that the budget was designed last year to allow for a half-year's worth of in-person meetings, and if we do not end up meeting in person, there could be potential for expense reductions later in the year that we could vote as an area to approve.

***Nancy H., Finance Chair, made a motion to approve the Admended 2021 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Shawn A., Contributions Treasurer and member of the Finance Committee.***

- ***A friendly amendment was offered by Doug S., Alternate Delegate, to change line 300-20 Delegate NY Conference from \$1,000 to \$0, since this line is for travel expenses related to attending the General Service Conference which will once again be virtual.***
- ***A friendly amendment was offered by Brian P., Secretary, to change line 300-20 Delegate NY Conference from \$1,000 to \$100 instead since last year, there were still expenses for a conference call and group gifts for the Pacific Region trustee and Conference Committee Secretary even though the Conference was virtual. This friendly amendment was accepted.***
- ***A friendly amendment was offered by David W., DCMC, Westside Combined Districts, to increase line 100-0 Total Contributions to \$39,885 from \$39,701 in order to have a balanced budget. This friendly amendment was accepted.***
- ***A friendly amendment was offered by Jacobo M., Grapevine Chair, to add money to the budget for printing SCAAN in Spanish because many in the Spanish-Speaking Community rely on the printed version and do not have access to the web version.***

Discussion:

- There was already \$1,000 in line 520-30 SCAAN PSP that could be used for printing
- In the past, we printed 200 Spanish and 250 English copies of each edition of SCAAN for under \$2,000 a year, so the \$1,000 would be sufficient to print only the Spanish copies

***The motion passed unanimously 56-0.***

Nancy announced that she would be sending the newly approved 2021 budget to the area after making the approved adjustments to the spreadsheet.

### **Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings**

***Assembly members split off into breakout rooms for Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings at 12:56 PM***

***The Assembly reconvened at 1:30 PM***



Nikki U., Chairperson, welcomed everyone back, and expressed that she hoped everyone enjoyed their committee meetings. As new GSR, it took her a while to figure out where she belonged or where she might be most useful. She advised that it might take others a few assemblies as well.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Alternate Delegate, Doug S., reported the following:**

Doug learned from Charlie W a long time ago that his primary role was to pray for the Delegate, not only for her to have gotten all she needed from the area, but also that she stayed safe healthy so that she could attend the Conference.

It was also his job to be the area's liaison to the Los Angeles Central Office, Los Angeles Hospitals & Institutions Committee, and The Foothill Roundup.

He conducted the new GSR orientation that morning and thanked those who attended. He offered to be reached at [altdelegate@area05aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@area05aa.org) if there were any follow-up questions, and mentioned that all contact info is on our website.

Doug shared that he will be working closely with Lauren on the Pre-Conference Workshop, which was to be a 2-day event scheduled for Sunday 3/28/21 and Saturday 4/3/21. They would be selecting people from the area to present on various topics. There would be roundtables and more information would be coming out once they got the final agenda and background. Everything would be posted on the website and there would be plenty of communication so that everyone could be well prepared to take the information back to their groups.

He attended LA Central Office's board meeting on 1/14/21. He introduced himself to them, and there were some people he already knew. They discussed their project to relocate their office to reduce costs and their plans to interview candidates for their Office Manager position. Their Directory Committee was working to update their meeting directory and could use volunteers to help verify meetings, especially virtual meetings. They would be removing their link to an external Google Sheet that listed online meetings during COVID-19 because they needed to separate themselves from the external website. They were looking into adding Venmo to their site, now that Venmo was providing business accounts.

Doug also mentioned the Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and encouraged all to put it on their calendars and get prepared for it.

He attended the North America Alternate Delegates' Meeting, which included Alternate Delegates from areas in the US and Canada. Their first meeting was a meet and greet, but they were going to set up topics that regions could present on at future meetings, which would be held on the first day of each month during their panels.

Doug then reported in his capacity as our Chief Financial Officer and explained that it is also his duty to run the Audit Subcommittee, which ensures that the work of the Accounts Treasurer and Contributions Treasurer is accurate. He mentioned that the current reports which would be voted on shortly were accurate and that the numbers matched between the two treasurers. He explained that he would be working with two past delegates on the audit subcommittee to make sure that their audits are performed in a timely manner.

Doug thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve, made himself available to visit meetings, and directed everyone to contact him via his email or phone, which they could find in the SCAAN.

#### **Secretary, Brian P. reported the following:**

Brian expressed that he was very excited to be starting the new panel with everyone and congratulated all who had a new service position. He thanked Doug S., his predecessor for handing things off and explaining things so well to him. He shared that he hoped to be doing a good job for everyone with the minutes and calendar and to be doing things in a timely manner.

Since the last Assembly, he attended the US/Canada Virtual Regional Forum which was a great event put on by the General Service Office. He encouraged all to attend the next one if they were to have it again. He also attended District 15's event on the Oxford Groups which was a great experience. He also attended the Hispanic Women's Workshop, which allowed men to observe for the first time this year, and he thought it was incredible and was very impressed.

He shared that he is registered for PRAASA, and that one of the members from the Chinese and English Group that was started with the help of the area's Public Information Committee would be speaking at PRAASA on Sunday in Chinese about her experience getting sober in China and then moving to the US. Another member from the group would be interpreting for her.

Brian also shared that several years back, members in the area encouraged him to submit an agenda item proposal to create a Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts book. The item was approved by the area and forwarded to the Conference but did not become an Advisory Action. However, they decided to create a 3 legacies pamphlet, possibly because of the agenda item. They had a call for stories and he submitted what he wrote when he presented the agenda item at our Pre-Conference Workshop and it was just accepted for the draft pamphlet. He encouraged everyone to participate in the conference process and to suggest items for the Conference.

**Accounts Treasurer, Zoraida R. reported the following:**

Zoraida thanked Nikki U. and the Tech Committee for doing a great job.

She shared that she was excited about the new Third Tradition pamphlet for Spanish-Speaking women that was to be reviewed at the Conference this year. The pamphlet came from an agenda item that started in Area 05, was approved by the area, forwarded to the Conference, and passed almost unanimously. She gave a shout-out to Amalia C., who was serving as our interpreter that day, and shared that Amalia was the member on the Trustees' Literature Committee who was working on the pamphlet and that she was working with many Spanish-Speaking women to make sure that it happened. Zoraida thanked Amalia for her work.

Zoraida also shared that she attended the Hispanic Women's Workshop and was then serving on their Advisory Board. The workshop is another Third Tradition service that Area 05 took the lead on, and it had been growing immensely. The next workshop was to be held in Arizona Area 03, which would be the first time it would be held outside of the state of California.

Zoraida announced that the International Women's Conference was coming up and that it would be virtual. One of her sponsees serves on their committee and told her they had over 7,000 women registered from over 50 countries. She encouraged all women to register.

She was invited to speak at the US/Canada Regional Forum, which was a great experience. She also attended a few district events.

Zoraida also shared about the Chinese English AA Meeting that was started last panel. February 19<sup>th</sup> would be the 1-year anniversary of the group, which started with 6 members and now that we were meeting virtually, had over 30 from all over the world. One of our members wrote an article that was going to be featured in the Grapevine about his experience during the outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Zoraida presented the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial report, which was prepared by the previous Accounts Treasurer, Brian. She noted that it was being offered for presentation only that day and that the numbers matched the Contributions report. She offered to answer any questions then, or people could email her at [acctstreasurer@area05aa.org](mailto:acctstreasurer@area05aa.org) if they wanted to ask later.

Nikki U. noted that the financial report was sent out to DCMs and that GSRs should ask their DCMs if they have not received it yet.

**Contributions Treasurer, Shawn A., reported the following:**

Shawn explained that he visits the Area's post office box to collect contributions that come in via check and money order and then he deposits them at the bank after entering them into a spreadsheet for the Audit Subcommittee to review.

He thanked his predecessor, Sharron S. for her help and continued support.

He mentioned that he had sent the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Contributions Report to the area via email and also shared it via the zoom meeting's chat. Like Zoraida said, the numbers from his report matched the numbers from the Accounts Treasurer's report. He offered to answer any questions.

Shawn also encouraged everyone to utilize online contributions to save themselves from the effort it takes to mail a physical contribution and offered to help anyone who wanted to learn how to do that. He said that members could email him at [conttreasurer@area05aa.rog](mailto:conttreasurer@area05aa.rog) or text him and they could set up a time for him to walk them through the process.

Shawn expressed excitement for getting to wear a tie and thanked everyone.

*Registrar, Miguel M., had connection problems, so Nikki U., Chairperson, decided to give her report first.*

**Chairperson, Nikki U., reported the following:**

Nikki thanked everyone for their patience and understanding and said that this is a learning experience. She shared her memory of when she first came into General Service and Marcus F. was the Chairperson. She remembers him vigorously and heartily debating a point of order at the assembly with another member and thinking to herself, "that must be the worst position to ever be in." She humorously noted that here she was in that same position. She related that it was only because she has stuck around for such a long time and have had the privilege to grow as an individual, an alcoholic, and a service person all these years. She said that we first "keep coming back" to stay sober, but now, she kept coming back because she has heard so often that we have to trust God, clean house, and help others. She said that she gets to help others through General Service.

Nikki offered to visit meetings via zoom.

She acknowledged that she did not know it would take so long to introduce everyone that morning, but that she would be getting better, and that we would all be getting better together. She thanked everyone for their patience and help.

She thanked the area and explained that she does this because, like Robert (who was mentioned in a tribute earlier that day) she wants AA to be here for her children and grandchildren.

**Registrar, Miguel M., reported the following:**

Miguel thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as Registrar and said that it was an honor. Just like Nikki, when he first got to General Service, he was overwhelmed. He did not think this changed from GSR to DCM to Committee Chair to Officer, but what does change is that he got to have all of the experiences he did.

He appreciated the energy that he got this morning from everyone registering and encouraged everyone not to lose their enthusiasm as they worked the best that they could through the transition period.

Miguel shared that as Registrar, he is responsible for registering attendance and taking roll call at Area Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings, maintaining current registration information for Southern California AA groups, GSRs, districts, and Area Committee members and all alternates, and assisting districts in their registration work. He planned to do those things and more and said that he needed some time and patience.

He expressed that he was pleased to announce that Fellowship Connection, the revamped database at the General Service Office is up. There was a one-hour training for all Area Registrars to get them familiar with Fellowship Connection release 2.1. Through Fellowship Connection, he would have access to current info, search, filter, and download custom and standard reports, including reports grouped by district or service position and contact reports. This would allow him to fulfill his duties as Registrar. He registered for the class for Monday 2/1/21 at 6pm ET. Miguel said that once he got trained, he would make changes to the General Service Office and Area 05 database.

Miguel explained that the transition to the new database is why people had not been seeing changes as fast as they would have liked, because he needed to coordinate with the General Service Office database, and that as they continued on, things would straighten out for future assemblies. He said that the Registration Committee would provide more information that would be necessary for all new GSRs, DCMCs, and DCMs.

Miguel thanked all for their patience and support and for allowing him to serve.

**Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Archives Chair, Sandra C., reported the following:**

Sandra thanked Archives Committee members and the new Chairperson for asking her to serve. She said that she was very new to Archives and expressed gratitude for having Mary T., the past Archives Chair from the last two panels who did a wonderful job with the displays she put together and the DVD player they purchased.

She shared that they have a storage unit in Pasadena but they had not been there because of the pandemic. They planned to start digitizing their records and purchasing a new scanner soon for that purpose.

She welcomed the new members of the Archives Committee, of which there were nine that day from nine different districts. They had Carmen, the Westside Combined Districts' Archives Chair with them, and she was hoping to have a liaison from each district. They wanted to collect event flyers from the districts, and she reminded everyone to put the year of their event on the flyers, so that they could know when the event was when looking back.

The committee talked about having people taking photos of their meeting rooms like what is seen in the Grapevine magazine. She instructed members to send photos of their meeting rooms to her. She said there were a lot of great ideas and great people in the committee and she invited all to come join the committee.

She mentioned that there was a national archives workshop coming up in September, but they were not sure whether it would be held virtually or in-person in San Antonio, TX. She said that hopefully some of them would attend, or if it was virtual that all of them would attend.

**Audio Visual Chair, Juan Manuel P., reported the following:**

Juan Manuel wished everyone a good afternoon and informed everyone that he received all AV equipment from Miguel M. (the past panel's AV Chair) in December and that the committee has not had any activities yet. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) Chair, Amy O., reported the following:**

Amy reported that they had a great committee meeting that morning with six people in attendance. Members told her that COVID-19 had been a challenge because they were not able to get into nursing homes to provide literature. They discussed ideas for getting active again, which included creating an agenda item to create some literature for the elder community, creating a public service announcement (PSA), and seeking out volunteers to grow the committee.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Joe C., reported the following:**

Joe said that they had ten members in attendance at their meeting that morning and announced that the committee now had Alternate Chairs, Bill R. from District 25 and Sue S. from District 14.

He informed the body that there had been a lot of turnover at the General Service Office and that there is a new hire, Amy B., who would be the new staff person assigned to the CPC desk. He explained the verticality of the committee structure, meaning that there was a Conference Committee that they collaborate with. He was going to reach out to Amy B. to find out what they were working on at the Conference level so that he could bring that information to our area.

He also said that most districts in our area have a CPC committee and that he would disseminate information to them and encourage the chairs of those committees to join the Area CPC Committee. He related that they wanted to work towards drawing a line from district to area to General Service Conference.

**Corrections Chair, Mimi T., reported the following:**

Mimi announced that they had a new Alternate Chair, Barnaby, who came with a lot of background in Hospitals and Institutions (H&I), which was perfect because in California, unlike Hawaii and other places, they liaison with H&I. She also mentioned that due to COVID-19 they had not been able to bring meetings anywhere.

The committee was focused on their Contact Upon Release program, which was like Bridging the Gap. They had forms which were brought into institutions which would then be returned to the committee who would then provide AA

contacts to people upon their release. This was not happening because of COVID-19, so they were brainstorming about how to get this program running again, like different ways of getting the forms in. They also talked about finding holes, or “pukas”, in H&I’s coverage where the committee could provide literature where H&I was not providing it.

They planned to work with other committees to share or ask for literature or raise money with pink cans, which is a program that started in Northern California for raising money to provide inmates with Grapevine subscriptions.

She mentioned the *Sharing Behind the Walls* newsletter put out by the General Service Office and encouraged everyone to go to aa.org to read the newsletter and also to watch the Corrections videos. She was excited to hear that a Corrections book will be coming out from the Grapevine and wanted to look into getting the book into the right places, possibly working with H&I. She expressed that it was great to have their relationship with H&I so that they could coordinate instead of duplicate efforts to reach people behind the walls.

She reported that they had 5 people at their meeting that morning, all from different districts, and that they were all very excited.

**Finance Chair, Nancy H., reported the following:**

Nancy shared that their meeting that morning was attended by herself, Shawn A., Doug S., Zoraida R., and Susan P. They would be updating the budget with the amendments made that morning. They also would be looking into updating the Area’s Financial Guidelines and Policies. There were some items proposed that were tabled previously. They also talked about adding some guidelines for “finances in a pandemic.” They had been asked to review the self-support packet, and the pamphlet, *Where Money & Spirituality Mix*, so they will be working on that so that they can give something to Lauren to take to the Conference. She thanked everyone for letting her be of service.

**Grapevine / La Viña Chair, Jacobo M., and Alternate Chair, Paul D., reported the following:**

Paul reported that they met for the first time this morning and gathered contact information of those in attendance. He would create a Google Sheet and Google Doc to help them collaborate between assemblies. They did a lot of brainstorming as they introduced themselves to one another and brought ideas to the table. Paul said to contact him if anyone was interested in getting involved with the committee.

Jacobo reported that there were 10 in attendance at their meeting that day, and that they would have another meeting soon. He thanked everyone for the energy that they put in. He also thanked Mimi T. for asking him to interpret at their district event about AA’s spiritual roots. He said that hearing the Akron historian, Charles, was amazing. He also thanked Nikki U., Chairperson, for giving him the opportunity to serve. He said that they broke the ice that day, and he hoped they could do good for the alcoholic community. He invited everyone to be a part of La Viña and thanked everyone.

**Guidelines and Policies Chair, Bobbi T., and Alternate Chair, Jenny P., reported the following:**

Bobbi thanked Nikki for encouraging her to stand. She said that this committee was something she did not know anything about but fortunately, everyone else in her committee has had continuous service in the committee and they knew everything. Her alternate, Jenny P., along with Carl B. and Mayson L. helped her by reviewing how the previous panel conducted the meetings. They discussed an item from the previous panel about the question of who can vote and what to do when there are attendees at an Area Meeting that serve in multiple roles.

She also reported that they were later joined by Nikki, who mentioned two items they could take on in the future: (1) including the Hispanic Women’s Workshop as part of the list of activities that the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) participates in, and (2) working with the Website/Technology Committee for a new definition of the committee, which now has an expanded charter.

Jenny reported that she had nothing to add and that she was glad to participate in the meeting today.

Bobbi and Jenny thanked everyone.

**Literature Chair, Armando L., reported the following:**

Armando reported that their meeting had eight people in attendance that day. They mainly discussed item 12 from the agenda for the Literature Committee, which was a request for the Trustees' Literature Committee to develop a new General Service Conference approved textbook describing the "how to" of working the steps, which would be written in simplified language with no greater than a 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. Their group agreed that they were not opposed to a supplemental book but would be hesitant to translate the big book into plain language for fear that the new book would start to dominate meetings.

They also talked about how to get literature sales up and about getting together with the Grapevine / La Viña Committee to start introducing the great book published by the Grapevine. With what had been going on lately with the virus and people going through hard times, it would be great to share the new book, *No Matter What*. So, they thought it would be good to promote Grapevine literature along with the other A.A. literature. He thanked everyone.

**Public Information (PI) Chair, Mike C., reported the following:**

Mike and his Alternate Chair, Sean C., are very excited about the panel. They will be assisting the delegate by giving her feedback about the pamphlet *Speaking at Non-AA Meetings*, which is the subject of one of the agenda items for this year's Conference. They will also be helping to review the PI Kit and Workbook. Someone in their committee suggested coming up with a one-sheet service piece with tips for people having trouble getting to meetings. It would be for members and for people outside of A.A. and could have some bullet points about the Grapevine, Zoom meetings, and how to get in touch with A.A. Their meeting was cut off early, but he thought that one of their main goals would be to focus on hospitals and get literature racks into hospitals along with how to get connected with AA during this year. He shared that he is looking forward to the year, invited people to contact him if they wanted to be on the committee, and thanked everyone.

**Registration Chair, Sam P., reported the following:**

Sam reported that they had 7 members at their meeting, including the Registrar and the previous Registration Committee Chair and Alternate Chair. They shared about their responsibilities and experiences the previous panel, which they described to be like one part greeter or information booth and the other part being the bridge between GSRs and the Registrar. The registrar requested that Change Forms be sent to all of the DCMs along with a note that new GSRs needed to be registered 72 hours before Assemblies.

Belinda T. volunteer to be the committee's Alternate Chair, which was approved unanimously by the committee. Sam would be forwarding her information to the Chair to seek the officers' approval.

Sam thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter (SCAAN) Chair, Mataji B., reported the following:**

Mataji addressed new members who might be wonder "What is SCAAN?" She explained that SCAAN stood for Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter, and that it was a quarterly newsletter that was distributed before each Assembly. It featured articles and other information, and always included the minutes from the previous Assembly, a message from the Delegate, and a lot of other great things. She said that her job was to make the SCAAN happen.

Mataji was alone in her meeting today, "an island to herself", and figured that a lot of new GSRs probably did not know what the SCAAN was. She related that she, herself, took some time to find the committee and find that it was where she could be the most useful.

She did have visits from Mario from District 55 and Jon from District 3 who stopped to say hello, check in, and keep her company for a few minutes.

She invited anyone interested in the committee to contact her. She put her information in the chat and mentioned that her contact information was also in the Area Roster. She also placed a link to the current PDF version of the SCAAN in the chat and mentioned that it could also be found on our area's website [area05aa.org](http://area05aa.org) along with other information about the SCAAN.

Mataji shared that anyone in the area could submit articles for the SCAAN, and shared that she found her way to the committee when the previous SCAAN chair asked her to write a few articles, and she wrote a book review and also an

article about the 2019 Unity Forum. She said that will be reaching out to people for articles and invited anyone interested in submitting something to contact her or her alternate. She shared that her goal is to reach far and wide within our area to get many different points of view. She informed everyone that they might be getting a random call from her to talk about how they might contribute something that could be useful to everyone. She thanked everyone for letting her serve as their SCAAN Chair.

**Translation Chair, Arnulfo G., reported the following:**

Arnulfo shared that the objective of their committee is to provide translation of various documents. They have already translated some articles, agendas, and calendars.

He explained that Area 05 had six Spanish-Speaking districts, so their role is vital for the area's communication within itself because we all represented Area 05 as one. Our language might have been different, but our purpose was the same – to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. He declared that we wanted to work together in unity toward our same purpose.

Arnulfo shared that they had a good meeting with three people in attendance, which included himself, his Alternate, Fidel M., and Juan M., Panel 63 Past Delegate. They discussed the importance of translation, and trying to translate the of things meaning so that it was understandable and accurate.

He said that he would be working closely w/ the SCAAN and the Officers to translate any documents that needed translating. He was glad to be of service and also thanked Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) for the opportunity to serve also.

**Treatment Facilities Chair, Mike Mc., reported the following:**

Mike reported that they had 8 in attendance that day from different districts. Jim I., the previous Chair of the committee attended and gave a lot of good insight on their relationship Hospitals and Institutions Committees. He also shared that they have a prospective alternate and that he would send the information to Nikki U., Chairperson.

Mike shared that they discussed reviewing the Treatment Facilities kit, and that he would be sending links to the workbook and the video *Hope* which he saw the previous night and thought was well done.

He shared that he attended a virtual Bridging the Gap workshop shortly after the New Year, and that he would let everyone know if he heard of any others.

He said that once he sent out the links for the Treatment Facilities kit, he would set up zoom meetings for the committee so that they could discuss it along with other topics, such as safety, which was brought up by one of their members.

Mike thanked Nikki for giving him the opportunity to serve.

**Website/Technology Committee Alternate Chair, Claude D., reported the following:**

Claude reported that he collected contact information from all of the members that attended the meeting that day and that he would be sending them Discord invites (for the committee's group chat) later so that they could help with Zoom and the website.

Claude shared that they discussed updating some things on the website, like information for District 30, and also discussed communication between groups, the area, and Central Offices and how that should work, which probably involved the Alternate Delegate as the area's liaison. They also discussed having some basic resources for groups on the site like a meeting format and readings and updating the email list on the website.

Claude thanked everyone.

**Accessibilities/Interpretation Ad-Hoc Committee Chair, Jamie W., reported the following:**

Jamie said that she was a mighty committee of one that day, which was okay with her, but she would be happy to have anyone join her. She explained that Accessibilities covered anything from blindness to deafness to mobility issues, but at

that time, she was thinking about how we were in a Zoom world and that people could be having accessibility issues related to using Zoom.

She said that she would like to hear from anyone who was either interested in Accessibilities or experiencing accessibility issues with either in-person or zoom meetings so that she could know what to work on and what to address.

She shared that she was the Interpretation Ad-Hoc Committee's Chair last year, so she had been collecting a list of people that could speak other languages with whatever fluency so that she could be a resource and direct people in need to people that can help that speak their language. She shared that she also had a list of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters and instructed anyone who needed an event interpreted to contact her for more information.

She shared her contact information in the chat, expressed that she was thrilled to be there and to be of service to Area 05, and thanked everyone.

#### **Cooperation with the Young Community Chair, Gola R., reported the following:**

Gola reported that they had eight people at their meeting that day, which consisted of two returning members and six new members and included one Past Delegate. There was a lot of passion and energy in the group and she felt privileged to be at the head of it.

She shared that they were looking into publishing a new issue of the Void, which was a zine created during the last panel. They discussed publishing it on the web this time and were looking into costs. She thought they would probably have a print version as well, but that it would probably not be as widely distributed as the one last year.

Gola shared that they were creating a collaborative Google Drive folder to share resources for outreach, and she felt very privileged to have some returning members who had a lot of knowledge and already had outreach resources. She thanked Jen K. and Jimmy M., the previous Chair and Alternate Chair and stated that she had big shoes to fill. She wanted to continue they had been doing collaborating with different area committees. Gola thanked everyone.

#### **5th Annual Hispanic Women's Workshop Report**

Olga M., Area 05's Liaison to the Hispanic Women's Workshop reported the following:

She could not give her report at the last Steering Committee meeting because she was sick with COVID-19, and she thanks God that she is well now.

The last Hispanic Women's Workshop was held on 12/5/20, and the host was Area 93. More than 150 people were in attendance. The event was open, and men were able to attend. Al-Anons were also invited. Our Delegate, Lauren A., was with them along with many other people from Area 05. They had speakers from everywhere, including Columbia Arkansas, San Diego, Florida, and Mexico. Many women came from Mexico and shared. English interpretation was available. The event has been a success each year.

Olga shared that she remembered how the first workshop had 70 in attendance and with each workshop, attendance continually increased. Because of the pandemic, the workshop was now on Zoom, which for them, had been quite acceptable. With this 5<sup>th</sup> workshop they allowed men to attend. Not all men have been against the workshop, but there were some that were against it. They wanted to let them in so they could see that they were not doing anything but supporting their own sobriety and reaching out to the next woman suffering. Amalia C., who was in charge of pamphlet that was going to come out for Hispanic Women shared that 15 stories from Hispanic women were chosen, and that the pamphlet was being carried out. There was a vote of supports for the pamphlet. They were hoping that the pamphlet would come out soon so that they could use it and continue to work to help women.

Olga explained that there are some women that are not attracted to organized service, but she was trying to motivate more women to come and serve, because for her, she was able to learn and grow from being of service. She shared that having all Area meetings on Zoom is difficult for some people, but they were so used to being in-person, but she understands that they need to be willing and available for change.

She expressed that it had been a pleasure for her to be at area meetings, and shared that she would be attending the upcoming International Women's Conference, which was going to be a very large event, as well as the Pacific Region Service Assembly (PRAASA). She thanked all for letting her be there that day and said that she would do anything she needed to help serve.



**Pacific Region A. A. Service Assembly (PRAASA) Presentation**

Thomas B., Panel 67 Past Delegate and PRAASA 2023 Chair presented the following:

Thomas thanked the Chairperson, Nikki U., for inviting him to speak. He introduced himself and shared that he was the Panel 67 Delegate for Area 05 and that it was a blessing and joy to have served A.A. and all the groups in Southern California as their Delegate to the 2017 and 2018 General Service Conferences.

He shared that he was thrilled to hear Lauren's first report as Delegate earlier and to see well-prepared she was and how committed she was to ensuring communication from the Conference to the Area to the DCM to the GSR to the groups and back. He also gave a quick shout-out to Dean B., who served as the Panel 64 Delegate for San Diego / Imperial Area 08 and served as the Chair for the Conference Finance Committee. Dean was now serving as a GSR and Thomas noted that his commitment to service was very special to him.

Thomas shared that he was now serving as the Chairperson of the host committee for PRAASA 2023, which would be hosted by our Area at the LAX Marriott in two years. He expressed that he was hopeful that many of the people in attendance would be volunteering and participating in the work of the host committee.

Thomas then spoke about the host committee's activities thus far. They had started meeting as the preliminary PRAASA 2023 Host Committee on August 19, 2018, and the group was comprised of all Past Delegates from Area 05. They had met many times since then to review and select potential venues. At the end of their process, they negotiated and signed a contract with the LAX Marriott, a 1,000 guest room facility on 1/29/20. They locked in a \$169 universal room rate for a 1,000 room-night three-day commitment, plus complimentary rooms and an option to extend the rate to more rooms if required and a contractual arrangement for overflow hotels with rate guarantees if required. It also included a free airport shuttle, though the hotel is within walking distance to LAX, and a workable food and beverage minimum which gave them all the hotel's meeting space for the entire weekend.

He expressed that they were all grateful for the work of all the Past Delegates, Mary T., Jim I., Mike P., Marcus F., Juan M., and Scott M. throughout that process.

He welcomed their newest Past Delegate, Thomas S. to the Committee. Thomas S. had agreed to serve as Secretary for the Committee and Marcus F., Panel 61 Past Delegate, had agreed to serve as Treasurer. Thomas shared that they would be starting to fill out the rest of the committee starting the following weekend, because there was a long list of work to do to get ready. There were many positions to fill and they would be looking to many of those in attendance to step up and help out.

Thomas then switched to the topic of what PRAASA is. He shared that PRAASA was going to be held virtually from 3/5/21 – 3/7/21 that year. He shared that the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) was an annual General Service Assembly, open to all A.A. and Al-Anon members and was hosted by one of the areas of the Pacific Region each year. He explained how the event moved around the nine states of the Pacific Region: California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Hawaii, and Alaska. He shared that the official stated purpose of PRAASA was to (1) Develop greater unity among the members, groups, and areas of the Pacific Region, (2) Encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences, (3) Provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous, and (4) Foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thomas said that the description accurately described what PRAASA was but did not communicate the "why" of the event. He wanted to focus on the "why". Thomas shared that PRAASA could be viewed as an opportunity for members of our fellowship and our trusted servants to exchange information which relates A.A.'s life-giving services to their own personal experience, strength and hope, as well as the challenges and successes of A.A. members on the 12<sup>th</sup> step frontlines of carrying A.A.'s message to the still-suffering alcoholic. He further explained that PRAASA's attendees and participants always included the Delegates of each Area and past and present Trustees. At PRAASA, one might also see Grapevine and A.A. World Services directors, and Staff Members and other special workers from the General Service and Grapevine offices.

He shared that there would be opportunities to see and hear panel presentations from trusted servants including GSRs, DCMs, Officers, and Delegates from throughout the Pacific Region, as well as opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback on the many ways in which they were working collectively as a society of alcoholics in action, especially during the pandemic, to make the hand of A.A. visibly available to reach and help the suffering alcoholic. And there would be

opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback concerning agenda topics affecting the health and welfare of all of A.A.'s groups and members.

He said that essentially, at PRAASA, we get to share the work and spirit of AA with each other, and that the work was all about unity and saving drunks. He further explained that PRAASA was a unique opportunity to come together as a fellowship to focus on our primary purpose, guided by the moral and spiritual imperative of the 12<sup>th</sup> Step, as to how we may better and more effectively engaged in saving drunks and improving our unity, which is our common welfare. He felt that the "why" of PRAASA is very exciting and inspiring stuff.

Thomas polled the room, asking who had attended a PRAASA before. He then described how to register for the virtual event at PRAASA.org, and then described what an attendees might experience at PRAASA that year.

He said that there would probably be a virtual hospitality suite because fellowship was a very important part of PRAASA. They would get to meet and see all of the Delegates of the Pacific Region and the honorary Pacific Region Delegate from B.C./Yukon in Canada and hear each of them speak about their areas what each is doing. They would be panel presentation on topics mostly related to that year's Conference Agenda. The presenters of those panels would be selected from every area, including ours. He said that our Delegate, Lauren, would soon be submitting a list of volunteers, and would probably be reaching out to some of us to be presenters, moderators, timers, and readers. After each panel, attendees would be able to ask questions or share opinions on the topics and their voices would be heard. There would be roundtable discussions for each group of trusted servants, such as GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, and Officers. Lauren would be meeting at a roundtable with the other Delegates and our Pacific Region Trustee, Kathi F. to prepare for the Conference. He said that the roundtables were where we would really have to opportunity to learn from one another. There would be a speaker meeting on Saturday night, and on Sunday, Past Trustees from the Pacific Region would share their experience, strength, and hope on matters essential to our fellowship as we looked forward to the future. Then, for the final panel, questions would be picked from a basket and each of the Delegates would attempt to answer attendees' questions. That panel was lovingly called "Stump the Delegate."

Thomas shared that he had spoken with many people who have had uplifting and life-changing experiences at PRAASA. He said that it might not happen to everyone but expressed that it was important for all to attend and allow themselves to have their own experience. He also shared that while there would be a lot of talk about business, for him, it had always been the personal sharing and interaction of one alcoholic or one trusted servant talking to another about their personal experience, strength, and hope that has made the event so uplifting.

He has heard things at PRAASA that sparked change in the Fellowship, such as the safety literature, and he has heard things that have changed and uplifted himself and energized his focus and commitment.

Thomas closed by asking the question, "Why should you attend?" He explained that apart from the fellowship that we share with each other, there was the spiritual imperative of our 12<sup>th</sup> step, which said "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics..." He said that PRAASA represented a valuable exchange of information among our fellowship that focused us on how we may better work together, hand in hand in fulfilling our declaration of responsibility to reach and help the suffering alcoholic and to strengthen and improve the growth and welfare of our AA groups, for what strengthened and benefited the sobriety of any one of us benefited us all. Thomas said that we were stronger when united and when our communication connected us as partners in a common effort, which was why we came together in General Service, how we grew our movement, and how we made sure that A.A. was always here, through the pandemic and for many generations to come.

He reminded everyone that registration was easy, and that we could pretend to care but could not pretend to be present and encouraged everyone to be present and go to PRAASA, and then thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

Nikki reiterated that we would be hosting PRAASA in two years and explained that she had wanted to give Thomas the opportunity to share about PRAASA since he was the Chairperson for that event. She also shared that PRAASA was life-changing for her and that she was looking forward to the time it could be an in-person event again. She shared about going to enough PRAASAs to be able to recognize friends that she only sees at PRAASA and also how wonderful it was to run into people that used to serve in our area but moved away, only to find themselves in service again somewhere else in the Pacific Region. She said that it reinforced her desire and commitment to be of service.

### **General Service Conference Process & Pre-Conference Workshop Presentation**

Doug S., Alternate Delegate, presented the following:

opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback concerning agenda topics affecting the health and welfare of all of A.A.'s groups and members.

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### **General Service Conference Process & Pre-Conference Workshop Presentation**

Doug S., Alternate Delegate, presented the following:

Doug said that the General Service Conference really was a year-round process. When he was new, he heard that there was a Conference that the Delegate attended, and they prepared by getting information and feedback from the groups and GSRs, but he never understood it was a year-round process.

Doug explained that there were board meetings taking place, that we had received preliminary agenda items and that they would finalize the agenda items at the board meetings, and the items would be discussed at the General Service Conference. He described how we had already heard that the agenda items could come from members and groups, and that some people had told of how they submitted agenda items, such as the one for having the 12 steps, traditions, and concepts all in the same book. He said that most of the agenda items came from people just like us, who said "This is something important to me, that I would like to get changed," or "there is literature that needs to be updated", etc. The agenda items often came from the Fellowship. Doug said that the process was described in the A.A. Service Manual, page S-56, and that there was a paragraph description of what happens at the Conference on page S-57.

He pointed out that Lauren had mentioned that they would be doing it via Zoom that year, that it was a week-long meeting where the various committees, such as the Public Information Committee that Lauren had been assigned to, would go over various agenda items in their committees, some of which had been forwarded from the previous Conference, since it was shortened due to the pandemic and they did not know how a virtual Conference would go since it was their first.

He said that there was also a paragraph about the source of agenda items, and discussion about Conference membership and who got to attend and which members were involved, and a description of the voting process and how items get approved and become Advisory Actions.

Doug then explained that one of the ways we prepared for the Conference in our area was with an annual Pre-Conference Workshop Assembly, which was a way for us to get together as an area with all the GSRs, DCMs, and other folks to discuss the Agenda items. Doug read from the Area Guidelines and Policies, which described the workshop as "a two-day assembly held in the Spring on a weekend before the General Service Conference. One full day and part of the other day will be used for the pre-conference program. It is designed by the Alternate Delegate with the consultation of the Delegate to address topics from the General Service Conference agenda to assist our Delegate in making informed decisions at the General Service Conference." He reminded us that the first day would be 3/28/21 and the second would be 4/3/21. He said that he would be working with Lauren to make sure we addressed all of the topics that were of interest, especially the ones from the committee to which she had been assigned, Public Information, but also other things on the agenda that they felt were of real interest and great importance to the Fellowship as a whole. They would not be able to address every item, but they would pick things that were of most interest. They would make sure that she was prepared by being fully informed of what the feelings were on all of the topics from the various groups and members of Area 05 and know whether we were in favor of them or not.

Doug explained that we would be receiving the background materials, which would include letters from people who submitted the agenda items with explanations and why they thought they were important, and that the background was being translated into French and Spanish and that it would take a little bit of time. He said that once they became available, he would start planning the workshop with Lauren. They would select relevant speakers from the area for to present on the various topics, for instance, if a topic were about Finance, they might reach out to the Finance Chair or Accounts Treasurer to present.

He shared that they wanted members to be as well-informed as possible so that they could take the information back to their groups and get their feedback. They would be creating a number of questionnaires, which would be made available online with the help of the Website/Technology Committee so that people could fill out the surveys online. Doug ensured that there would be plenty of time between when the questionnaires would be made available and when they were due before the Conference, which was to start on April 18<sup>th</sup>, for GSRs to go over them with their groups. Doug indicated that the feedback was very important, and that it would be compiled and studied by our Delegate and shared that he thought Lauren would do a really good job, seeing how prepared she was for her report that day.

Nikki shared that when she first came to General Service, there was a pamphlet title "the most important job in AA" and it was about the GSR. It had since been retitled, but she felt that the reason it was titled that way was because our Delegate could only go around to so many meetings, so the GSRs were going to be the contacts to the groups that could let Lauren know what the groups were thinking.

Doug addressed a question from the chat: "How does the online questionnaire work within the communication structure? Shouldn't people be bringing their vote to their meetings and the GSRs, or did I misunderstand something?"

Doug explained that the questionnaires would be based on the background materials and agenda items. The goal of the questionnaires would be for GSRs to take them back to their groups and get their feedback. They could mail it in or enter it directly on the website. It would be collected and compiled for our delegate to read. It was to be a communication channel. Often he had found that he did not always understand why an item was important or why it was brought forward until he read the background information, so they would be making sure to have that available to everyone. He said that they could always ask Doug and Lauren questions, and he suggested going to the Pre-Conference Workshop because it was a place where we could study the items as an area.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Cooperation with The Young Community Committee Status Change**

CYC Chair, Gola R., presented the following motion. The full proposal and background document was emailed to the Area Committee.

***Motion (Presentation Only, to be voted on at the next Area Committee Meeting):***

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

Excerpt from presentation:

"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."

### **Good and Welfare Announcements**

A question was asked about the Area email list. It was clarified by Doug S., Alternate Delegate, and Nikki U., Chairperson, that area emails went to all members of the Area Committee, and that GSRs would have to ask their DCMs for items that were emailed to the Area.

Shawn A., Contributions Treasurer reminded everyone that they could simply and safely make a contribution to our area online as an individual, group, or district at [area05aa.org](http://area05aa.org)

Jacobo M., Grapevine/La Viña Chair, asked if there was anyone in the Area that could provide an information about COVID-19 restrictions and how they apply to A.A. groups and also requested that the Hispanic Foro be added to the agenda next time and to the Area Calendar. Doug S. clarified that the Foro is on the Area Calendar with a tentative date of 11/7/21, awaiting confirmation from the event hosts.

There was a question about whether alternates were included in the Area email distribution list. Nikki U. answered that yes, they were included, and if people on the Area Committee were not getting emails, they should contact Miguel M., the Registrar.

Thomas S., Panel 69 Past Delegate, reminded DCMs and DCMCs to forward everything they receive to their GSRs – that their job is not only to read all of the emails that go to them but to pass it on and continue the communication. He also asked the Contributions Treasurer, Shawn A., to look into whether we could accept contributions via Zelle, which was very fast and secure. Shawn A. replied that it was outside of his scope, since he did not have access to the account other than to make deposits. Doug S. said that he would look into it, and that he would put it on his list of things to ask the bank.

***Nikki asked for a motion to adjourn. Jim A., District 2 DCM, moved to adjourn the meeting. Susie P., District 14 DCM, seconded. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.***

Jacobo M., Grapevine/La Viña Chair, led us out with the Responsibility Statement in Spanish.

Don C., GSR, led us out with the Responsibility Statement in English.

*The Area Assembly adjourned at 3:33 pm*

**A.A. AREA 05 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**MINUTES FROM THE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Sunday - February 21, 2021**  
*(via Zoom)*

*The Area Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM on Sunday, February 21, 2021 by Nikki U., Chairperson, with 2 minutes of silent meditation.*

**Welcome and Call-to-Order**

People with A.A. Birthdays (Anniversaries) from January 23, 2021 to February 21, 2021 were recognized and serenaded with the birthday song. Birthdays: Jen K. – 2/1, Mary T. – 2/3, Claire B. – 2/7, Andrea D. – 2/7, Mike C. – 1/27

Bill L., Secretary for District 33, read A.A.'s Declaration of Unity in English and Spanish.

Nikki U., Chairperson, introduced Dean B., Past Delegate from Area 08, Panel 64, who was now active as a Past Delegate serving Area 05. Dean B. said hello to everyone and expressed that he was looking forward to being with us.

There was a delay for the roll call, and Nikki U. explained the differences with the Roll Call procedure for meetings held on Zoom. With in-person meetings, there was a call and response process, but with Zoom Roll Call was done by tracking attendees on a spreadsheet as they entered the meeting. There were also adjustments made at this time to the 'zz' and 'AA' name prefixes used to indicate non-voting and voting members, respectively, for several individuals. A General Service Representative (GSR) asked if it was okay to be at the meeting and Nikki assured them that everyone was welcome at the meeting.

Miguel M., Registrar, reported the day's attendance:

**Area 05 Area Committee Meeting**  
**February 21, 2021**

Potential		Present
Area Officers	7	7
DCMs	32	17
Alt DCMs	18	6
GSRs	0	0
Alt GSRs	0	0
Total	57	30

Potential		Present
Past Delegate	10	8
Committee Chair	18	16
Alt Chairs	15	9
DCMCs	4	3
Alt DCMCs	3	2
Total	50	38

Total Present	
Voting Members	51
Visitors	36
Total	87

Serving in Multiple Positions	
Individuals	10

DCMC/ALT DCMC Panel 71				
	CIH	HCD	WCD	Area 05
DCMC	1	1	1	3
ALT DCMC	1	1	0	2

Area Officers: 2021 - 2022 Panel 71					
Delegate	1	Secretary	1	Registrar	1
Alt Delegate	1	Accts Treasurer	1	Total	7
Chairperson	1	Cont Treasurer	1		

District	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	13	14
DCM	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
ALT DCM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2

District	15	17	18	19	25	26	30	33	34	35	36
DCM	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
ALT DCM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1

District	37-38	39-40	41	43	45	46	49	50	55	56	58
DCM	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
ALT DCM	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0

***Bill R., District 25 DCM and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Alternate Chair, made a motion to approve the day's Area Committee Meeting Agenda. The motion was seconded by a member of the Area Committee. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Brian P., Secretary, made a motion to approve the Minutes from the November 14<sup>th</sup> Area Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Thomas B., Past Delegate Panel 67. The motion passed unanimously.***

Nikki U., Chairperson, explained that in the past, we could vote using Zoom's yes/no feature but a recent update automatically cleared those reactions, so we would be using polls for voting that day.

### **Delegate's Report**

Lauren A., Delegate, reported the following:

She was working on Conference material every day and was preparing herself as best she could for her first experience as a Delegate at the General Service Conference. She had been reviewing background materials from 2020, 2019 and before, and said that she knew what to expect, but also had no idea what to expect, and was very excited about going to the Conference to represent the Area.

Lauren shared that our amazing and hard-working Alternate Delegate and she had been collaborating on the two-day Pre-Conference Workshop that was coming up 3/28/21 and 4/3/21. There would be 20 or so Agenda items with presentations and roundtables for each. She was looking forward to group's consciences and feedback.

They had received the English agenda background materials for the Conference. She said that we could expect the Spanish and French versions to be ready the first week in March, and that as soon as they received those, they would post them on the website and that the surveys would be up soon after.

Lauren met with the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) Advisory Board a few times – they were busy preparing for future PRAASAs and making sure there were proper guidelines, minutes, and history in place. She reminded us that we were to host PRAASA in 2023. She mentioned that the current Program Chair had almost completed program and that the format was well done and that to register for or learn about PRAASA, one could go to [praasa.org](http://praasa.org). For the upcoming PRAASA, not only was Lauren going to be sharing area highlights, as all new Delegates would, but she was also going to be making a presentation on the P.I. Agenda item regarding developing a podcast. She also explained that Area 05 usually had a dinner together at PRAASA on Friday night but because PRAASA was to begin in the evening on Friday, we would have a virtual dinner together on Saturday Night during the dinner break. She told DCMs to look for an email soon with the Zoom info for the virtual diner soon.

She had her first "Meet with the Delegate" meeting on 2/6 and it was a "total blast!" She enjoyed hearing from everyone and was honored and lucky to have several past delegates there to help. She advised that we should not forget the Past Delegates, that they had the history and knowledge of our Area in their heads and in even in documents, and that they were valued members of our Area with a lot to offer. She announced that the next Meet with the Delegate meeting would be held on 3/13 from noon to 1 PM and that she would send out the Zoom information soon.

Lauren reported that the day before that day, she had attended the Combined Hollywood Districts' meeting where they were getting organized for the new panel and Jo S., the new DCMC, was doing a great job. She had also attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy meeting the day before, where she heard wonderful presentations by Districts 3, 4, 13, and 30. She highly recommended attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meetings. In May, she would be giving a report-back from the Conference at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting.

She shared that Beau B., the Chairperson of the AAWS Board, sent a letter to all Delegates, Intergroups and Central Offices on February 4th encouraging their work and the work that had been done since we had been dealing with this pandemic, and shared this excerpt from the letter:

"As the pandemic pushed surges in binge drinking to new heights, our groups met the challenge head on and introduced a new generation of alcoholics to our program who have been sober for months now and have never even experienced an in-person meeting. The best is surely yet to come.



In the early months of 2020, many would not have imagined we could carry our message as fully, as far and as freely as we have online in the last 9-10 months. Some would have actively argued it could not be done. As a society, A.A. has never faced these challenges before. With no historical reference point for us to look to, after 85 years we faced a new pioneering period.

A.A. members everywhere responded, adapted, and met calamity with serenity. We are a resilient lot. We have seen clearly that the message of A.A. and the lifesaving experience of our membership need not be limited by time, space, or custom. We are held up by 36 spiritual principles in our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts that we can absolutely rely on to guide us through any uncertainty or challenge ahead."

After reading the excerpt, she said "Alcoholics Anonymous will adapt."

She also shared that David R, the Publishing Director, sent out a letter that month to announce that as of January 14, 2021, A.A.W.S., Inc. had implemented enhanced e-book and audiobook distribution. In it, he said "Thanks to these efforts, A.A.W.S., Inc.-copyrighted ebooks and audiobooks will be available for purchase on the platforms where most ebook readers and audiobook listeners in the United States and Canada are accustomed to finding digital literature — platforms that serve libraries, educational institutions, professional portals, subscription services, and, notably, the National Corrections Library (NCL)." The vendors mentioned included 38 major ebook platforms as well as 13 major audiobook vendors.

Lauren received a copy of the General Service Board's (GSB) Strategic Plan Evaluation Summary from September 2020. Its purpose was to provide General Service Conference members an opportunity to provide input, thoughts, and ideas on the GSB's Strategic Plan. A series of discussion sessions were held on September 16, 17, 23, 24. Invited participants included all Conference members. Trustee emeriti were also invited to participate.

She explained that she was going to share some of the report with us, to let us know that there was a discussion going on about those topics and to bring us in closer to the Conference. These responses were from the 93 Area Delegates and Past Trustees.

The report mentioned three goals, and she was going to share comments made about them that were reported in the document. She said that there were not many explanations that went along with the comments.

One of the goals mentioned was "The GSB will model inclusivity and acceptance by assisting the Fellowship in carrying the message and encouraging the spirit of the Third Tradition throughout AA. 'The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking'"

In that discussion several questions were asked about inclusivity and the sum of the answers were as follows:

- Many members seemed to have different interpretations of the term inclusivity. "Inclusivity – does it mean diversity?"
- "The more we try to align and become diverse, the farther we get from our primary purpose. It is true that people from different cultural backgrounds may be treated differently."
- Some felt that inclusivity refers to the way we welcome newcomers and others said we are talking about the way the Fellowship handles race, gender, disabilities and even types of addiction, specifically narcotics.
- One repeated sentiment was that we might start with our Board to address concerns about inclusivity. "At the very least," members said, "the Board plays an important role."
- "Should this even be a Board issue?"
- "not a Board issue, it's a Fellowship issue." And another said, "AA itself is not inclusive."
- Many responses focused on the Fellowship's relationship with the Spanish-speaking community and stated: "Intergroups reached out to the Spanish speaking community. They went to the groups and invited them to attend meetings. They formed a relationship in that way, and everyone got involved. GSB needs to include Native American/Handicapped."

There were questions regarding "Who is Not in the Room?"

- One person described the Fellowship as "heavily white."
- "We are trying to reach all alcoholics no matter their background."

- “No one would argue with Tradition 3/Concept 4 — anybody who needs us can find us.”
- “Bill had trouble getting Black attendees... use Language of the Heart.” So, this is not a new issue, but it is one that seems to need solving, not only with color but also with accessibility.

A significant number of attendees mentioned the degree to which they think this issue is affecting the Fellowship:

- “Leadership is needed — inclusivity is a topic that can be polarizing but we should not be afraid of that. It should be framed around our primary purpose.”
- “On the other hand, could this kind of ‘division’ be what our various communities want?”

As was the case throughout the discussion sessions, instead of stating solutions, members asked questions like:

- “Are there physical items to address the physical barriers?”
- “Why aren’t we seeing deaf people in the rooms? When they get to the meetings there is nothing there for them (no translation). You don’t go to the desert to find water.”
- “How can we reach this population?”

Some people who responded offered workable approaches:

- “Especially when looking for appointees to committees. Look for minority voices on the board, area, and district levels. We need to invite all — especially the underrepresented.”
- “Need to implement a meta conversation — we can’t heal what we don’t acknowledge.”
- “more languages on website” could be helpful.
- “There should be affirmative action in selection of members of the board to ensure greater inclusivity and to recognize the implicit bias.”

From the 135 attendees, there were 19 identifiable responses to this question: If you believe further actions are not warranted (or that current actions are inappropriate), please explain.

- The Fellowship seems to be of one accord when it comes to the issue of inclusivity. Wrong.
- There were people who responded who do not hold that view, with 11 of them expressing their sentiments: For instance, one asked, “Should this even be a Board issue?”
- would this cause “Outside issues [to] come into groups?”
- “Should the question be How do we get them here rather than who is not in the room?”
- Inclusivity is “Not really talking about minorities, more about making newbies comfortable.”

Another goal mentioned in the report was: The GSB will seek to improve the effectiveness of its communication to remain relevant and connected to those it serves.

Many A.A.s loved the new technologies and said that “GSB is doing a good job at looking at different platforms within traditions.” But as is our custom, contrary views claimed a place in the spotlight. For instance,

- “A.A. has been slow to embrace technology.”
- “Folks who have left their home group may feel uncomfortable with electronics” - indicates some displeasure with the Fellowship’s handling of communications.
- Lauren mentioned that the following point was something she wanted DCMs to hear and discuss with their districts:  
 “There are 3,000 meetings in the area but only 100 are represented at the area meeting. How do we get the information to the remaining 2,000 groups?”
- “transparency is more important than language,”
- “communication breaks down at DCM level,”
- “GSB has lost touch with pulse of Fellowship, using virtual platforms can help.”

- “A.A. has been slow to embrace technology” seems to be the feeling of many. Dramatically different new technology. Same old issues.
- “must always stay with our communicators, especially those bringing in the new technologies:

“How do we reach members who don’t use social media?” There did not appear to be one answer to that question in all the 149 responses. Nor were there any answers for the question: “What about communication outside the service structure? How do we connect to those members?”

Question: COVID-19 has pushed the Fellowship much farther along in its use of social platforms to carry the message. How can we capitalize on this shared experience of utilizing technology to further improve the effectiveness of our communication?

It was safe to say that “COVID allowed individuals to cross the line into technology.” But the following response might be the way we will deal with post-COVID A.A. sessions:

- “Keep Zoom and online even when back in person” and “link between trustee committees and conference committees.”

The last goal mentioned covered Class A Trustees and anonymity. The issue of anonymity has always been the foundation of our Fellowship and was a serious and growing concern.

Regarding Class A Trustees, focus group responses indicated that:

- Class A members are a treasured asset the Fellowship has not made good use of, and in today’s environment, many delegates say their function is desperately needed. Take Class As along with today’s new platforms and then add the ability of Class As to state the A.A. case without worries of anonymity — respondents seem to agree that, utilized properly, this combination will establish a powerful way to spread the A.A. message.
- The function of the Class A trustee has a rich history in Alcoholics Anonymous, hailing from the Fellowship’s earliest days. As one respondent put it, “‘Friends of AA — we let our friends recommend us.’ Do we have as many friends now as when that was written? Will we get another Jack Alexander moment?”
- What is the Class A position? What is its function? Among our members, there may be some confusion, or, as one respondent put it, “What are the Class A’s responsibilities to the fellowship? What do the Class A’s do? We need a service piece that describes their role.”

The Fellowship wants to know more and hear more from Class A trustees. Consider these replies:

- What is a Class A trustee? A Class A trustee is a non- alcoholic trustee. The A.A. website says that “Class A trustees are chosen from a variety of professional backgrounds including doctors, lawyers, financial professionals, clergy, media and public relations professionals, information technology and communications professionals, correctional administrators, social workers, educators and military professionals.”
- “Podcast/videos” where “Class A’s can show their faces.” This widely held position supports the respondents who say, “We hide behind the word promotion — we need to take action to be discovered” and “We need to get out there.”

Lauren mentioned that in her upcoming PRAASA presentation, she would be talking about the topic of podcasts and how the idea was born out of the need for transparency and the need for AA members to get closer to the General Service structure. She said that there were discussions amongst the Delegates and Trustees about Class A Trustees having their own podcasts and the Grapevine having its own podcast.

Lauren then summed up the report, saying that according to the evaluations offered by the focus groups, A.A. must contend with the challenges of new technology, and everyone wants to know: “how will our Fellowship function in this new society?”

She explained that there were several agenda items for the Conference that year that would address a lot of these issues. She did not want us to feel negatively about the comments, which were made by Delegates and Trustees giving their honest opinions. She said that there was a lot of great change and open-mindedness going on in the Conference right now, and she wanted us to know that the open discussion coming up at the Pre-Conference Workshop was going to be very important.

Lauren thanked everyone for their dedication to General Service and for their participation that day. She reminded DCMs to disseminate all information that the Area sent them. She said that GSRs are begging for information to give to their groups, and that every time she visited districts, she was always asked by GSRs for information that they were not receiving from their DCMs. She acknowledged that DCMs were working very hard but asked them to please get good solid email lists and when anyone sent things out to the area, to please send them out immediately so that GSRs could go to their groups and discuss what was happening.

She reminded us that our Pre-Conference was an opportunity to have our groups' consciences heard on any agenda items and for us to participate in roundtables. She noted that our Alternate Delegate would be reporting on the event, and that she wanted everyone to be heard and learn how the structure of General Service works.

She expressed that she looked forward to the group consciences and really looked forward to seeing everyone at PRAASA.

She thanked all for their dedication to General Service and the work they were doing, and then opened the floor for questions.

#### Questions:

- Question: Could you reiterate the date of the next Meet the Delegate meeting? Answer: March 13, 12-1pm
- Question: Who were the letters that were read were from? Answer: the first letter regarding the pandemic was from Beau B., Chairperson of the Board for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., and the second was from David R., the Publishing Director
- Would the Meet the Delegate be put on the Calendar and Website? Answer: Yes
- Comment: District 2 had been participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy for some time and that the host districts for that meeting were Districts 2, 3, 4, 13, and 30
- Comment: 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy meeting is quarterly, not monthly, and the next one would be on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the day before our next Assembly and would feature Lauren's report-back from the Conference.
- How can we get the list of all the meetings for our district? Answer: Contact our Registrar, Miguel M.
- Can we get the report that you read? Answer: The report was sent to Pacific Region Delegates. Lauren did not think that the report was shareable, but she would find out. She had asked the Pacific Region Trustee if she could share some of the information with us and she said it was fine. She said she would check and invited the person who asked to send her an email at [delegate@area05aa.org](mailto:delegate@area05aa.org). Doug clarified that the question was regarding her entire Delegate's report. Lauren answered that she just had notes, and not a formal report. Her report would be transcribed in the minutes and said that if the person called or emailed her, she could send her the outline.
- Question: When would the surveys/questionnaires be available? Answer: They were working on them right now. As soon as they got the background in Spanish and were able to translate everything, including the survey, they would make it available. It did not look like it would be before PRAASA, but she had been told they would receive the translated background in the first week of March.
- Doug S., Alternate Delegate, reminded everyone that PRAASA would be occurring 3/5 - 3/7
- Question: Do your email communications go directly to GSRs? No, the area's email list went out to the Area Committee, which included DCMs, and then it was the DCMs job to send things on to the GSRs. The area did not keep a complete list of GSRs emails because it was always in flux. Lauren referred to page 1 of the Area's Guidelines and Policies, page S-31 of the A.A. *Service Manual*, and the pamphlet *Your DCM* for descriptions of the DCMs' duties.
- Question: Could we get a copy of the letter about COVID-19? Lauren asked the person who asked the question to please send her an email.
- Mark M., DCM District 45, mentioned that he was not getting email distributions, and Doug S., Alternate Delegate, asked him to reach out to Miguel M., Registrar.
- Question: Was podcasting chosen as an additional AA discoverable communication channel? Answer: They were going to discuss it at the conference. There were several questions involved, including "how would it be

produced?”, “What would the cost be?”, and “Who would be on the podcast?” The main idea was for it to serve as a link to the General Service Board and for the Trustees to have more communication. There were questions that were going to be asked at the Pre-Conference Workshop to get everybody’s ideas on what the background said, whether they were in line with it or not, and any other ideas regarding the podcasts so that we could get group consciences and Lauren could take them with her to the Conference. Lauren said that they would take all of the information and that she was sure there would be recommendations made by the Public Information Committee to the Trustees this year.

- Question: Do we have a flyer for the Meet with the Delegate meeting? Answer: No, but Lauren would create one. The person who asked the question mentioned that it would be great to have for posting to their Zoom meetings and home groups.
- Question: What was meant by the comment that Bill could not get them [black alcoholics] to use the Language of the Heart? Answer: That was not what was meant by the comment. It was saying to use the Language of the Heart. The Language of the Heart is a book, but it is also used to describe A.A. speak. The comment was suggesting for people to use the “language of the heart” to increase what they were calling “black membership” at the time. Lauren invited the person who asked the question to email or call her to discuss it further.
- Question: Can we get the surveys in Spanish printed out? Doug S., Alternate Delegate, also pointed out that there was an email requesting that Southern California Area Assembly Newsletters (SCAAN) be printed out in Spanish as well. Answer: It was already determined at the last Area Assembly that the existing SCAAN budget was enough to print out versions in Spanish. Regarding surveys, Lauren asked that Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) let them know how many copies they needed, and that Doug S. would get them printed out and they could pick them up from him. Doug S. mentioned our discount card with Office Depot/Office Max that allowed us to get printing done for less than 3 cents per page.

Lauren reminded everyone that her email address was [delegate@area05aa.org](mailto:delegate@area05aa.org), put her phone number in the chat, and thanked everyone.

### **District Committee Member (DCM) and District Committee Member Chair (DCMC) Reports**

**Comité Interdistrital Hispanos DCMC, Antonio A., reported the following:** Their Service Board consists of himself as DCMC, Jose Luis E. as Secretary, and Ricardo L. as Treasurer. Their last meeting with their six districts was only the second meeting since they started to reunite again. Many groups were closed during the pandemic but were opening again little by little. Everything was good at the moment, but Antonio acknowledged they could always work to better to improve communication with the groups and with Area 05. They have found it necessary to form a new Tech committee to assist with computers, internet, etc. They saw the need and the motion to create the committee prevailed. They were starting to return slowly but surely.

**Hollywood Combined Districts DCMC, Jo S. reported the following:** Jo welcomed everyone and said she was proud to be there. She shared that Combined Hollywood Districts was moving right along with their new committee members. They were working out snags, mostly with a daunting email list that had 200 people on it that they needed to cull. Jo shared that they had a lot of new GSRs representing various meetings and thanked everyone for letting her share.

**Westside Combined Districts DCMC, David W., reported the following:** David thanked WCD attendees for robust attendance that day. He acknowledged that some of their General Service Representatives (GSRs) were still learning the distinction between their committee at the Combined Districts and the committee at the Area, and that it was a learning process. They had a bumper crop of new GSRs - 20 new GSRs in January and 20 new in February. He wondered if this was because of the beginning the new panel, or if it was because the pandemic had created fewer alternatives for Sunday morning activities. He said that more would be revealed and thanked everyone.

**District 2 DCM, Jim A., reported the following:** They were represented that by their DCM and Alternate DCM. They had opportunity to present at 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting the day before, had a good time, and would get more General Service

Representatives (GSRs) involved in that process. They were continuing to clean up their list of GSRs and reach out to meetings to get more GSR representation. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**District 4 DCM, Matt W., reported the following:** Matt introduced himself and explained that their District had a lot of representation from two out of the six or seven cities they represented. They were trying to reach out to the local Alano Clubs, particularly the ones already listed in their directory, to make sure they had General Service representation. They were coming up with a meeting etiquette guide for certain General Service Representatives that would be reaching out to meetings. While they had good representation from meetings in Covina and Glendora, it had been hard to get into contact with people from groups in other cities in their District. He mentioned that it could be due to the pandemic, but that the pandemic did not stop people from being alcoholic or needing to hear the message or needing to have their groups represented, so their work continued. An interesting issue that came up for them was that they had a Young People in AA (YPAA) committee that had a General Service Representative (GSR) in their district, and they found out that they were not technically a GSR because there was no Young People's Committee at the District or Area level. He told them that we were going to be talking about making the Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Ad Hoc Committee at a standing committee the area. They found it very interesting, and it perked a lot of enthusiasm. He also shared that there was a young woman that he thought might be taking his place in a few years that has been great and on top of things and lighting fires under everyone. He said that it was good to see a lot of new and younger people getting excited about General Service in the district. They were going to do their best to reach out to groups from other cities in their district, knowing it was their responsibility, and they wanted to make sure they knew the importance of having GSRs for their meetings. They were also working on registering GSRs for Zoom meetings. They had a lot of open and hybrid meetings, but they did not want the people in Zoom meetings to feel left out. Matt said that he was pretty new to this and he thanked everyone. He said that he appreciated all of the great committee reports and that he was learning a lot from everyone, and he thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**District 6 DCM, Sean C., reported the following:** They were looking to expand more when in-person meetings returned to their district. He had been primarily on Zoom, so he would have to transition to continue to reach out. Some meetings were becoming hybrid meetings, and some that were temporarily closed were opening back up. They were in the planning stages for a possible Zoom event with District 36 to promote participation in General Service. They had a couple of new General Service Representatives (GSRs), including two that represented seven meetings for groups that met daily. They were working on changing that to have GSRs for each meeting instead of for all meetings. He shared that they were still looking for an Alternate DCM, and he acknowledged that David W., the new DCMC of Westside Combined Districts was doing a fantastic job. He said he was getting what seemed like an email a week from him and he was passing it on. They were getting more organized and expanding. He thanked Lauren A., Delegate, for giving him a lot of encouragement and acknowledged a very helpful GSR that was present that day at the Area Committee Meeting and Past Delegate Thomas S., without whom he would not be in General Service. He then thanked everybody.

**District 9 DCM, Liz M., reported the following:** Liz introduced herself and informed us that her District was part of the Combined Hollywood Districts whose DCMC, Jo, was doing a great job. They were all working together to get organized. She thanked Lauren for attending their District meeting yesterday. She said it was amazing and really good for all of them to get their questions answered. She shared that their ongoing problem was representation in the District and that they were looking for an Alternate DCM for District 9. She said that she was excited to hit ground running. Her email worked, and she received area emails. She got to connect a new General Service Representative with their District meeting the day before. She said that she was looking forward to getting her bearings more and thanked everyone.

**District 13 DCM, Jenny P., reported the following:** Jenny introduced herself and reported that they had a great beginning of the panel. They had fewer General Service Representatives (GSRs) than in the previous panel. Three of their GSRs were not participating in Zoom meetings of any kind and only going to outdoor meetings. The 9416 meeting hall on East Live Oak in Arcadia had hosted 20 meetings a week previously, but then had only 10 meetings total for both in-person and hybrid meetings. The Secretary for their board had been in close contact with the local health department and were following their guidelines and procedures. They had some hybrid meetings that were held outdoors on lawn chairs with a donated television, but they had mostly zoom meetings. They were having ongoing discussions about how

to reach out to newcomers, being welcoming, and finding out how newcomers found them. They were encouraging their meetings to be listed on the Meeting Guide App or with the Online Intergroup of AA (OIAA). She thanked everyone.

**District 14 DCM, Susie P., reported the following:** She introduced herself and mentioned that her Alternate DCM, Chris, was in attendance that day too. She shared that she was very grateful to be a part of the program and blessed to be in a District that was so active with so many great people. As a group, they reviewed the proposal to create a permanent Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Committee, and she was prepared to vote on it that day. They started a District Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) group and they had their first subcommittee meeting the weekend before. Marika from Area 09 came to visit and make a presentation. Susie said that the things they were doing in Area 09 were fabulous and they were going to take a lot of their ideas and incorporate them into their District. They held elections and they had a new Chair and Co-Chair for the committee. They were going to come to their next District meeting to discuss finances so that they could send letters. They decided that the legal community was going to be the first group they would contact – perhaps DUI lawyers. She announced that they were planning their Spring Zoom event, which was to be scheduled for May 1. Joe M. from the Los Angeles Central Office was going to be making a presentation on the history of AA in Los Angeles. They were going to be voting to approve it next month and were considering other ideas. She said that she would love to have everyone attend and asked that we stay tuned for the Zoom info for the event. Susie also reported that they had distributed and were reviewing the Conference agenda items and would be presenting them to their meetings as soon as they could get all the information. They were working on a plan to visit Zoom meetings to discuss the importance of having a General Service Representative (GSR). Sam P., a friend of their District, had provided an updated list of meetings in their area. She shared that they were all registered for PRAASA and she was looking forward to it. She felt grateful to have so many good people in service that were bringing her and Christopher up to speed. She was grateful to have Doug S., Alternate Delegate, as her service sponsor, Nikki U., Chairperson, who helps her with procedure., her good and helpful friend Nadine, who was their Archivist and the Alternate SCAAN Chair, their ten GSRs, and a few others that held District positions. She said that she had a lot to learn and gave a special shout-out to Lauren A., Delegate, Thomas B. Past Delegate, Panel 67, and Thomas S., Past Delegate, Panel 69, for inspiring her and providing assistance whenever she needed it. She thanked everyone for their faith in her and for letting her be of service, and expressed that she was grateful for the opportunity.

**District 15 DCM, Rich T. and Alternate DCM Claire B., reported the following:** Rich said that he had to travel the previous week during their meeting, so Claire probably knew more about what happened from meeting. He said that he had gotten responses from nine different meetings regarding their comprehensive meeting list, and he thanked people for their responses. They were compiling a list of meetings, including new and existing Zoom meetings in their district, and he had already emailed Miguel M., Registrar, the information. He said he looked forward to reaching out to the meetings and hopefully recruiting some new General Service Representatives. He then thanked everyone and then turned it over to the Alternate DCM, Claire B. Claire reported that they were looking at expanding ways of meeting up with different groups. They discussed PRAASA, the plain language big book, and how to get information to groups and get their feedback to prepare for the Pre-Conference Workshop. They were making good progress and she had received some feedback that information was being taken to the groups so that they could be ready for the workshop.

**District 19 DCM, Marquese H., reported the following:** Marquese introduced himself and David R., the Alternate DCM. He shared that David was the one that recruited him and that his service sponsor was Al T. He said that District 15 was in close proximity to them, and there were some groups he visited to recruit new General Service Representatives (GSRs) but he found out they were in District 15 and not 19, so he forwarded their information to District 15. The GSRs names were Courtney and Heather and he recommended they reach out to Rich T., DCM of District 15. He said that District 19 is one location by itself right now. 9604 is his home group, and they had one GSR, Dorothy, in attendance at the Area Committee Meeting, and had been very dedicated. He had also heard that there was a list of Spanish-Speaking groups in the District, and he wanted to get someone to interpret for him so that he could reach out and encourage them to participate in General Service and get them acquainted with other Spanish-Speaking groups that were already involved. He was also told that there might be some redistricting since 9604 was by themselves in the District. He said that until then, he would do his best to include everyone in District 19 and get more groups involved. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service and for the informative meeting, which he was enjoying.

**District 25 DCM, Bill R., reported the following:** Bill introduced himself and said that they were in the process of rebuilding “the COVID airplane” while continuing to fly. He thanked Nikki for providing pieces of airplane - the members and General Service Representatives (GSRs) that were already in place that he could contact, which was immensely helpful. He was in the process of updating rosters for the Westside Combined Districts and for Area 05. They had a wonderful meeting and had elections. He was elected as DCM, John J. as Alternate DCM, and Lisa M. as Secretary. They were putting some pieces in place to continue flying and moving forward. He said that they were a work in progress. Some were attending Zoom meetings, some were attending in-person meetings, and some were attending hybrid meetings. They were building the structure for the airplane, and then would bring in GSRs from the groups, which were also rebuilding during that time. He shared that there were many differences of opinion about how to resume meetings, not only inside of AA but also outside of AA. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**District 30 DCM, Alex H., reported the following:** Alex introduced himself and the Alternate DCM, Armando. He said that their district is listed as having 92 groups with the Registrar and 65 groups with the General Service Office (GSO). They had 5 participants at their last district meeting and were reaching out to contacts to find out what was going on with groups that had become isolated and groups that had gone “dark”. He shared that their District includes groups from two counties: Los Angeles and San Bernardino, and that LA County was under strict lockdown, while San Bernardino was relatively less restrictive. In LA County, meetings had a cap of ten people per in-person meeting, while San Bernardino County had no such restrictions. As a result, in-person meetings in San Bernardino had been more successful while meetings in LA County had moved to sober livings and private residences. There were some meeting places that were operating, like the Alano Club in Rancho Cucamonga, and other clubs had been having hybrid meetings which were more successful. Young People in AA (YPAA) groups had been successful in implementing them, and they were trying to reach out to encourage groups, especially ones in LA County, to use that as an option. Outreach had been complicated by meetings that had become in-home meetings that did not want to be listed to avoid insurance and liability issues. Alex said that being able to register zoom meetings and bring in General Service Representatives (GSRs) from those meetings would be helpful, and that they were waiting for that issue to work its way through the General Service Conference. They were also in the process of implementing a new website. They had lost contact with their old webmaster. Right then, they had a placeholder page. They were soliciting suggestions and checking out other district pages. They were hoping to utilize the website to get people informed and participating. Alex thanked everyone.

**District 33 DCM, Miguel C., reported the following:** Miguel introduced himself and wished everyone well. He reported that they had 8 GSRs from 23 groups. Eight of the groups were open and five were closed. They were visiting two groups a week. Their District meetings met twice a month on Saturdays from 4-7pm, and they also had hybrid meetings.

**District 36 DCM, Paul D., reported the following:** Paul introduced himself and reported that his district had 10 meetings, all meeting on zoom. They were the Ohio Avenue, known as Ohio Street, location on the West Side, and they were a part of the Westside Combined Districts. They currently had a DCM, and Alternate DCM, five General Service Representatives (GSRs) and two Alternate GSRs. Six out of the ten meetings in their district were represented, so their Alternate DCM was reaching out to the remaining meetings to try to get them represented. They were trying to get their GSRs, especially their new ones, to register for the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and they were assisting them from getting reimbursed from the Westside Combined Districts treasury, since they had funds to reimburse 50 GSRs to attend PRAASA which was possible this year because registration was only \$15. At their district meeting, they also discussed what was going on in their meetings. They had a Young People’s meeting that brought up many questions and concerns, so they talked about them during their meeting. He mentioned that he sent out a report from the meeting and would make an effort to distribute information from the Area to the GSRs as Lauren requested. He mentioned that he is also the Alternate Chair for the Grapevine / La Viña Committee, and he had been working with the Chair of the committee, Jacobo M. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**District 37/38 DCM, Susan D., reported the following:** At their last meeting, they discussed the use of some protocol when reaching out to groups that had not General Service Representative (GSR), such as reaching out to the Secretary of the meeting to talk about getting a GSR. They also talked about not taking their positions too seriously and remembering that sometimes, even a word or small comment could take someone out or cause them to leave the group. She stressed



that their jobs as GSRs were to bring the message to their meetings, and to communicate with them and pass information. She said that they needed to remember that this was a non-profit organization, and that the word "organization" meant that they were to be organized, and that in order to be organized, they needed people to go to the meetings to let them know what was going on in the Area and District, and it was their job to do this. Susan closed by saying, "God bless all of you."

**District 39/40 DCM, Jen C., reported the following:** Jen introduced herself and said it was great to be there that day. At their last meeting, they discussed transitioning to in-person meetings. They felt that even if things opened up in Los Angeles or California, there would possibly still be hesitation about meeting in-person. Jen shared that her homegroup might stay on Zoom, based on people's comfort levels and their distrust of the cleanliness at in-person meetings. They also talked about membership, continuing their efforts from 2020 to outreach to dark meetings to make sure there were General Service Representatives (GSRs). She reported that they had a lot of new members. Along with herself, they had an Alternate DCM and 7 other attendees, 4 of which were new. They talked about what drew them to service, and one of them recited the quote "When a hand reaches out with no hand to hold" and wanted AA to be there for anybody who needed it. They also talked about how being a new GSR could be overwhelming, "like drinking water from a firehose," and talked about how to make the experience better for new GSRs. She also spoke to them as the new Westside Combined Districts Treasurer and encouraged their groups to contribute extra funds to Westside Combined Districts, Los Angeles Central Office, and the General Service Office. Jen thanked everyone for listening.

**District 45 DCM, Mark M., reported the following:** Mark introduced himself and mentioned that their Alternate DCM, Bobbi T., their past DCM, Joe C., and two General Service Representatives (GSRs), Rebecca from Joslyn Park and Kevin from Life After Ten were all present. He and Bobbi attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy meeting the day before and found it to be very informative. He announced that he would be attending PRAASA, showed everybody his ticket, and said he was very excited about it. Mark shared that their biggest challenge was getting a handle on communication. In their last meeting they had seven GSRs who represented the Pacific Group Women's Stag, Life After Ten, Joslyn Park, Venice Beach, and Santa Monica Way of Life meetings. He said he was confused but excited about getting caught up. He had been reaching out to people via text message. His homework assignment for that day was to go to [area05aa.org](http://area05aa.org) and download the *Your DCM* pamphlet and take on the learning curve. He wanted to thank Lauren, who he had a chance to speak to the day before. He said that he had a lot of work ahead of him, he was nervous about it, but it was okay. Lastly, he shared that his son was then 90 days sober, only knew Zoom meetings, and was looking forward to experiencing meetings in person. He thanked everyone, and thanked Bobbi T., the Alternate DCM, for being a big help.

**District 46 DCM, Freedom R., reported the following:** Freedom introduced himself and shared that he is an alcoholic with all the alcoholic traits. He displayed all those traits as General Service Representative (GSR) trying to get other people at the meetings to become GSRs, and he failed. He told the outgoing DCM this, and then they voted him in as DCM. He said he did not understand why they did that. He said that he did not know a lot about what he was doing, but he was learning and doing the best that he could with what he had. Jokingly, he said that what he had were anger issues and that hearing himself say that was getting him angry. He said it was going to be okay because he was stubborn, and he was going to do his damndest to get things going as of then. He said their district had nine GSRs and one Alternate GSR, and he was going by four different lists. He said that he was going to start using his phone as a phone to call people and find out who he should be contacting to give information to, and he said that he had been passing on everything that he received from the area. He attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting the day before and a GSR told him they were not going to be able to attend, so he gave him a report that ended up being 1200 words long. It included all the information, with the addition of some of his own commentary. He said that in this way, he could inform the GSRs and give them topics to discuss and things they could bring up during their GSR announcements. He reiterated that he was doing the best he could with what he had. He said that he was so proud of the GSRs in his district because they were doing what he was not able to do and getting new GSRs to join. He expressed that he loved every one of us and that he meant it. He thanked everyone for being more a part of than just attending meetings and saying, "There. I'm sober." He said the more he was getting involved in General Service the more he wanted to become involved. He was grateful to be a part of the Treatment Facilities / Bridging the Gap committee and that he attended a meeting for that in Alabama. He said that GSRs in D46 are informed, and he thanked everyone for allowing him to be of service even though he was a bit of a screw up and a screwball. He said they told him that was going to get better. He said he would be patient for a while

and that he had been a patient for long enough, so he would try to be patient now. Then, he thanked everyone for letting him share.

*There were no reports from Districts 3, 5, 7, 10, 17, 18, 26, 34, 35, 41, 43, 49, 50, 55, 56, or 58.*

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Alternate Delegate, Doug S., reported the following:**

Doug introduced himself and said that it was an honor and privilege to serve as Area 05 Panel 71 Alternate Delegate. He said that the presentations so far that day and the reports from District Committee Members (DCMs) and District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs) were fantastic, that there was a lot of enthusiasm, and that it was encouraging.

He mentioned that the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly would be taking place 3/5 – 3/7 and that he would be attending and serving as the moderator for Alternate Delegates' roundtables. He was looking forward to seeing everyone there and hearing presentation from folks across the Pacific Region.

Doug reminded everyone that the Pre-Conference Workshop would be occurring on Sunday 3/28 and Saturday 4/3. There was some information on the website. The program agenda was pretty much complete; he just needed to finalize it with Lauren. There was going to be 20 presentations total, 10 on the first day and 10 on the second, covering agenda topics that were of interest to the Delegate and what they believed would be of interest to the area. There would be plenty to discuss in the roundtables and breakout rooms during the event and feedback would be feedback taken from the scribes and reported back so that Lauren could understand the sense of the groups, General Service Representatives (GSRs), and districts. He said it was very important to put the workshop on our calendars and hoped that everyone would attend both days. He also said that he would be reaching out to Committee Chairs and DCMs to present on those topics.

Doug shared that the background materials had been received in English, but they were waiting for the Spanish and French translations to be provided. He reminded everyone that in Area 05 we translated everything into English and Spanish. He said that once it was all available, it would be posted on our website on a protected page, since there would be sensitive information in the background information that could not be made public. He said that the surveys/questionnaires were also just about complete. As soon as they were ready, they would also be posted on the website so that people could download them. He also said that if people needed them printed, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, the area had a discount card for Office Depot that would allow them to get them printed at a very low rate.

He also mentioned that he was the liaison between Area 05 and other service entities like the Los Angeles Central office, Los Angeles Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) Committee, and the Foothill Roundup. He had attended the LA Central Office and LA H&I meetings recently, and they had a very active group. He affirmed that our Corrections Chair was doing a great job with the H&I folks.

He also reported that he had been attending North American Alternate Delegate sharing sessions, which occurred on the first day of each month and was attended by Alternat Delegates from across the US and Canada. They met, shared ideas, and talked about what was going on in the different regions. He said that our region was very well represented and that the information had been very helpful.

Doug said that he attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting the day before and that it was fantastic, there were a lot of good topics, and he was excited about what everyone was doing.

Doug then reported in his role as the Chief Financial Officer for the Area and explained that it was part of his role and responsibilities to lead the Audit Subcommittee, which was comprised of himself, along with two Past Delegates – Jim I., Panel 53 Past Delegate, and Thomas S., Panel 69 Past Delegate. He explained that once they received the financial reports, they went through them to make sure that everything was accurate. They were still waiting for the January report from the Accounts Treasurer. There were financial reports received each month from both the Accounts Treasurer and Contributions Treasurer that they reviewed. So far, he has noticed that there was an extra \$54.99 in the January Statement that was not reported in the contributions report they received, so they would be figuring it all out working closely with both treasurers. He was also made aware that there had been some changes with Stripe, the provider used for online contributions, which was causing some discrepancies that needed to be figured out, and that Zoraida was probably going to be mentioning it in her report.

Doug thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

**Secretary, Brian P., reported the following:**

Brian introduced himself and said he was taking minutes that day, so he was grateful for his fingers to have this break while he gave his report. He thanked everyone for speaking slowly and clearly and for approving the minutes earlier that day.

He mentioned that we approved the calendar at our last Area Assembly and that he would send out the Final Calendar after the meeting that day. It had the same exact dates as the last draft calendar, but he would send out a version that did not say "draft" on it.

He also said that he was invited to speak at a Spanish-Speaking virtual meeting by Miguel L., and that it was really neat and he saw a lot of people from the Area there and from other areas. As part of his presentation, he created a visual timeline of our Area meetings, so he would send that out to everyone too, in case they found it handy.

He said he would be attending the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and that he had attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting the day before and it was great.

He thanked everyone for letting him be of service, and then went on to share one more thing: The Chinese and English AA meeting celebrated their one-year anniversary the Friday before that day. He said that some of us had come by to speak and some were involved in helping to get the meeting started, so he wanted to pass on the news.

Brian thanked everyone.

**Accounts Treasurer, Zoraida R., reported the following:**

Zoraida introduced herself, said that it was good to see everyone's faces, and welcomed all that were new.

She explained that the Area used a service called Stripe as a platform to receive online contributions. As of 1/15 there were new "radar" fees that were costing a few cents per transaction and preventing the reports they provided from reconciling with our bank statements. She said that Doug S., Alternate Delegate, Faith B., Webmaster, Shawn A., Contributions Treasurer, herself, and a few others would be looking into it. Zoraida shared that she had spent some time on calls with customer service, that her case was escalated, and that she was told she would be hearing back from them next week. If not, she would follow up with them again.

She also reported that she had sent out our Area's contribution for the General Service Conference, and that it was exciting to do that. The amount was \$1,800 which was the suggested contribution for 2021 plus the additional \$400 voluntary contribution, so Lauren was ready to go. Zoraida said that she was excited to hear what happened at the Conference that year.

She also shared that she had been thinking about how she could improve on the Accounts Treasurer commitment. She was taught by her sponsors to think of how she could improve upon what she was given and of what she could contribute to it. She said it dawned on her that her first commitment at her District was Treasurer and that it had segued her into area commitments, and it had been such an amazing journey. She was thinking of having a mini workshop for District Treasurers where they could talk about things like balancing books, looking at bank statements, how they were tackling their new commitments. She said that she could maybe learn from them while contributing to them also. She said that she would love to hear everyone's ideas and find out if they thought it was needed, and if so, she would love to put it together. She mentioned that she was an accountant was familiar with numbers and reconciling and that it could all be made simple.

Zoraida then shared that the International Women's Conference was held that weekend. She recalled how a few years before, she had reached out to the Chair for the 55<sup>th</sup> Conference when it was being held in Los Angeles and they were able to have Spanish-speaking participation at the Conference for the first time in 55 years. In the current year, her sponsee, who was also involved in the 55<sup>th</sup> Conference, wanted to get involved in the current year's Conference as well, since everything was on Zoom, and she started working with the committee to have Spanish-speaking participation once again. They were able to have a whole program for Spanish-speaking women on Saturday and have all of the big meetings interpreted into Spanish. She mentioned that our interpreter, Amalia C., did the interpretation for them that day, and that it was great, and something that evolved from our service in Area 05.

She then spoke about the Chinese and English meeting that just celebrated its one-year anniversary. There was a person who was a newcomer when they had first started the meeting that just took a one-year cake last month, and they were all grateful for that.

She offered to help with anything anyone needed at the districts and mentioned that she was always open to coming and visiting the districts. She thanked everyone and said that she would talk to everyone again soon.

**Contributions Treasurer, Shawn A. reported the following:**

Shawn introduced himself and explained that he went to the Post Office Box twice a month, took out everything in the box, processed and deposited any checks, and forwarded any other mail to their appropriate destinations. He said he looked forward to presenting the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Contributions Report later in the meeting and thanked everyone.

**Registrar, Miguel M., reported the following:**

Miguel greeted everyone and introduced himself. He thanked Nikki U., Chairperson and the previous panel's Registrar, for helping him relentlessly and for being there to guide him through a whole bunch of stuff. He jokingly said that he knew he was making it look easy, but it was not.

He reported that he had attended the training session for Fellowship Connection that he had told us about at the last Area Assembly. It took place on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm Eastern Time and was an hour-long training session. It gave them a good breakdown of what was happening and of the different functions of the Fellowship Connection database.

Since then, he had been working on registering as many General Service Representatives (GSRs) as possible, English and Spanish. Some registrations were more difficult than others, and he ran into some issues trying to process registrations for people that did not have email addresses. He had run into the issue the day before and talked to Arturo, the Alternate District Committee Member (DCM) for District 33. He was going to speak to his district to motivate them to get email or find out what was going on. If they were having difficulty with the technology, he thought that maybe they could have a workshop to show people how to use email. He thought that this would promote inclusivity.

He updated the Area Roster, with help from Nikki, and sent it out yesterday. He said it was time-consuming but was grateful for opportunity to serve. There were some kinks that they were still working out with the spreadsheet, updating the master list, and things not showing up in other places, but they were working it out and they would get there.

He shared that he would be attending the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and had attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting, which was a fantastic meeting that he recommended everyone attend the next quarter.

Miguel thanked everyone for their patience and understanding.

**Chairperson, Nikki U., reported the following:**

Nikki introduced herself and said that she was still learning.

Addressing those that were new, she shared that commitments in General Service lasted two years, and that if they continued in service, every two years they would face a new challenge. She shared that she would go into each wondering how she was going to do it, relying on her service sponsor and those around her. Then, she would learn and by the time the two years were over, she would think that she would have it down and then suddenly, she would be onto something new.

She said that it was such an alcoholic thing to seek chaos for our lives because that had been where we were comfortable before becoming more comfortable with serenity in sobriety. She wondered whether Bill and Dr. Bob were thinking about giving us a glimpse of the old chaos, and then related that when she got through it, however, that she felt really good about herself, and that it was why she had continued on in General Service, which was just as much a surprise to her as it was to anybody else.

She said she did not attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legacy Meeting the day before, so there was a part of her that felt like she needed to be more disciplined about her calendar. She had been busy though and had sent out more apologies this panel for being late on things because she was still getting used to the rhythm and timing of being Area Chair. She thanked everyone once again for their patience and made herself available to join any districts for their district committee meetings.

Nikki then explained that in a moment, she would be introducing Juan M., Past Delegate, Panel 63 to present on his experience participating in the inventory that they did at the General Service Conference while he was Delegate. She said that she had wanted him to share this with us because she would like our Area to do an inventory as well. She said that she would soon put a list of 13 questions from the A.A. Group Pamphlet for taking a Group Inventory and that we would be splitting up into breakout rooms to have roundtables for how to adapt those questions for use in an Area Inventory, and that we would use the adapted questions to do an Area Inventory in subsequent assemblies that year. Nikki related that as an individual in recovery, she sometimes did personal inventories, not necessarily because something was wrong, but just to center herself. She thought this would be a great time for our area in this new panel to look at and center ourselves so that we could be more effective in our primary purpose.

### **Presentation on AA General Service Conference Inventory**

#### **Panel 63 Past Delegate, Juan M., presented the following:**

Juan introduced himself and thanked Nikki for asking him to share about the inventory taken at the 63rd General Service Conference in 2013 and said that it was always great to participate at the area level.

Juan shared that the Conference had done 3 smaller inventories prior to 2013, but that the one done in 2013 was a larger undertaking, and they took a lot of time to select questions and to prepare for that inventory. The General Service Board, the General Service Office (GSO), and the Grapevine Board had all had inventories before, and one of the Regional Trustees brought up the idea that it might be good for the Conference to have an inventory, and they started to plan it and it took a lot of time.

Finally, in 2011 and 2012, when Marcus F. was our Area Delegate, they decided how they were going to do the inventory. They decided that it would be done over three years and that there would be 44 questions asked.

For the first year of the inventory, in 2013, they covered 15 of the 44 questions. The 134 members of the General Service Conference were split up into 15 groups, each with 8 or 9 members who were a mix of Delegates, Trustees, and GSO Staff Members. Questions 1 – 5 were given to 5 of the groups, then questions 6 – 10 were given to another 5 groups, and questions 11-15 were given to the last 5 groups. So, they did not have enough time for everyone to go through all 15 questions, but each got to work on the five that their group was assigned and hear about what happened in the other groups. He said the experience was amazing because everyone was different and brought different information from their areas. He said the process might have benefitted some areas more than others because some areas had better communication with their groups.

In the second year of the inventory at the 64<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, he was able to chair one of the meetings and hear information and thoughts from everybody.

He said that what was amazing about the inventory was that he was able to see the things that came up from the questions put into action. He said that without action, an inventory is just words. The purpose of an inventory was to put thing into action. Otherwise, coming up with suggestions that were not put into action was a waste of time.

He said that he remembered when he had done personal inventories, group inventories, district inventories, and even an area inventory when we had one in the past. He remembered helping some groups where they never completed the inventory process because they did not put their results into actions, and so their inventories were a waste of time.

He explained that the Conference needed an inventory because they needed to improve the communication between the committees, the General Service Board, the General Service Office, the Grapevine, and the Delegates and groups. He said it was greatly beneficial to improve communication to the groups, because the participation and thoughts of the groups were very important.

He shared that he was not in attendance for the third year since he had rotated out of being our Delegate.

After the third year of the inventory, they put all the questions and findings into a booklet and distributed the book and it was very good. It inspired other Conferences in other countries to do their own Conference inventory, and they did one in Mexico where they used some of the questions that we used in our Conference and they asked him to help.

He said that the inventories were great and reminded everyone that it was extremely important to put the things that come out of the inventory into action or else the inventory would be a waste of time.

He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to share and invited anyone to reach out to him if they wanted more information about the inventory. He also suggested asking members who were in General Service at that time to see if they still had the booklet that they distributed after the inventory. It contained all of the questions and the suggestions that came out of the responses to those questions.

He thanked Nikki for the opportunity to share and said that he was grateful that he was able to participate in the meeting even though he was in a different country at that time.

### **Roundtable Discussions**

Chairperson Nikki U. placed 13 questions from the AA Group pamphlet into the chat and Website/Technology Chair Kyle H. explained how the breakout rooms would work for the roundtables.

The following Past Delegates were assigned to be moderators for the roundtables and were each assigned the following questions: Mary T. (1-3, & 13), Jim I. (1-3, & 13), Marcus F. (4-6, & 13), Jim W. (4-6, & 13), Juan M. (7-9, & 13), Dean. (7-9, & 13), Thomas S. (10-13), Thomas B. (10-13)

Nikki was asked to clarify what we were trying to achieve with an inventory, and she explained that she was told that we had done an area inventory in the time that she had been in General Service, and that she felt it was good opportunity to help us focus and ask, "Are we truly communicating to our groups? Are there any questions we should be asking ourselves and our groups to be more effective in exercising and delivering our primary purpose?" It was an opportunity to focus what it was we were trying to achieve and how we did it as an area, how we could best work together, and ask ourselves if we were reaching the most people, if our message was effective, and if we were effective in communicating the message. She said that we often got so busy doing the things we were doing that we were not looking at how we were doing those things. This was an opportunity to look at the "how" so that we could be better.

Nikki clarified that in the roundtables, we were to adapt the questions about AA groups to be about our Area, and also add any questions that people came up with that would be useful for us to ask ourselves.

***Area Committee members split off into breakout rooms for roundtables at 11:40 AM.***

***Area Committee members returned from breakout rooms and the Area Committee Meeting resumed at 12:20 PM.***

### **Roundtable Report-Backs**

Inventory Questions 1-3 and 13 from the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*:

1. What is the basic purpose of our group?
2. What more can our group do to carry the message?
3. Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with accessibility issues?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

**Jim A., District 2 DCM, reported back the following for the roundtable moderated by Mary T., Past Delegate Panel 51, covering questions 1-3 and 13:**

- They talked about having a "GSR's Roles and Responsibilities for Dummies" on the website, and the idea morphed into having an illustrated version of the GSRs Roles and Responsibilities, and then into the idea of a graphic novel.
- Reduce the number of committees to make them work better.
- Get more people interested and involved in making committee-work stronger.
- They discussed old-timers' meetings and other meetings.

- They discussed reaching out to treasurers and the role and responsibilities of treasurers so that they could increase the level of their participation at the area.

**Nancy H., Finance Chair, reported back the following for the roundtable moderated by Jim I., Past Delegate Panel 53, covering questions 1-3 and 13:**

They had 10 people in their group, and they started by discussing the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*. There was some misunderstanding in their group about whether they were to answer the questions given or come up with new ones, so some answered the questions given, and some gave new ones.

- There were no new ideas in A.A. We should be looking into and utilizing what we already had and make sure we were following the structure.
- They had a big discussion about technology and the elderly. The elderly were having a hard time with change that involved new technology, like the use of Zoom with a lot of groups lately. Some groups had lost elderly members because they did not want to use the Zoom platform.
- Use the “share screen” feature to assist the elderly, possibly get central offices involved, and create a list of people who were willing to go out and train people.
- Mask up and go out to take care of fellow alcoholics. Most AAs had people in their local area they could help so people did not need to travel far to help them.
- To address anonymity concerns, communicate that there were different platform options other than Zoom for online meetings, including ones where one did not need to show their face.
- Have a packet for new meetings available for download for people trying to start new meetings and make GSRs aware that it was there.
- Have print-outs for technical help that could be left behind when going out to assist people with technology. People could then refer to it as a reference if they needed the same help again.
- We were missing people in the rooms due to the new technology and people not being comfortable using it.

Inventory Questions 4-6 and 13 from the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*:

4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group do to retain members?
5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?
6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

**Paul D., District 36 DCM and Grapevine / La Viña Alternate Chair, reported the following for the roundtable moderated by Jim W., Past Delegate Panel 55, covering questions 4-6 and 13:**

They were only able to discuss question 4.

They talked about their experiences at the group level. Traditions took care of attracting new members and retaining them there.

- They also talked about participation at the Area, orientations sessions at the District and Area levels, and the use of resource pages about abbreviations used in General Service.
- They talked about how we could increase participation in the Zoom era. One member thought there was more participation now because people could get to our meetings more frequently and more easily with respect to geographical barriers. There was no longer a need to travel for meetings.

- They discussed reaching out to treasurers and the role and responsibilities of treasurers so that they could increase the level of their participation at the area.

**Nancy H., Finance Chair, reported back the following for the roundtable moderated by Jim I., Past Delegate Panel 53, covering questions 1-3 and 13:**

They had 10 people in their group, and they started by discussing the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*. There was some misunderstanding in their group about whether they were to answer the questions given or come up with new ones, so some answered the questions given, and some gave new ones.

- There were no new ideas in A.A. We should be looking into and utilizing what we already had and make sure we were following the structure.
- They had a big discussion about technology and the elderly. The elderly were having a hard time with change that involved new technology, like the use of Zoom with a lot of groups lately. Some groups had lost elderly members because they did not want to use the Zoom platform.
- Use the "share screen" feature to assist the elderly, possibly get central offices involved, and create a list of people who were willing to go out and train people.
- Mask up and go out to take care of fellow alcoholics. Most AAs had people in their local area they could help so people did not need to travel far to help them.
- To address anonymity concerns, communicate that there were different platform options other than Zoom for online meetings, including ones where one did not need to show their face.
- Have a packet for new meetings available for download for people trying to start new meetings and make GSRs aware that it was there.
- Have print-outs for technical help that could be left behind when going out to assist people with technology. People could then refer to it as a reference if they needed the same help again.
- We were missing people in the rooms due to the new technology and people not being comfortable using it.

Inventory Questions 4-6 and 13 from the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*:

4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group do to retain members?
5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?
6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave what they share at meetings behind?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

**Paul D., District 36 DCM and Grapevine / La Viña Alternate Chair, reported the following for the roundtable moderated by Jim W., Past Delegate Panel 55, covering questions 4-6 and 13:**

They were only able to discuss question 4.

They talked about their experiences at the group level. Traditions took care of attracting new members and retaining them there.

- They also talked about participation at the Area, orientations sessions at the District and Area levels, and the use of resource pages about abbreviations used in General Service.
- They talked about how we could increase participation in the Zoom era. One member thought there was more participation now because people could get to our meetings more frequently and more easily with respect to geographical barriers. There was no longer a need to travel for meetings.



- The discussed turnover and how there was a lot of participation from GSRs at election assemblies. Then, participation decreased at the beginnings of panels and built back up.
- Keep expectations low and participation high.
- Have service sponsors be available and return phone calls just like recovery sponsors would.
- Smaller meetings retained people better, while larger meetings had more newcomers and larger turnover.
- At the Area level, it was a DCM's responsibility to encourage participation among GSRs.

**Barbara reported the following for the roundtable moderated by Marcus F., Past Delegate Panel 57, covering questions 4-6 and 13:**

- Do newcomers stick?
- Do we lose long-timers?
- Are we bringing the message to the group as a whole?
- Are we attracting people to recovery? (They thought "attracting" was a good word.)
- Are we emphasizing the importance of sponsorship? How can we do so more efficiently?
- Are we careful to preserve anonymity of group members and other AAs inside and outside the rooms of AA? They discussed how technology was impacting that question and shared examples of protecting members with respect to Zoom anonymity, screenshots inside and outside rooms, QR codes, and whether information was being collected on members when they used technology to make 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions. They said maybe these were questions that should be discussed at the Pre-Conference Workshop.
- Are we protecting people's anonymity in press, radio, film, and technology?

Inventory Questions 7-9 and 13 from the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*:

7. Does our group emphasize to all members the value of keeping up with the kitchen, set-up, clean-up and other housekeeping chores that are essential for our Twelfth Step efforts?
8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?
9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

**Susie P., District 14 DCM, reported the following for the roundtable moderated by Dean B., Past Delegate Panel 64 (Area 08), covering questions 7-9 and 13:**

Regarding Question 7:

- Are we ensuring that the host districts have the resources and guidance they need to host assemblies? They talked about how there were so many commitments needed to host an assembly, from food, to the cans used to collect money for food, clean-up after the assembly, bathrooms, breakout rooms, etc.

Regarding Question 8:

- How are we doing with meeting our responsibilities to accurately pass on information (reports, etc.) from the Area level to the Districts?

Regarding Question 9:

- Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?

- Are we stimulating enough interest at the group and district levels to attract the best qualified servants? The discussed going to meetings and reading the GSRs responsibilities from page S20 of the A.A. *Service Manual* to generate excitement and get new GSRs and then get them further excited to take different commitments at the Area level.

Regarding Question 13:

- Are we fully utilizing electronic payment methods that work for a variety of situations and informing people about how to use them?

Extra Question:

- Are we communicating to groups why we have General Service?

Inventory Questions 10-13 from the pamphlet *The A.A. Group*:

10. Are we doing all we can to provide a safe, attractive and accessible meeting place?
11. Does our group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of A.A. — as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service?
12. What has our group done lately to bring the A.A. message to the attention of professionals in the community — the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
13. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

**Jacobo M., Grapevine / Viña Chair reported the following for the roundtable moderated by Thomas B., Past Delegate Panel 67, covering questions 10-13:**

Jacobo reported that Thomas B. gave an explanation of why inventory is taken and what it involved, based on *The A.A. Service Manual*, and according to our Area's Guidelines and Policies. The Area was like a Conference within a Conference. Inventories were based on how we were working and how we could do it better. The primary purpose was how to carry the message to who needed it most. It was an educational process about how we were doing and how we could do it better.

Using the district as an example:

- How well are GSRs bringing the District's message to groups and the groups' messages to the District?
- How effective is the structure of our activities?
- How do we see to it that new trusted servants stay with us in the area?
- How can we see ourselves within service?
- Am I serving because of ego or because of gratitude?
- What is my 2<sup>nd</sup> step practice of love and tolerance?

Regarding Question 10:

- It would not be the same once we went back to in-person meetings. We would have to take action to protect ourselves. The Area should provide guidelines in order to take care of ourselves physically. People should be aware especially in Spanish community about health guidelines. Especially safety.

Regarding Question 11:

- Is the area doing its part to carry the message according to the 3 Legacies?
- How do we maintain communication between GSO and the districts?
- We were doing well but there was always room to improve.
- The area was doing the best it could, maintaining open communication.

- Through GSRs and Districts the Area could invite more groups to be present at meetings.
- Communication was the most essential base to carry the message.

Regarding Question 12:

- The Area developed a tech committee, then the district developed a tech committee, and then the group developed a tech committee, so the Area was providing good leadership.

**Gola. R., Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Chair, reported the following for the roundtable moderated by Thomas S., Past Delegate Panel 69, covering questions 10-13:**

They started by discussing the purpose of an inventory and then jumped into the questions.

Regarding Question 10:

- They felt that the words “safe” and “accessible” were the most important words of the question.
- One member focused on the words “all we can” and felt that the Area was fulfilling that, though there were some disagreements because some felt there were pros and cons to accessibility with respect to using Zoom, such as not needing to travel to meetings (pro), and the fact that there seemed to be less participation from Spanish-speaking members since meetings were moved to the Zoom platform (con).
- We were doing the best we could but there was always room for improvement.
- When we opened back up, there would be a lot of things to take into consideration such as COVID-19 guidelines, providing hand sanitizer, social distancing, and limiting physical touch.
- There was a past suggestion brought by the Guidelines and Policies Committee about considering national, state, county, and local safety guidelines when reopening meetings.
- There was a distinction between requirements versus suggestions from General Service regarding reopening meetings.

Regarding Question 11:

- We could do better in reaching out to remote communities that have barriers to recovery such as language, age, etc., being that we were in a diverse area with many remote communities.
- The Pre-Conference surveys were an excellent thing our Area did towards this need.
- We should ask ourselves: How do we assist groups in having more opportunities to carry the message?
- We could do a better job of distributing the SCAAN. Communication needed to be two-way from area to group and from group to area, not just from GSRs to groups.

Regarding Question 12:

- Creating workshops for professionals would be very well-suited and accessible for this time when people are using Zoom.
- Podcasts would allow professionals to access information on their own time.
- This work had been done well in the last panel and recently, though there was always room for improvement.
- Question to ask ourselves: How well are all our committees that are tasked with reaching out to professionals (not just the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee) doing in reaching them?
- There were in-person panels in the past that were designed for outreach to professionals that were not happening anymore in the Zoom era. We needed to find more inventive ways to inform the community.
- As of then, the General Service Office (GSO) had been letting the Area know about professional conferences to attend. We needed to reverse this and be the ones informing GSO about professional events in our Area.
- We needed to inform the types of professionals that dealt with court cards that we were still serving in the Zoom era and that we were still providing proof of attendance.

Regarding Question 13:

- We could emphasize the spiritual aspect of the seventh tradition, because it did not seem that a lot of groups were doing that.

Nikki thanked everyone who participated and said that she would gather all of the information and formulate inventory questions for subsequent assemblies. She also said that she wanted all DCMs and Committee Chairs to be involved with formulating the questions so that they could go back and inform GSRs and let them know the inventory was coming up so that they could talk to their groups and find out how they thought the area was doing.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Cooperation with The Young Community Committee Status Change**

***Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Chair, Gola R., made the following motion, which was previously presented at the 1/23/21 Area Assembly: Establish a standing Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) committee to continue efforts to make A.A. available to this population.***

The full proposal and background document was emailed to the Area Committee.

Excerpt from presentation:

"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."

Questions from the floor:

- What would be the interaction between this committee and Los Angeles County Young People in AA (LACYPAA) and other Young People in AA (YPAA) committees? Answer: The committee's main goal with YPAAs would be to inform their communities of things going on in General Service and to inform people in General Service about things going with YPAAs. While this would not be the committee's main focus, this is how they would liaise with YPAAs.

Discussion:

- Currently, we only heard from YPAAs when they wanted to bring a convention or event to our area. With the new committee, we would be able to hear about a lot more things going on in YPAAs on a more regular basis.
- They were very supportive of the motion and were glad the new panel decided to move forward with it.
- It was our responsibility to make sure the hand of AA was there whenever someone reached out for help. People who were especially young, like themselves when they started drinking at the age of 8, often did not know how to reach out for help or know that help was there. If there were some kind of outreach and they knew there was somewhere they could go, that there was help, and that they did not need to suffer, it would have been great. They wanted everyone to have that chance and opportunity.
- They were a new member of the CYC committee and encouraged everyone to vote yes. They also encouraged the area to consider its structure and was grateful to hear from the breakout sessions some people wanting to reduce the number of committees. They would have rephrased it as rationalizing our committees. We had more non-DCM voting members in the Area Committee than DCMs, and Area Committee was supposed to be the DCMs. They thought we needed to look at this going forward, but did not think we should be letting that get in the way of approving CYC as a standing committee.
- Most committees for reaching out to groups were there because of impediments to our ability to provide information. For instance, reaching out to the elderly community was important because of their challenges with technology and transportation. Specific communities with language difficulties needed to have materials available to them in their own language. Was there a specific need for young people that needed to be addressed at the area level? We had the International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) and the

Western Area Conference of Young People in AA (WACYPAA) that were working directly and effectively with youth. What special impediments were there that would be addressed by young people's committee?

*Response from Gola R., CYC Chair:*

Speaking as a person who got sober young, Gola said that there were barriers related to the idea that people were too young to be alcoholics, and that the committee could work to educate people about alcoholism to break that barrier. While YPAAs did a great job with that also, the area had the ability to liaise with professional communities and correctional facilities, and the work they were doing in collaboration with other committees to do this was essential. While the other committees were doing that type of outreach already, young people were a specialized community that deserved a specialized committee to address their issues.

*Response from commenter:*

They were looking for a specific impediment. They understood young people thinking that they were not alcoholics but did not think this was too different from many other alcoholics new to AA who had trouble admitting their disease. What would be the committee's agenda and what would they be doing specifically?

*Response from Gola R., CYC Chair:*

Gola said that the proof was in the pudding and pointed to the committee's success creating a meeting to the University of California at Los Angeles' campus. It was easier for adults to get themselves to meetings and bringing meetings to young people helped make AA more accessible. Jen K., the previous CYC Chair could speak to the committee's past work a little better, but the standing committee would want to continue with everything they had done to make AA incredible accessible to the young community.

- They thought it was a fabulous presentation. They wondered if the YPAA committees in our area that the committee would want to interact with knew about Area 05's developments. They said that it would be lovely to have their involvement, but we would need some kind of commitment to the effort, and they would need to understand that we dealt with things like budgets, assemblies, questions asked, etc. Sometimes, things could seem to drag at the area level and seem like we could not pivot quick enough. They would have suggested asking for some patience and forbearance from them and consideration that it would be a long-term relationship that would be mutually beneficial to everyone. They were looking forward to the committee developing into a key part of outreach to young people in recovery overall.
- They thought it was an amazing presentation. They thought of their first sponsor, who was 13 years old when they first got sober. People had told them that they did not belong in AA because they were too young and they had to fight for their place in AA. The need was very real and there were a lot of misconceptions that needed to be dispelled. It was not the same as any other alcoholic not admitting their alcoholism. In these cases, other people were telling them they did not have a place in AA. They had to deal with others' conceptions of what was appropriate for their age. People that were 11 – 13 years old were showing up at YPAA conferences because work was done in the community to reach out to them. They thought it was so important that adults that worked with young people were aware, and that was where General Service could help. The issue was very close to them and they loved the work that they were doing with other YPAA committees. They felt that we could use their energy as a resource for us and invite them to volunteer or speak on panels like the presentation to Covenant House, a homeless organization that wanted us to visit. They were very excited about it and glad that Gola was able to present this so beautifully.
- Speaking to earlier questions or comments about the distinction between the CYC committee and other YPAA committees, they pointed out that the CYC committee would have a vote in the General Service structure whereas the other YPAA committees did not. Speaking to previous comments made about the composition of the Area Committee, they referred to the A.A. *Service Manual*, which said "Basically, the committee is composed of all district committee members, area officers, and chairs of area service committees." Committee chairs were part of the basic makeup of the Area Committee, so the change would not throw anything off in terms of votes. They were in favor of the motion.
- They supported the motion. They taught high school for over 26 years. Understanding it was attraction not promotion, we still needed to bring AA to where young people were. This committee would allow that to happen. For instance, someone from the CYC Committee could work with the Cooperation with the Professional

Community (CPC) Committee to participate and bring ideas like how we could get the message to someone in juvenile hall. These were the types of things that could happen at the area level.

- They were in support of the motion. They were new to the Los Angeles area and related a lot to young people even though they were themselves a senior citizen. They learned a lot from young people. They shared that their sponsor was a person who had 44 years of sobriety and got sober at the age of 17. People in AA thought the person was crazy, that they did not belong there or did not need to be there, and they did not know what to do with them. Still, they grew up in AA and had 44 years of sobriety at that moment. When the commenter first got to AA, they opened up a directory and went to a YPAA meeting and found people that were adults like them but also very young people, and they heard a share from someone who was 10 years old. People were getting sober very young now. The commenter went to the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and met others like themselves that were older but thought like and related to young people. They said that it was people like them that worked in these committees, that younger people looked to them for leadership because they had experience, and that they could be a great service to young people through the proposed CYC standing committee.
- They were in favor of the motion. They were looking at the inventory questions and were thinking about the basic purpose of our area being to carry the message, create unity, get information to our Delegate to bring to New York, and participate in the Conference process. The CYC Ad Hoc Committee had been a huge part of this during the last year-and-a-half. They were the leaders of tomorrow for our fellowship. They had been involved in work with the different committees, bringing meetings to young people, meeting with professionals, and doing all the things we did in General Service outside of just having YPAA Conferences. They felt that there existed the idea that if we created this committee, they would just focus on YPAA Conferences, but it was not the case and the past year-and-a-half was proof.

Nikki U., Chairperson, explained that the vote we were about to take was for a preliminary approval that would require a 2/3 majority. If passed, the motion would be forwarded to the next Area Assembly for final approval.

***The motion passed. The vote count was not recorded, but the vote was well above 2/3 but not unanimous. No minority opinions were offered by those who voted on the non-prevailing side.***

#### 2020 4th Quarter Financial Reports

***Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer, made a motion to approve the 2020 4th Quarter Financial Report as presented at the 1/23/21 Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Nancy H., Finance Chair.***

Zoraida mentioned that the numbers from the report matched those in the 2020 4th Quarter Contributions Report.

***There was a point of order made. The member felt that the 2020 4th Quarter Contributions Report should be approved first, since the contributions stated there were part of the 2020 4th Quarter Financial Report. The point of order was upheld, and the motion to approve the 2020 4th Quarter Financial Report was cancelled.***

***Shawn A., Contributions Treasurer, made a motion to approve the 2020 4th Quarter Contributions Report as presented at the 1/23/21 Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Nancy H., Finance Chair.***

Discussion:

- People were having trouble finding the report from the Zoom chat where it was shared.
- The reports were presented at the Area Assembly and sent out to members of the Area Committee. DCMs should distribute them to GSRs so that they would have them and prevent technical difficulties with Zoom from interfering with their ability to see the reports.
- The numbers from the 2020 4th Quarter Contributions report matches those of the 2020 4th Quarter Financial Report

***The motion passed unanimously.***

***Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer, made a motion to approve the 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report as presented at the 1/23/21 Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Nancy H., Finance Chair.***

Discussion:

- This was the one of the most beautiful financial reports they had seen laid out. Superlative job. *Response from Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer:* The report was prepared by the previous Accounts Treasurer, Brian P.
- To people who were having trouble downloading the reports, they have been out for quite some time, since at least January 23<sup>rd</sup>, so we needed to do a better job of preparing ourselves.

***The motion passed unanimously.***

### **New Business**

#### **PRAASA 2023 Logo Contest**

Thomas B., Past Delegate Panel 67 and Chairperson for the 2023 Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly (PRAASA), introduced himself and shared that the 2023 PRAASA would be held at the LAX Marriott two years from now. The first meeting of the PRAASA 2023 Committee this year was held on 1/31, and they welcomed Dean B., Past Delegate from Panel 64 as the Registration Chair. Dean had served as the Panel 64 Delegate for Area 08, and per our Guidelines and Policies was then serving as Past Delegate for Area 05. They were also then in the process of filing and publishing their PRAASA 2023 fictitious business name statement so that they could open a bank account.

Thomas shared that another exciting order of business for them was their logo contest for the 2023 PRAASA. He said they were grateful for the participation and work of all the Past Delegates, but especially for that of Mary T., Past Delegate Panel 51, who stepped up to put together the flyer for the contest with input from the entire committee. She was there when Thomas served as District Committee Member Chair (DCMC) back in 2010 when PRAASA was in Los Angeles.

Mary T., Past Delegate Panel 51, introduced herself and asked the room if anyone had ever worn a button for PRAASA or collected them. She then explained that every PRAASA had a logo, and since we had to have one for the 2023 PRAASA, they were having a contest and soliciting logo submissions.

Mary screen-shared a document showing the PRAASA logo from 2010, which was the last time PRAASA was in our Area, and the logos from the last three PRAASAs (2019, 2020, and 2021). She explained that the deadline for the contest was 9/30/21, and that there was a flyer with all the information on it, including contest guidelines, that she would be sending to the area after the meeting. She also shared that the winner would receive a free registration and banquet ticket for the 2023 PRAASA.

Mary explained that the logo would be used for buttons and letterhead, but not for large signs or banners. It should look good in color and in black and white and should duplicate well. The contest was open to any AA member in our Area, so she said to share it with GSRs and asked everyone to announce the contest at their groups. Submissions or questions could be sent to [logo@area05aa.org](mailto:logo@area05aa.org), and people could submit as many logos as they liked. She reiterated that the deadline for submissions was 9/30/21 and that she would be sending out a flyer after the meeting.

There was a question asked from the floor about whether there was a theme for PRAASA 2023. Mary explained that there was not a theme for the contest and that the logos usually reflected the meaning of PRAASA or the cities where they were being held. The theme of the 2023 PRAASA would be the General Service Conference theme of that year, and it would not be known until long after they needed to finalize a design for the logo. She explained that the 2023 PRAASA Chair would be taking a big bag of buttons to distribute at next year's PRAASA in Oregon.

### **Good and Welfare Announcements**

Bill L. gave an update on the 2021 Foro de Servicios Generales. He said that they were going full force and had two meetings already. Their last meeting was at District 55 and they met the first Sunday of every month. They had just

visited District 34 to encourage their participation in the event. They had a location for the event and had secured it since April the previous year, since they could not have the event the previous year. They were all happy and excited that they were going to have the event that year, and Bill said that if for some reason they could not hold the event indoors, that they would do it outdoors and maybe have a barbecue.

There was a question about something Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer, mentioned during her report about paying \$1,800 for the General Service Conference along with a \$400 voluntary amount. The person wanted to know what the origin and approval was for the \$400. Lauren A., Delegate, responded that the amount was the balance of their estimated costs for the Conference.

Lauren A., Delegate, shared that there was a new book called *A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous: An Archival Journey*. She had just ordered one. It was cute and compact and great for gifts or as a coffee table book. She highly recommended it. It contained jokes and a section in the back called "AA Grows Around the World" where it showed every foreign country that AA had touched and started meetings in. She said that we always wanted to support our literature and encouraged us all to pick it up. She pointed out that Susie P. had one and Thomas S. had 3 because he was an overachiever.

Sandra C., Archives Chair, announced that they would be holding a committee meeting the following Saturday at 1 PM and she wanted a representative from each District to attend. She was going to send out an announcement via email in Spanish and English. She also reminded everyone to send her any flyers they had for events in English and Spanish to [archives@area05aa.org](mailto:archives@area05aa.org)

Mimi T., Corrections Chair, shared that the 55<sup>th</sup> International Women's Convention was in Los Angeles two years prior, and that because of the work of women who included Claire B., District 15 Alternate DCM, and who worked countless hours each day in the last month volunteering, the 57<sup>th</sup> Convention was held virtually that year from Charlotte, NC. People told them they should cancel the event, but they went out anyway and continued reaching out to the women that needed them. They ended up having a count of 19,373 women registered, 2,500 of whom registered internationally representing 85 countries. She said that this was what happened when we thought we could not and went on anyways saying that God could and kept moving forward to see what happened.

Jacobo M., Grapevine / La Viña Chair announced that they would be having a committee meeting on Saturday 2/27 from 11 AM - 12:30 PM on zoom. He would send a flyer and agenda the area via email. Everyone was invited, and he asked everyone to please show up. He reminded DCMs that if their district did not have a Grapevine / La Viña Chair, it was their duty to show up the committee. He also thanked his Alternate Chair Paul, who has been savvy with technology.

Mimi T., Corrections Chair, added to her sharing about the International and said that there was a Guardianship room where they shared about the 12 Traditions, 12 Concepts for World Service, and the Service Manual. New members came by and got to learn about the Traditions and General Service, and it was very exciting that 90,000+ women had just been exposed to General Service.

***Bill R., District 25 DCM and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Alternate Chair, made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Freedom R., District 46 DCM seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.***

Jacobo M., Grapevine/La Viña Chair, led us out with the Responsibility Statement in Spanish.  
Freedom R., District 46 DCM, led us out with the Responsibility Statement in English.

***The Area Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:48 PM.***



**SPRING ASSEMBLY AGENDA**  
**Sunday – May 16, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 891 0086 2280 Passcode: Area05**

8:00	Registration & Zoom Room Fellowship
9:00	Welcome and Opening Comments Call-to-Order 2 Minutes Silent Meditation, Serenity Prayer AA Birthdays (January 23 – May 16) The Twelve Concepts (Short Form) - Spanish and English
9:20	Introduction of new General Service Representative and Alternates
9:35	Roll Call ( <i>Registrar, Miguel M.</i> )
9:45	Approval of Agenda ( <i>Chair, Nikki U</i> ) Approval of January 22 Assembly Minutes ( <i>Secretary, Brian P</i> )
10:00	Delegate Report – Lauren A, 71 <sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Report Personal and Spiritual Experience – What I Saw, Heard and Felt
10:45	Coffee Break and Morning Stretch
11:00	Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Meetings ( <i>Committee Chairs</i> )
11:45	Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports – 2-to-3-minute summary
12:30	Lunch Break
1:00	Delegate Report – Lauren A, 71 <sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Report Business Report, Conference Actions, Q & A ( <i>Lauren A</i> )
2:30	Officer Reports: Alternate Delegate, Including Audit Subcommittee Report ( <i>Doug S.</i> ) Secretary ( <i>Brian P.</i> ) Contributions Treasurer, incl. presentation of 2021 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Contributions Report ( <i>Shawn A.</i> ) Accounts Treasurer, including presentation of 2021 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report ( <i>Zoraida R.</i> ) Registrar ( <i>Miguel M.</i> ) Chairperson ( <i>Nikki U</i> )
3:00	Unfinished Business – Cooperation With The Young Community Committee Status Change
3:30	PRAASA 2023 Logo Contest ( <i>Mary T, Panel 51 Past Delegate</i> ) Foro Update ( <i>Miguel C, MCD, Distrito 33</i> ) 4 Area DCM Sharing Session ( <i>Alex H, DCM District 30/Arturo F, Alt MCD, Distrito 33</i> )
3:45	New Business/Good and Welfare Announcements
4:00	Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement (Spanish & English)