



SCAA



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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Delegate’s Report, pg. 2
- Area 5 Committees & AA websites, pg. 4
- Archives Committee, pg. 5
- Area Contacts, pg. 6
- District Contacts, pg. 7
- Calendar, pg. 8
- Area Map, pg. 9
- Winter Area Assembly Minutes, pg. 11
- Spring Area Assembly Agenda, pg. 34

A.A. COMES OF AGE 2.0

UNIFIED IN LOVE AND SERVICE



DELEGATE'S REPORT

2022!

Hello Area 05,

I am writing this after my return from the 72nd General Service Conference in Brooklyn, NY. I am extremely happy to announce that - All the Work Was Done -! It was an amazing experience for me and one that is hard to explain but I will try. The General Service Conference goes on all year long especially after the conference itself. The completion of the work asked for by the committees is started on, the changes and additions to literature are begun, the Public Information, Corrections and Cooperation With the Professional Community actions are completed along with all the other committees' work and the information regarding all of this is reported back to each of the 93 Areas in the U.S. and Canada.

As you may remember, my committee assignment was to the Public Information Committee. We spent two days working on our 12 agenda items and it was an amazing experience. There were nine of us on this committee and every single delegate came prepared not only with feedback from their areas but their own ideas and concepts regarding P.I. work. It was so impressive and inspiring. We worked hard and listened to each other to make the best decisions we could regarding the work and scope of the Trustees Public Information Committee. We discussed the GSO Podcast and how to continue to allow the communications department to continue on with their work. We read and commented and gave suggestions on how the Comprehensive Media Plan may be more efficient and accessible. We discussed the Google Ads Performance and decided it was time to give our special workers on the staff the ability to make adjustments for better performance instead of bringing each and every little thing to the conference every year. This will increase the usefulness of the grant. We made the decision to propose the retirement of the "A.A. Fact File" and to replace it with the wonderful Media and Press Kit that was designed. We discussed the Triennial Survey and proposed to distribute it this year. We also talked about a proposed survey that was presented to us in regard to anonymity on social media and asked the staff again to take the reins and help increase the visibility of our YouTube Channel and to add more Spanish Content. We made sure that our suggestions regarding the Meeting Guide App were

clear and concise and we asked to see a new version or draft of the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings” next year.

The rest of the committees did the same and some very effective ideas and proposals came out of each one. There was thorough discussion on the floor of the conference and everyone was heard. The Equitable Distribution of Workload trial was successful in my eyes and the committees that received Literature Agenda Items did a great job.

You will be receiving this report on the same day that I give my “Report Back” to Area 05 so, I will not go through every committee’s work but I want you to know the work was finished on time and the nine Floor Actions that came up were thoroughly discussed and voted on.

There was a Covid -19 outbreak at the Conference this year and the total of cases that were reported of people getting sick was 42. There were quite a few people like me who did not test positive during the entire time but got very sick. We still don’t know why it didn’t show up on the tests but it felt pretty bad. I was masked for most of the time except when eating at the banquet and in our committee meetings. I regret that now. I am also vaccinated and had two booster shots but I still got sick. It remains to be seen what the other “sickness” may have been but from what I can tell, it sure felt like Covid-19. The General Service Office is compiling data and researching what to do in the future. There has been discussion of having alternating years of virtual and in-person in trying to help with the costs of the conference week.

I made life long friends, got to meet all of the Trustees, A’s and B’s, Staff members, Directors and pretty much all of the 93 Delegates. What an experience to head over to the General Service Office as a group and visit and what an experience to participate in Alcoholics Anonymous’ future and to be a guardian of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. I will cherish these two years for the rest of my life.

Yours In Service,

Lauren A.

Delegate - Area 05, Panel 71



Area 5 Committees

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

USEFUL WEBSITES

aa.org - General Service in New York. (GSO and World Services)

area05aa.org - Southern California Area Assembly (Area 05)

aagrapevine.org - A.A. Grapevine (A monthly journal of A.A. stories articles of interest.)

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



Join Us AREA 5!

Monthly Archives Committee Meeting
Every last Saturday of the month at 1 PM
Zoom ID: 817 2080 2278
Password - area 05

[If you would like to share your Committee's Monthly Meeting](#)

OFFICERS

Delegate	delegate@area05aa.org
Alternate Delegate	altdelegate@area05aa.org
Area Chair	chairperson@area05aa.org
Secretary	secretary@area05aa.org
Accounts Treasurer	acctstreasurer@area05aa.org
Contributions Treasurer	conttreasurer@area05aa.org
Registrar	registrar@area05aa.org

PAST DELEGATES

<i>To email all past delegates, use: pastdelegates@area05aa.org</i>	
*Panel 49	panel49@area05aa.org
Panel 51	panel51@area05aa.org
Panel 53	panel53@area05aa.org
Panel 55	panel55@area05aa.org
*Panel 57	panel57@area05aa.org
Panel 59	panel59@area05aa.org
Panel 61	panel61@area05aa.org
Panel 63	panel63@area05aa.org
Panel 64	panel64-08@area05aa.org
Panel 65	panel65@area05aa.org
Panel 67	panel67@area05aa.org
Panel 69	panel69@area05aa.org

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

COMMITTEES

Archives	Chair	archives@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altarchives@area05aa.org
Audio Visual (AV)	Chair	av@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altav@area05aa.org
Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC)	Chair	cec@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altcec@area05aa.org
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	Chair	cpc@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altcpc@area05aa.org
Corrections	Chair	corrections@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altcorrections@area05aa.org
Finance	Chair	finance@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altfinance@area05aa.org
Grapevine & La Viña	Chair	gvlv@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altgvlv@area05aa.org
Guidelines & Policies	Chair	gap@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altgap@area05aa.org
Literature	Chair	literature@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altliterature@area05aa.org
Public Information (PI)	Chair	pi@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altpi@area05aa.org
Registration	Chair	registration@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altregistration@area05aa.org
SCAAN	Chair	scaan@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altscaan@area05aa.org
Translation	Chair	translation@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	alttranslation@area05aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Chair	tfc@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	alttrf@area05aa.org
Website	Chair	webchair@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altwebchair@area05aa.org
Accessibilities/Interpretation (Ad-hoc)	Chair	accessibilities@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altaccessibilities@area05aa.org
Cooperation with the Young Community (Ad-hoc)	Chair	cyc@area05aa.org
	Alt Chair	altcyc@area05aa.org

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

Comite Interdistrital Hispanos (Districts 33, 34, 35, 49, 50, 55)	DCMC	cih@area05aa.org
	Alt DCMC	altcih@area05aa.org
Hollywood-Wilshire-Downtown Combined Districts (Districts 9, 10, 26, 56, 58)	DCMC	chd@area05aa.org
	Alt DCMC	altchd@area05aa.org
Westside Combined Districts (Districts 5, 6, 8, 15, 19, 25, 36, 37/38, 39/40, 41, 43, 45, 46)	DCMC	wcd@area05aa.org
	Alt DCMC	altwcd@area05aa.org

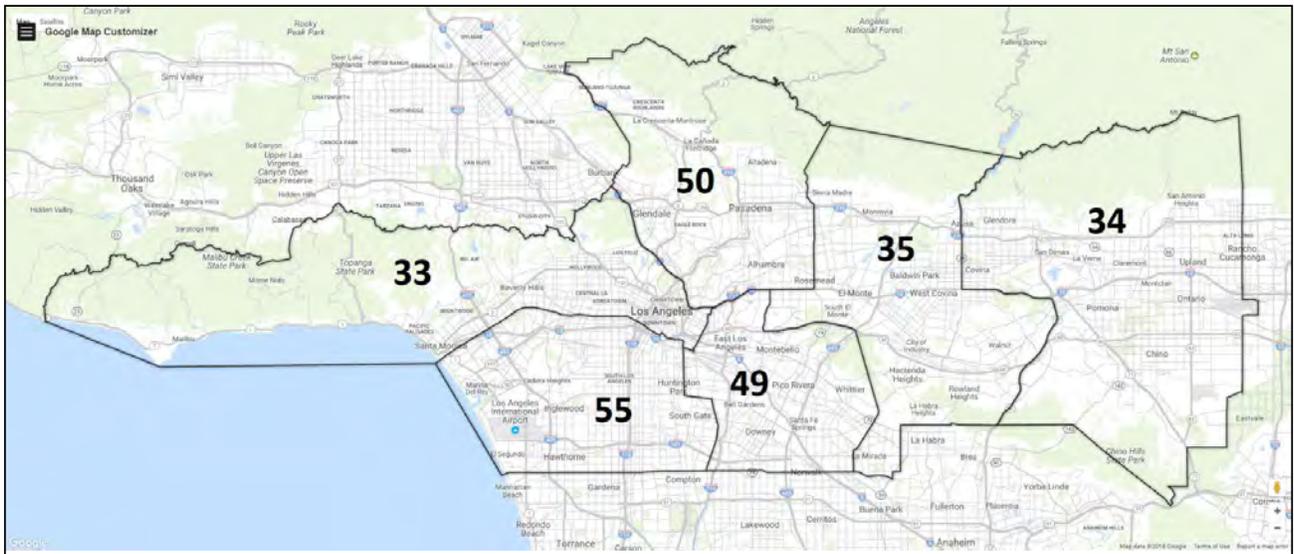
DISTRICTS *(DCM = District Committee Member)*

District 2: La Cañada, La Crescenta, Montrose, Sunland	DCM	district2@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict2@area05aa.org
District 3: Altadena, Highland Park, Pasadena, S. Pasadena, San Marino	DCM	district3@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict3@area05aa.org
District 4: Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, Glendora, La Puente, West Covina	DCM	district4@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict4@area05aa.org
District 5: Culver City, West LA	DCM	district5@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict5@area05aa.org
District 6: Brentwood, West LA	DCM	district6@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict6@area05aa.org
District 7: Hollywood, West Hollywood	DCM	district7@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict7@area05aa.org
District 8: Beverly Hills, Century City	DCM	district8@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict8@area05aa.org
District 9: Downtown LA, Echo Park, Silverlake	DCM	district9@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict9@area05aa.org
District 10: LA - Wilshire Corridor	DCM	district10@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict10@area05aa.org
District 13: Alhambra, Arcadia, Bradbury, Duarte, El Monte, Monrovia, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, South El Monte, Sierra Madre, Temple City	DCM	district13@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict13@area05aa.org
District 14: Downey, Bell Gardens, Montebello, Paramount, Pico Rivera	DCM	district14@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict14@area05aa.org
District 15: Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo, Westchester, Crenshaw	DCM	district15@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict15@area05aa.org
District 17: South Gate, Watts, Huntington Park	DCM	district17@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict17@area05aa.org
District 18: Whittier, La Habra, La Mirada, Hacienda Heights	DCM	district18@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict18@area05aa.org
District 19: Compton, LA - South/Central	DCM	district19@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict19@area05aa.org
District 25: Culver City, West LA, Marina Center	DCM	district25@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict25@area05aa.org
District 26: Eagle Rock, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Mount Washington, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Elvian Park, Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, Montecito Heights, El Sereno, Boyle	DCM	district26@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict26@area05aa.org
District 30: Ontario, Upland, Pomona, Claremont, La Verne, Alta Loma, Rancho Cucamonga, Chino, Diamond Bar	DCM	district30@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict30@area05aa.org
District 33: (Spanish-Speaking) Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Glendale	DCM	district33@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict33@area05aa.org
District 34: (Spanish-Speaking) San Dimas, Pomona, La Verne, Glendora, Ontario, Montclair, Claremont, Chino	DCM	district34@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict34@area05aa.org
District 35: (Spanish-Speaking) San Gabriel East, Azusa, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Pomona, Whittier	DCM	district35@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict35@area05aa.org
District 36: West LA, Ohio Ave.	DCM	district36@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict36@area05aa.org
District 37/38: West LA, Pico Boulevard, Bel Air, Westwood	DCM	district37-38@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict37-38@area05aa.org
District 39/40: Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica	DCM	district39-40@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict39-40@area05aa.org
District 41: West LA, Palms, Rancho Park, Culver City	DCM	district41@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict41@area05aa.org
District 43: West Hollywood, Fairfax, Beverly Hills	DCM	district43@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict43@area05aa.org
District 45: Marina del Rey, Westchester, Playa del Rey, Venice, Santa Monica	DCM	district45@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict45@area05aa.org
District 46: Santa Monica	DCM	district46@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict46@area05aa.org
District 49: (Spanish-Speaking) LA East, Lincoln Heights, Bell/Cudahy, Montebello, Pico Rivera	DCM	district49@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict49@area05aa.org
District 50: (Spanish-Speaking) Glendale, Altadena, Pasadena, Eagle Rock, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights, El Sereno	DCM	district50@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict50@area05aa.org
District 55: (Spanish-Speaking) LA South/Central, Lynwood, Inglewood, Culver City, Santa Monica	DCM	district55@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict55@area05aa.org
District 56: Hollywood, Los Feliz	DCM	district56@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict56@area05aa.org
District 58: Wilshire, Melrose	DCM	district58@area05aa.org
	Alt DCM	altdistrict58@area05aa.org

AREA MAP (English-Speaking Districts)



AREA MAP (Spanish-Speaking Districts)



**A.A. AREA 05 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MINUTES FROM THE WINTER AREA ASSEMBLY
Saturday – January 22, 2022
(via Zoom)**

Welcome and Opening Comments

The 2022 Winter Area Assembly Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 22, 2022, by Nikki U., Chairperson, with a 1-minute silent meditation, the serenity prayer, welcoming remarks, and opening comments.

Nikki reviewed how to use Zoom’s language interpretation and raise hand features. She also reviewed eligibility for voting and participation at Area Assemblies.

People with A.A. Birthdays (Anniversaries) from October 18, 2021 to January 22, 2022 were recognized and serenaded with the birthday song. Birthdays: Nikki P., Don C., Cassidy A., Gola R., Ron H., Evva B., Bridget, Selena B., Brian P., Halley, Joe C., Sam P., Duncan E., Lee A., Jamie W., Lisa K., Susie P, Nikki U.

Antonio A., District Committee Member Chair, Comité Interdistrital Hispanos, read *The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)* in Spanish

Claire B., District Committee Member, District 15, read *The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)* in English

Introduction of new General Service Representative and Alternates

Nikki U., Chairperson, invited all new General Service Representatives (GSR) and Alternate GSRs to introduce themselves.

New GSRs and Alternate GSRs: Laila A. (GSR), Halley (GSR), Leon B. (GSR), Michael R. (GSR), Bridget (GSR), Cassidy A. (GSR), Nydia C. (GSR), Tony S. (Alt. GSR), Matt V. (GSR), Nidra W. (GSR), Nikki P. (GSR), Cathy C. (GSR), River (GSR), Ron H. (GSR), Jessica C. (GSR), James (GSR), Todd R. (GSR), Laura W. (Alt. GSR), Michelly (GSR), Larry B. (GSR), Faith B. (GSR), Selena B. (GSR), John K. (GSR), Mandy D. (GSR), Dennis P. (Alt. GSR)

Roll Call

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

Potential	Present	Potential	Present	Total Present			
Area Officers	7	7	Post Delegate	10	8	Voting Members	14
DCMCs	20	20	Committee Chair	19	13	Non-Voting Members	8
Alt DCMs	13	3	Alt Chairs	10	3	Visitors	17
GSRs	107	36	DCMCs	3	3	Total	119
Alt GSRs	35	1	Alt DCMCs	2	1	Serving in Multiple Positions	
Total	286	66	Total	49	36	Individuals	6

DCMC/ALT DCMC Panel 1)					Area Officers: 2021 - 2022 Panel 1)				
	CIH	HCD	WCD	Area 05	Delegate	Secretary	Registrar		
DCMC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Total 7	
ALT DCMC	0	1	0	1	1	1	1		

District	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	01	14
DCM	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1
ALT DCM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GSR	0	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	1
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	5	2	2	3

District	05	07	08	09	25	28	30	33	34	35	36
DCM	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
ALT DCM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
GSR	3	0	1	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	1
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	0	1	3	1	0	2	4	0	1	2

District	37-38	39-40	41	43	45	46	49	53	55	56	58
DCM	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
ALT DCM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
GSR	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0
ALT GSR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	1	4	0	0

Approval of Agenda and October 17th Assembly Minutes

Nikki U., Chairperson, amended the agenda with an item to add language for the Cooperation with the Young Committee to the Area's Guidelines and Policies, Section V. Standing Committees. Joe T., General Service Representative, made a motion to approve the Assembly Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Shawn. The motion passed unanimously, 61-0.

Brian P., Secretary, made a motion to approve the Minutes from the October 17, 2021 Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Don C., General Service Representative.

Discussion:

Q (David W.): How can people who may not have seen the minutes by email vote on the minutes this morning?

A (Brian P.): Since we are not meeting in person, the only way we have to distribute the minutes right now is via email, and we rely on District Committee Members to deliver them to the General Service Representatives in their districts however they can.

Comment (David W.): I understand you have done all that you can, but Murphy's law says that people will not have read them. Can you put them in the chat so that it can be reviewed.

Comment (Brian P.): I've put it in the chat, but it is 18 pages long. We could give a few minutes for anyone who wants to scan them, but it's up to the chair.

Q (David W.): Can we move the vote to the end of the assembly when people have had a chance to look at it?

A (Nikki U.): This would be a departure from the norm, and we would be facing the same situation with the financial reports. We rely on distribution via email and for District Committee Members to get the information out.

Comment (Don C.): I don't see this as being any different from when we are at an assembly and have the minutes in print. We can't guarantee that everyone reads them, but they still vote on it.

A friendly amendment was offered by Sam P. to correct the heading to read "Minutes from the Fall Assembly" and accepted by Brian P.

The motion passed unanimously, 59-1. No minority opinion was expressed.

Delegate's Report

Lauren A., Delegate, reported:

She was getting ready to attend the board weekend in New York on 1/26/22. As the chair of the Conference Public Information Committee, she was requested to be there. She attended the Delegate Chairs' orientation which was fabulous. At the board weekend, she was going to be sitting in on the General Service Board's quarterly meeting, visiting several of their committees' meetings, and participating in the Trustees' Public Information Committee's meeting.

She put together a schedule for district visits which she was going to share in the chat. She was going to be visiting before the Conference and then again afterwards to give report-backs and answer questions.

The year started out with a bang with the omicron variant, but work still continued, and she was still planning to attend the Conference in April. The Public Information (PI) Committee gained 4 new members amongst the panel 72 delegates. Two were from Canada, one was from Wyoming, and one was from Idaho. They had a meet-and-greet on 1/19/22 and was going to be continuing to meet before and during the Conference.

At last year's Conference, an advisory action put into place a mechanism for equitable distribution of workload, which was meant to balance work amongst the committees and spread work out evenly. Fifteen of their agenda items were given to other committees as a result. The system was an experiment for the next three years.

The PI Committee had not received any additional agenda items and had 14 items on their list. They would be discussing them at the board weekend, and then the final agenda items were going to be released on 2/15/22. The final agenda items were going to be posted to our website and sent to all District Committee Members (DCMs), Committee Chairs, and Officers. Lauren asked that all DCMs distribute them right away when received.

She noted that there were many new General Service Representatives (GSRs) in attendance and said she hoped that they had attended the new GSR orientation with our Alternate Delegate, Doug S. He worked very hard to prepare them. If they had not attended, they could attend any time before an assembly. The Alternate Delegate would be sending out

dates and times to the DCMs. She encouraged all new GSRs to get registered as soon as possible with our registrar, Miguel. She also encouraged everyone to participate in the roundtables on how to receive your group's conscience later that day that our fantastic Past Delegates were going to be leading.

The General Service Conference (GSC) was held each year in New York, usually in April. This year, it was going to be in Brooklyn. 93 Delegates from the US and Canada were going to be attending along with AA's Trustees and General Service Office (GSO) staff members. Each member was randomly assigned to a Conference Committee, which is how she ended up on the PI Committee. The committees were: Agenda, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Finance, Grapevine / La Viña, Literature, Policy and Admissions, Public Information, Report and Charter, Treatment and Accessibility, Trustees, Archives, and International Conventions and Regional Forums.

Several of those committees corresponded with some of the committees in our area, and Lauren urged all GSRs to join a committee.

Each conference committee was composed of Delegates and staff members. The secretary of the committee prepared a presentation of recommendations and considerations to the full Conference. Then, generally, the last two days of the Conference were devoted to discussion and voting on committee recommendations.

Agenda items could come from individual AA members, groups, delegates, trustees, area assemblies, area committee members, directors and staff members of AA World Services Inc., and Grapevine Inc.

Voting members at the Conference were 93 Delegates, 21 Trustees of the General Service Board, 6 Non-Trustee Directors of AA World Services Inc. and Grapevine Inc., and 15 GSO staff members.

Lauren then explained what GSRs' responsibilities were:

- Discuss the agenda items with their groups, get a group conscience, and bring findings to the Preconference Workshop the first weekend in April.
- Continue discussions with their group after the Preconference Workshop and share findings from the roundtables at the workshop
- Share access to the area's survey and background materials on the area website area05aa.org
- Complete the survey themselves with findings from the groups' consciences and discussions with members
- Encourage individual members to complete the survey
- Attend the Delegate's Report-Back at the spring assembly in May

She sent the preliminary agenda items to DCMs and asked new GSRs to get in touch with their DCMs to obtain a copy. Final agenda items were to be sent out on 2/15/22.

So far, the PI Committee had received 14 agenda items. They were going to be receiving the new Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP) for General Service. She read the preliminary plan and there were some great ideas for improvements. The plan was basically a guide for the GSO and their work (budgeting, human resources, planning, etc.) to help them be more effective in carrying the message to alcoholics who still suffered and to support AA members with carrying the message also.

Lauren shared some things from the Comprehensive Media Plan (CMP):

The modern and consistent identity of the Grapevine / La Viña website served as a model for the new AA World Services Website aa.org which launched in December 2021. They addressed concerns related to performance, connecting people locally, accessibility, improved search, and providing service materials.

The four Grapevine / La Viña websites were going to be merged down to two by integrating the stores with each of the main websites, streamlining login and overall user experience.

There was going to be a communications calendar to provide more proactive and efficient internal and external communications.

They were seeking to make our Public Service Announcements (PSAs) more available to the suffering alcoholic by showing PSAs where people were actually watching and listening to other information, and they were going to be making our content more shareable to support AA members who were carrying the message.

They were continuing to learn how to be more effective with all of the information in many places through tools like the website, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, the Meeting Guide App, and podcasts.

Pamphlets were sometimes people's first impression of our Fellowship. The CMP stated that we must stop undermining our own credibility by offering outdated materials. We were going to keep our materials updated and appealing to improve public perception of AA.

Goals for our website were: overall improvement of user experience, mobile compatibility, responsive design, easy-to-use content, web application framework, multilingual capabilities for English, French and Spanish, improve search capability (quick search, near me,) improved ability for visitors to find AA meeting information, compatibility with assistive technologies, search engine optimization, back-end implementation, and an updated visual style.

Future web developments were to include non-PDF digital kits with easier-to-find link lists, integration with Glide Apps, fully digital kit resources available to download and read on aa.org (this needed to go through Conference review and approval), and there would be a discussion about a potential AA service app.

Currently, we had business listings on Yelp, Google, and Bing. These were generated automatically. We took ownership of all 3 in 2019 to correct inaccuracies. Public comments could not be turned off or removed. We had not acted on them yet, but by ignoring them or by leaving inaccurate or inappropriate comments we were missing an opportunity to provide help and contact information. So, we were going to be reviewing listings monthly to correct or update them. They were working on interaction with comments to detail types of comments, distinguish when to respond and not respond and a set of guidelines for case-by-case discussion.

In public relations, they were developing content and a public information calendar, having representatives that could talk about AA to the public, professionals, and the media, developing common talking points and styles, media-training individuals tasked with public roles, developing a list of friendly relationships with press, developing a press list and tracking. There were going to be vast improvements and changes in our messaging.

Announcements were going to be sent directly to AA members, staff, board members, delegates, districts, areas, and local intergroups and central offices. These could include messages from our General Manager or on any number of topics including 7th tradition updates and news about GSO. Lauren believed that DCMs were already receiving these messages. The current manager, Steve Smith, told Lauren that he had a personal goal of sending them once a month. Those would be put on the public information calendar. They would be sent out via email and via box 4-5-9, a quarterly publication that was a great resource for information to give to groups.

We had two new public service announcements (PSAs). PSAs had been long recognized and used as a PI tool by many nonprofits including us, and the first mention of it in the history and actions of the trustees' committee on PI was in 1966 with continuing production of 15, 30, and 60 second television PSAs throughout the decades. Changes occurred in the early 1980s when cable TV came a long and there was an increased need for getting PSAs distributed because of the sheer volume of TV outlets. There were changes to formats and a current request to research placement on streaming services, which was going to be an agenda item this year. PSAs are played during unsold commercial airtime. AA made investments in producing and distributing the content and tracking, and the stations provided the airtime, which had been very valuable over the years. Many people had been touched by them. The new PSAs were out and playing and not only during hours like 3am, but also during regular network time. They were going to be on our website very soon. Some changes need to be made with the captions for Canadian members. The production quality of the PSAs was key to their success, so the GSO always tried to make sure they were of high production value. Local PI committees also made use of PSAs during their information sessions. The trustees' PI committee was tasked each year to review the usefulness and relevance of our PSAs and decide whether to maintain or retire them, develop new ones, and discuss things like policies on actors portraying AA members or potential AA members.

The General Service podcast was initiated by a Conference advisory action last year, and a pilot episode was created. The recommendation was to provide sharing within the Fellowship and to provide information on AA to the public and for them to be produced by GSO in cooperation with the AA Grapevine. It was affirmed that GSO could produce a professional-sounding podcast. A plan was being developed and at the board weekend in January, the committee was going to be determining the final report and podcast plan information that was to be forwarded to the 72nd General Service Conference. The plan would include an introduction, theme, several segments like AA Grapevine News, a Grapevine story, an interview, aa history and fun facts, events, advisory actions, remote communities, and closing remarks. The AA Grapevine podcast was already up and running and could be found at aa-grapevine.org

In 2005, we implemented a YouTube channel. Currently, there were over 5,000 subscribers and 49 videos uploaded. One of the goals was to drive visitors to aa.org and at that point, there were over 7,000 visitors to aa.org that came through YouTube. Videos included informational videos for physicians and employers and PSAs. Through YouTube analytics, we were able to get some ideas about demographics including geographic location, age, and gender. Due to concerns that YouTube plays other videos and ads before and after our videos, we placed disclaimers to support our tradition of non-affiliation. The length of the videos were 4 to 5 minutes, and it was suggested that with new PSAs YouTube should be considered when setting up our 30, 60, and 90 second segments.

LinkedIn was described in the report as a professional social networking platform that hosted more than 600 million professional profiles along with 55 million companies' listings. Our presence there let us communicate and share our mission with the professional community, so there needed to be relevant and informative content. Articles were to be regularly updated and a publication calendar was going to be created. It was suggested that a disclaimer be added to clarify that AA was not affiliated with any of the organizations appearing in promoted content on the LinkedIn company page.

The Meeting Guide App's purpose was to improve communications with members and support members and their friends in carrying the message of hope. The main focus for the app is maintenance and ongoing software releases. The latest one provided the ability to visually determine if a meeting was in-person or hybrid.

Lauren concluded her sharing about the CMP by stating that there were many new ideas and fresh communication techniques being implemented, and that the document and content would evolve over time. Use of it would be critical in our efforts to effectively communicate our message of hope regardless of the format or channel we were using. The CMP document was going to be in the background material, and everyone would be receiving it before the Preconference Workshop.

Our Preconference Workshop was going to be held April 2nd – 3rd and was going to be where our groups' voices were to be heard. Our Alternate Delegate Doug was going to be speaking about it later that day. He was responsible for putting the workshop together, with roundtables for discussion and report-backs from the roundtables. He was doing an amazing job, working tirelessly to make sure the workshop would be productive, and that information was accessible to everyone. It was very important to Lauren that GSRs spent time with their groups discussing the agenda items and getting groups' consciences because she would be carrying Area 05 with her to the Conference, and she needed their groups' feedback.

That day, we were going to be participating in roundtables with our Past Delegates to help with receiving our groups' consciences. Nikki had worked very hard on it and created a very informative and interesting sequence for the discussions.

Lauren then went through some highlights from the AA World Services October Board Meeting:

Finance

Contributions year to date were \$8,371,498, which was 84% of the 2021 budget of \$10,000,000 and \$368,450 more than this time last year. (83% of the year has elapsed.) Contributions were averaging \$837,150 per month compared to a budget of \$833,333 per month. The monthly contributions reversed a three month decline and increased from \$736,734 in September to \$954,851 in October, the largest monthly total since March.

In order to meet the budget, monthly contributions needed to average \$814,251 over the last two months of the year. Gross literature sales year to date were \$9,676,364 which is 85% of the 2021 budget of \$11,400,000 and \$1,913,211 more than last year.

October gross literature sales were \$1,062,561, making the fourth \$1 million month this year. Gross sales were averaging \$967,636 per month compared to a budget of \$950,000 per month.

Cost of goods sold year to date was \$3,934,238, which is 93% of the 2021 budget of \$4,218,000 and \$1,735,883 more than last year due to Covid-related materials price increases and supply chain disruptions.

Payroll and benefits expenses were \$7,685,303, which is 81% of the budget amount of \$9,518,557 and \$1,315,741 less than last year.

Total operating expense was \$12,875,229 which was 81% of the budget amount of \$15,887,354 and \$1,142,054 less than last year.

Surplus for the first ten months of 2021 was \$1,921,554 compared to a budget surplus for the year of \$747,312 and a deficit of \$1,457,324 at this time last year. The surplus was attributable primarily to greater than budgeted literature sales and lower than budgeted professional fees.

Publishing

Plain and simple language Big Book update – The candidate pool of 18 responses to the Request for Information for plain language interpreter-writers have been reviewed by the trustees' Literature TABB subcommittee. Six candidates were selected and assigned sample material on a work-for-hire basis. All candidates had a deadline of January 3 to submit samples for the complete chapter of "How it Works," excerpts from "The Doctor's Opinion," "There is a Solution," "We Agnostics," and "To Wives."

The newly revised, redesigned and updated AA service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021-2023 Edition was now in print and online in English, French and Spanish.

Archives

The digitizing of Bill W.'s personal correspondence resumed after pausing the project in March 2020 when the office closed due to the pandemic.

The original records were maintained off site and recalled as needed. The senior archivist was also testing the acidity levels of the archival folders and boxes and implementing preservation measures where necessary.

The department would be continuing to report on the progress of this long-term scanning project. The assistant archivist was helping the archivist to update and write new sections for the Oral History Kit. The section on "Interview Equipment" was rewritten to include more modern media and virtual meeting software recording. Also, a new section was being written for the kit that would focus on conducting and recording interviews in American Sign Language (ASL).

Lauren said we had hit the ground running in 2022 and were making progress on Advisory Actions, streamlining, and progressively thinking about reaching the alcoholic who was still suffering.

The Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) was coming up on the first weekend of March. It was going to be virtual again this year. Registration was open in English and Spanish at praasa.org. Past Delegate Thomas was going to be giving a report about PRAASA later that day.

Lauren recited PRAASA's purpose: "The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of AA."

She said that volunteering at PRAASA was a most enriching experience, and Area 05 had so much to offer in experience among our GSRs, DCMs, Officers, and Past Delegates. There were four spots open for each volunteer position, and she hoped people would consider helping out. We needed Spanish-speaking and bilingual volunteers and the program was looking to expand diversity at every level. "Honesty with ourselves & others gets us sober, but it is tolerance that keeps us that way." -Bill W.

She asked willing volunteers to let her know ASAP, and asked DCMs and Committee Chairs to share the information with their GSRs and Committee Members also. She needed to submit information by the following Tuesday.

Lauren ended her report with the following message:

"As always, I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. This marks the second year of my commitment to you as Delegate of Area 5 and I am still as honored as ever that you chose me. This remarkable experience has changed my life forever.

"Every GSR, DCM, Committee Chair and their Alt's, Officer, Past Delegate and member has helped me through all of this. Your interest and curiosity is amazing. I want to encourage all members here today to get to know YOUR office. Get to know the GSO. If you have a question, of course you can call me and I will help but if you get a chance, learn what the office does and who is the trusted servant associated with each committee. We do things by committee at the conference. There is so much to learn and so much to enact and implement in AA. We are all participating in what happens in AA from the bottom to the top of the triangle. I am looking forward to how deep I will be buried in the General

Service Conference and what it will bring to AA as a whole. It really is fun... I'm not kidding. There are future delegates here among us so stick around for the ride! I look forward to seeing you at the Preconference Workshop!"

Nikki thanked Lauren and commented that it was always exciting at the beginning of the year, when everything was about getting ready for the GSC. She reflected on how, with PSAs, someone had to actually make them and get them out to the media outlets. When we got here, we were only thinking about getting sober, but as we got more into service, we learned that Alcoholics Anonymous was so much more. She remembered seeing PSAs late at night and said that they were important. She then asked Doug if there were any questions for Lauren from the chat.

Questions:

Q (Claire): Is there a Spanish version of the Grapevine podcast being discussed or a translation of the English podcast?

A (Lauren A.): I believe it is being worked on as a possible La Viña piece. I will find out more at the Conference and make a note to discuss it when I get back. It's the same with the AA World Services podcasts because there's also French and Spanish, so they're working on that as a next step.

Q (Doug S.): Do you mean you will ask at the board weekend?

A (Lauren A.): No, the conference. At the board weekend, I will have to check if their meeting conflicts with mine, but I will ask representatives from there about it on board weekend.

Q (Zoraida R.): Can a document with numbers from the financial reports be shared with the area?

A (Lauren A.): Yes, they are in the AA World Services highlights, and I can send that to you easily.

Q (J): How many agenda items for the General Service Conference should a GSR discuss with their groups?

A (Doug S.): There are a lot of agenda items and many of them aren't really relevant to groups per se, or not necessarily interesting to a group. Since a GSR doesn't have the time to present every single agenda item for feedback from their group, what they were planning to do was limit the number of items that were to be discussed at the General Service Conference, choosing only those they believed were very relevant and that a lot of members were asking about, such as changes to the Twelve and Twelve, the Preamble, and things of that nature. In early April, they would be putting out a survey. GSRs would typically choose 4 – 7 items for feedback from the groups, things that they thought would be particularly interesting to them, and then spend time learning about them and getting a statement from the group. They were also going to distill down the background information into bite-sized chunks with the questionnaire to make them easier to understand. The questionnaires could be shared in printed or digital form. People could have meetings before their regular AA meetings to discuss them. We were going to have a conversation about this later that day during the roundtable workshop about how to get a group conscience and how to read the background information and use the questionnaire.

Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

Assembly members split off into breakout rooms for Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings at 10:25 AM.

The Area Assembly reconvened at 11:15 AM.

Officer Reports

Alternate Delegate, Doug S., reported:

He couldn't wait to meet everyone in person. One of his duties was to conduct New General Service Representative (GSR) Orientations. They had one last Thursday with 26 people in attendance, including himself and a couple of District Committee Members (DCMs.) They had a really good turnout and many of the GSRs were in attendance at the assembly that day. They reviewed information about GSRs' duties and went through a short demo of the Area 05 service app. He thanked the translation chair for doing a great job interpreting. He offered to visit any districts to conduct orientations there.

He attended a monthly North American (US and Canada only) Alternate Delegates' Sharing Session where Alternate Delegates shared what their respective areas were doing.

He also visited the Westside Combined Districts in November where he demoed the General Service App, and then attended the Hollywood Combined Districts' meeting last Saturday, not in any official capacity, but just to support.

The Preconference Workshop was mentioned earlier by Lauren, and they had started preparations for that event, which was going to be held 4/2/22 – 4/3/22. It was an area-level meeting that was a way for us to go in-depth with the agenda items that were to be discussed in April and prepare our Delegate by getting feedback from GSRs and their groups. There was going to be a lot more information coming about the event in that afternoon's workshop. There were well over 100 agenda items, so we were only going to be dealing with a subset of those items that were determined to be most likely to be of interest to groups. There was going to be a survey. There were certain items Lauren and him knew they wanted to cover, but they also wanted to find out what people in the area wanted to discuss.

The Hybrid Ad Hoc Committee had just been formed, and he was helping on the committee with Brian and a few others as we prepared to meet back in person. He was going to be meeting with the Church along with Nikki at the end of that month to find out what their requirements would be.

As Alternate Delegate, Doug also served as the Area's Liaison to the Los Angeles Central Office (LACO), Southern California Hospitals and Institutions Intergroup (SoCal H&I), and the Foothill Roundup.

LACO's meetings were held on the second Thursday of each month, and the last one was on 1/14/22. They had a lot going on with listing groups and figuring out how to handle virtual groups. They were considering creating a zone just for virtual-only groups, which they had not ever done in the past. It was the same issue that the General Service Office (GSO) in New York was dealing with regarding what General Service Areas to assign to virtual groups. They were also looking for a Spanish and English-speaking volunteer who could help them translate and interpret so that they could do a better job supporting the Spanish-speaking community. He asked those who were interested to reach out to him.

SoCal H&I met once a month but were also having weekly planning meetings for their annual convention which was going to be their first since the pandemic. It was going to be held on Saturday, May 28 in Big Bear, CA in a community center there. Their meeting was going to be at 2pm the next day and Doug asked anyone interested in helping to plan the event to let him know so that he could give them the zoom information.

As Alternate Delegate, Doug was also serving as the Area's Chief Financial Officer and led our Audit Subcommittee, which was also comprised of Past Delegates Jim L and Thomas S. They reviewed the reports produced by the area's two treasurers to make sure the information was accurate and that procedures were being followed. We had two very busy and active treasurers who were doing a great job putting their reports together. They were going to be sharing their reports shortly.

The Foothill Roundup had been happening on Zoom, but they were hoping to be in person that year. Doug had nothing to report on that yet.

Doug thanked everyone.

Secretary, Brian P. reported:

He wished everyone a Happy New Year, welcomed anyone who was new or returning. He explained that his two duties as Secretary were to produce minutes for our meetings and to prepare our area calendar. The minutes for our last Assembly were shared a few weeks prior and approved that morning. There was a correction made to the title. He shared the corrected minutes in the chat, and thanked Sam P. for the correction. The minutes were a good resource for General Service Representatives (GSRs) to find information to share with their groups. It contained everything that the Delegate shared, amongst other things. He received feedback that some of the items are old news by the time GSRs receive the minutes, so he would try to get them out earlier that year so that the information could be more relevant.

We were going to be voting on the area calendar later that day, so he shared the calendar in the chat for review. He had also sent it out a few weeks prior. It contained dates for all of the area meetings.

He was able to attend the Hispanic Women's Workshop in December because he was helping out with their technology and getting some experience running a hybrid event. It was a great experience and an amazing thing to witness. He was sure that Zoraida would be sharing more about it.

Nikki called for the formation of a Hybrid Area Meetings Ad Hoc Committee and asked him to be the committee's chairperson. He accepted and they have gotten it started. He was going to be talking more about that during committee report-backs later that day but mentioned that it was great working in that committee so far.

It came up over and over again during the area inventory that districts wanted more Area Officers to be present at their district meetings. Lauren set up a schedule for herself to visit all the districts that year and he was going to follow suit and

contact the District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs) and District Committee Members (DCMs) to schedule some visits to just be present at the meeting to help out if any questions arose about what was happening in the area.

He registered for the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA), was looking forward to it, and hoped to see everyone there.

He was looking forward to the whole Conference process for 2022 and hearing what the issues were going to be and what everyone was going to say about it. He thanked Lauren, Doug, the rest of the officers and the whole assembly for their work in the area and thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

Contributions Treasurer, Shawn A., reported:

He explained his responsibilities for those that were new, which were to go to the post office at least every two weeks to pick up mail and checks, then process the checks and take them to the bank for deposit, and then create reports. He shared his most recent reports in the chat.

He pointed out that in the year-to-date report, physical and online contributions were about the same, which was a pretty awesome feat for the area to have accomplished.

The last time he went to the post office, there was a contribution where half of the check and half of the envelope were missing. Fortunately, he had the return address and was able to send it back. He encouraged people to make their contributions online where there was no risk of their mail being destroyed by post office equipment.

He also mentioned that it was helpful to include the General Service Office group number. This was different from group numbers provided by central offices, and if anyone was unsure of their group's number, they could reach out to him or Miguel, the Registrar. It was also helpful to find out the listed name for their group. Sometimes, people think they know the name of their group, but it is actually different from the group's name as it was listed many years ago. People could also reach out to member services at the General Service Office if they wanted to find out anything about the history of their group, and sometimes it was fun to do that.

Nikki pointed out that the report shared in the chat said 2nd quarter instead of 4th quarter, and Shawn acknowledged that it was an error and would be corrected and distributed before we voted on it at the next Area Committee Meeting.

Accounts Treasurer, Zoraida R. reported:

She welcomed anyone who was new and congratulated those celebrating birthdays.

She emailed out the 4th Quarter Financial reports and also shared them in the chat. It was going to be voted on at the next Area Committee Meeting so that day it was provided for presentation only. She asked everyone to review it and let her know if they had questions.

The first part of her job was to record all deposits to the bank account. This included all of the contributions, so a big part of her job was to make sure her report matched the Contributions Treasurer's report and the bank statement, which it did, so that was good news. The second part of her job was to keep track of all expenditures, so she reviewed all invoices and reimbursement forms for accuracy, and then she wrote checks, recorded, and mailed them, and then prepared financial reports to send to the Audit Subcommittee, Finance Committee, officers, and the rest of the area for review. Her 4th Quarter Financial report matched the Contributions Treasurer's 4th Quarter reports and the bank statement, so everything was in balance.

Since the last assembly, she attended Area 05's Foro de Servicios Generales which was really great. She thanked the Spanish-speaking community for putting it on and said it was a huge service to our area.

She also attended some of the Finance Committee's budget meetings and joined the Hybrid Area Meetings Ad Hoc Committee, which was really exciting. They were looking into meeting in person again and she was looking forward to seeing everyone and meeting new people.

A really great thing that happened since the last assembly was that she was able to attend the 6th annual Hispanic Women's Workshop in Arizona. She thanked Brian and Kyle for coming out to help with tech and being of service. It was a wonderful event and they had people from all over. One of the exciting things that happened was that Area 05 was selected to be the host of next year's event. Women from the east coast had been attending and the women from Atlanta were going to be hosting their first Hispanic women's workshop in October with cooperation from the area in

Maryland and Washington D.C. The event had been encouraged and organized by Area 05 since its beginning and is something amazing that we have done in the area.

She visited San Diego / Imperial Area 08's assembly as part of the work she had been doing on a committee of Pacific Region members who were exploring ways to bring greater diversity and inclusion to our Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA). They wanted to better reach underrepresented communities in our areas. She asked those interested in participating to let her know.

She was also representing our area on the Hispanic Women's Workshop Advisory Board, which included members from seven Pacific Region areas.

The Chinese meeting that we helped to start had been growing strong. She asked anyone who knew of any members that needed a meeting in Mandarin or Cantonese to let her know so that she could invite them to the group. They met on Wednesday and Saturday evenings at 7, and the speaker that night was going to be a Past Delegate from BC/Yukon.

She raised a concern during the Finance Committee's meeting regarding our area's financial guidelines and a part that states that if we reached a persistent cash balance above our upper cash limit, we would be required to act and spend the excess funds. Since expenses have been low during the pandemic, the upper cash limit was set low due to the formula that defines it. Currently it was set to \$20,532 and our register balance was well above that. We would need those funds if we were to meet in person again, so she thought that the wording for the financial guidelines needed to be revisited.

Zoraida stated that she would love to come visit districts and committee meetings to talk about finances, talk with treasurers, talk about remote communities, or anything else they would like her to discuss.

She read through the results of our roundtables and two things that stood out to her were that more officer visits to districts were wanted and that more training was desired for District Committee Members (DCMs). All of the officers were available for both of those things.

She shared her contact information in the chat and said she looked forward to hopefully seeing everyone in person that year. She thanked everyone.

Registrar, Miguel M., reported:

It was great to see everyone that day. He explained his duties for anyone that was new. One of them was to take roll call at Area Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings, like he had that morning. He could not do it by himself, and he thanked the Tech Committee and Kyle and Claude for their assistance.

It was also one of his duties to maintain current registration information for the area. He was supposed to be updating, innovating, and maintaining area registration procedures, assisting districts in their registration work, and attending Registration Committee meetings, which he did that morning.

He thanked the Registration Committee for the work that they had been doing. Sam, the Registration Chair, along with Don and Joe were working really hard to get as many people as possible registered and reaching out to districts. He reiterated again that he could not do his job by himself, and he thanked the committee for all their work.

As Shawn mentioned earlier, sometimes General Service Representatives (GSRs) did not know the name of their meeting or thought they knew it because it is what they heard but is actually very different than the name the group registered with.

Miguel shared his screen to show everyone what the Fellowship New Vision database looked like which was the database he used to look up and update information about groups. He showed an example of a group whose name was different from what they thought it was and pointed out the group ID numbers that could be used to identify groups and how they looked different from central office group ID numbers, which were typically only 4 digits long.

He was going to be visiting more districts that year, including the Spanish-speaking districts that he had not visited yet. Thus far, he had visited Spanish-speaking districts 34, 50 and Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH). He said he would be at all the districts in the coming month or two to take care of registration needs or answer any questions.

He put his contact information in the chat along with the Area Roster and thanked everyone for allowing him to be of service.

Questions/Comments:

Q (Doug S.): During GSR orientation, people often ask what district their group is in, and they want to get registered and have never done it before. What is the procedure that you recommend?

A (Miguel M.): Please try to register ahead of time. You can reach out to your DCM or District Registrar and let them know you want to get registered. They have blank group change forms that you can fill out. They can then return them to me as soon as possible. You can also reach out to me at registrar@area05aa.org and I will send you the forms or help you with any questions you may have, including what district your group is in, or what the name of your group is, like you saw today.

Comment (Thomas S.): Thank you for sharing the Area Roster. Perhaps some of the GSRs or their alternates have not received it yet from their DCMs, so it might be good for you to share it in the chat today. I also have some suggestions for the roster. Where you have noted the date that it was printed, I would suggest you use the word “revised” instead of “printed” and also in the Past Delegates section where Gustavo appropriately has an asterisk by his name, Marita should also have the same asterisk in front of her name.

A (Miguel M.): Thank you, Thomas.

Comment (Susan D.): I send the forms out, but it is confusing who to send the completed form back to because the bottom of the form specifies a completely different address.

A (Miguel M.): I absolutely agree. Do not use the 3 addresses listed at the bottom of the form. If you send it to them, you will get registered with the General Service Office, but will I know that you have been registered? Maybe, maybe not. Sometimes they are good with keeping me in the loop. The best way is to send it to your DCM or District Registrar, and they will send it to me. Do not send it to the addresses listed at the bottom of the form. There will be new forms sent out later this year.

Chairperson, Nikki U., reported:

One of the items brought up during the Area Inventory at the last assembly was a request for more visitations from officers to district service meetings. So, since the last assembly, she visited District 18, the Combined Hollywood Districts, and the Westside Combined Districts.

The Preconference Preparation Workshop that we were going to be having later that day came directly out of her visit with District 18. A seasoned General Service Representative (GSR) shared that she wished that she had been better prepared for the Preconference Workshop that she attended. She went expecting to get answers to bring back to her group and didn't realize that she was going to get questions that she was going to bring back to her group to get questions for. Nikki thought back and realized that she had thought the same thing when she attended her first Preconference Workshop. So, in response to her feedback, we were going to have this Preconference Preparation Workshop that day led by our Past Delegates who could share their first-hand experiences at the General Service Conference.

There was a new page on our website that showed a calendar of district general service meetings. The webmaster requested for District Committee Members (DCMs) to send her updated information about their district meetings, including the dates, times, and locations of the meetings and whether or not they were taking place in person or on Zoom. It would be a great help not only to officers trying to arrange district visits, but also to new GSRs or anyone else looking to attend a district meeting. She asked DCMs to send their district meeting information to the webmaster at webmaster@area05aa.org. She asked any DCMs whose districts were part of a combined district to still send her an email letting her know that the district was part of a combined district along with information about the combined districts' meeting. There were so many districts, and this would help her keep the information straight.

She attended the 42nd Hispanic Forum, which was held at Angelica Lutheran church in Los Angeles. It was well attended and included a talk on the AA Charter by Paz P., who was a class B Trustee from Arizona. She encouraged everyone to attend the 43rd Hispanic Forum. She said that as an English speaker, it was a novel experience to put on headphones and listen to interpretation and it enriched her life.

In December, they had the Sixth Hispanic Women's Workshop hosted by Area 03 in Tempe, Arizona. It was a hybrid event and Area 05's Website/Technology Committee assisted in making it a hybrid event.

She said it was going to be good to hear about the progress from our Hybrid Area Meetings Ad Hoc Committee to make it a viable option for Area 05. She was going to be sending out a survey in the next week or two to DCMs, and she asked that they send it on to GSRs because we wanted to get a sense of the feelings of Area 05's trusted servants regarding going back to in-person Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings. As Doug had mentioned, they were going to be

meeting with the administrator at Westminster Presbyterian Church at the end of the month to find out what their requirements were going to be.

She was looking back at her notes and saw that last year, she thought that maybe we would be having this Assembly in person. Eventually, we would be meeting back in person and be able to give each other a hard time and lots of hugs and stuff, but until then, with this ever-mutating virus, we needed to stay safe and flexible, but optimistic.

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

The Area Assembly was called back to order at 12:45 PM.

Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Translation Committee Chair, Arnulfo G., reported:

He welcomed new GSRs and explained what the Translation Committee did. Area 05's Guidelines state that anything posted on our website or any materials distributed that are used to carry out our primary purpose must be posted in English and Spanish. This was really important. He received reports, assembly minutes, and other materials from our area officers and service committees. He was also occasionally asked to interpret for service meetings. For instance, last year, he interpreted for the Grapevine / La Viña workshop, and he helped interpret for our Delegate Lauren when she visited Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH), which was the combined Spanish-speaking districts in our area. As part of his commitment, he attended CIH meetings which were held the last Sunday of each month. He was looking forward to the Preconference Workshop. There was going to be a lot of work being sent his way for translating the presentations. He invited anyone interested in joining the committee to contact him. It was a good way to meet and stay in communication with both English and Spanish-speaking area assembly members. He was most looking forward to meeting in person later that year. He thanked everyone.

Archives Committee Chair, Sandra C., reported:

She greeted everyone. Kristy L. was their committee's Alternate Chair. They had great attendance at their meeting that day. There were 10 people, and she welcomed their newcomers Nedra, Selena, Nidia, Evva, Jason, and Dennis and invited them to keep coming back. They discussed some upcoming items for the committee. One was an area archives presentation that was created that was going to be presented to the assembly later that day. They were still working on the website and were continuing work on the best logistics for interviewing members that had been around general service in Area 05. They had some good historical information that we did not want to lose, so they were hoping to start soon with that project. They were storing digital recordings of all of our present Zoom meetings, such as Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings. They were being downloaded and stored on flash drives. They were looking into finding some storage with larger capacity than a flash drive. They voted and approved funding up to 10 committee members to attend the AA History Symposium that was coming up the following weekend from Friday to Sunday. Mary T. had a lot of information on the event. She encouraged all to attend and said that people could contact her at archives@area05aa.org for more information. They continued to be available to visit districts to make presentations about some of their holdings. They had visited several districts the last year and hoped to continue. Any districts wanting a visit could email them. They were looking forward to making some field trips when we started meeting in person again to take a few people at a time to our storage unit in Pasadena. They wanted to start doing some hands-on work with some of our holdings, and they encouraged committee members to go to the National AA Archives Workshop and get information from their website naaaw.org on how to safely handle archived materials. She encouraged districts to please continue sending anything they wanted to share. They were working on their website, which would be linked to the area website, and would be available for any member to see all of the interesting things we had. She thanked everyone.

Audio Visual Committee Chair, Manuel P., reported:

Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) Committee Member, Jo S., reported:

They had a small meeting that day, with herself, Joan, and Laura. Joan was a former Chair of the committee. They had not heard anything from the current chair and discussed items amongst themselves. There were mass numbers of seniors coming into emergency rooms with alcohol problems, due to being alone at home, and now with COVID-19, she personally knew of people who were over 90 years old that have recently decided that alcohol was a good relief. Their

sober caregivers were reaching out and saying that the situation was not good. They talked about how in Santa Barbara, they were considering visiting care facilities for the elderly because they tried putting information on iPads for them, but the seniors were not tech-savvy and did not like it. Their committee needed more people, so she invited any General Service Representatives (GSRs) interested in working with the elderly seniors in the Los Angeles area to help them. They needed any help and suggestions they could get. She thanked everyone for letting her be of service.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Chair, Joe C., reported:

They had 11 members present at their meeting that day, including their Alternate Chair, Sue S., who was also District 14's CPC chair, and also the Westside Combined Districts' CPC Chair. Sue was working on final steps of their district's Sponsor Your Physician effort where AA members could help introduce AA to their doctors with the aim of having doctors refer their patients to AA. Their blueprint for the project started at the district, where General Service Representatives (GSRs) were encouraged to announce to their groups that any AA member could sponsor their doctors. They were finishing up a short script that highlighted how AA cooperated with the professional community and creating an informational packet to share with doctors that included examples of what other areas had done. They were hoping this could also be adopted at the area level. WCD CPC Chair, Lisa K., was continuing with preparations to deliver an in-person presentation to liver doctors at Kaiser. They got to have a sneak peek of her presentation during their meeting, and it was amazing. It detailed how AA has cooperated with the professional community and described what AA was and was not. It also offered links to aa.org and QR codes for a website with more information. Her first presentation was going to be Tuesday, 2/22/22, and Joe asked everyone to wish her luck. Their committee met on the 4th Saturday of each month at 8am. Their next meeting was going to be on 2/26/22. He invited all to attend and thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Committee Chair, Gola R., reported:

They had 9 members at their meeting that day, including two returning and seven new members. They had a strong Los Angeles County Young People in AA (LACYPAA) presence at the meeting with 4 committee members present. They went over some old business, including their Young People in AA (YPAA) meeting list. They were inventory YPAA and youth-gear meetings in our area to use as a tool for outreach. It was constantly being updated, and anyone who wanted access to the list could contact her. She was happy to share the Google sheet. They went over the Guidelines and Policies presentation that would be happening that day regarding their committee. They were super excited about the Public Information (PI) Committee's initiative to put literature into high schools and were ready to support in any way they could. One of the ways they were going to support was to give 50% of their huge inventory of pamphlets geared towards young people to that effort. They voted on it, and it passed. They wanted to do anything else that could help with that initiative and were super happy to cooperate with PI. They also went over potential events for the year. They really wanted to do something in cooperation with LACYPAA, like an outdoor summer event, a picnic and a workshop, which would act as a tool to get people involved in general service that are in the YPAA community and answer any questions people may have about general service. One of their members also had a great idea to have outreach tables for CYC and general service at the All California Young People in AA (ACYPAA) conference as well as the Southern California Convention, which was going to be held in Los Angeles that year, so they were going to be reaching out to those events to see if it was possible. She invited anyone with questions to contact her directly and thanked everyone.

Corrections Committee Chair, Mimi T., reported:

She shared information about a weekly international corrections call, which was a great meeting to join for anyone interested in corrections and what the rest of the country was doing. She thanked new General Service Representative (GSR) River for taking notes for their meeting. She also thanked Brian, Denis, Barnaby, Lester, and Daryl for attending. There were six of them altogether. They discussed new ways of bridging the Contact-Upon-Release Program with transitional housing facilities. They worked with the General Service Office (GSO) and Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) to reach out and bring people who have just been released from correction facilities to AA meetings. Pre-pandemic, they would get 40-50 contacts a month, but they were just able to do their first two since last March. There was hope on the horizon. She thanked everyone for their service. She shared forms in the chat for people wanting to sign up to do Corrections Correspondence, and she encouraged people to share about it at their meetings. She also invited anyone to volunteer to be in the Contact-Upon-Release program database. She said that anyone wanting more information about being on panels with H&I could contact her as well. She thanked everyone.

Finance Committee Alternate Chair, Nancy H., reported:

They had 6 members in attendance at their meeting that day. They discussed the 2022 budget that was going to be presented later that day. They also discussed some wording in the Financial Guidelines, which were a separate document

from the Area Guidelines and Policies. They were going to be presenting about it at an upcoming assembly to address some things that had been ignored for a couple of years. They would be sending out more information on that. They also discussed the upper and lower cash limit calculations and how we might need to make some adjustments to them. There were some blank lines in the budget, so they discussed tightening up the format so that it would be more visually pleasing to everyone and easier to read. Lastly, they discussed possible dates for a committee meeting, and they were going to contact the Website/Technology committee to find out possible dates in the next month for them to have a committee meeting on Zoom. She thanked everyone for letting her be of service.

Grapevine / La Viña Committee Alternate Chair, Paul DeC., reported:

They normally met monthly, but that day's meeting was going to take the place of their next meeting, which would normally be the next week. Their next meeting was going to be 2/28/22. They had 5 people at their meeting. Last year, they had a writing workshop at the Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) office. This year, they wanted to do it again and include everyone, except do it at an English-speaking venue or club and bring Spanish-speaking participation. At aagrapevine.org, people could record their stories audibly. They wanted to help capture the stories of older members before we lost them. Jacobo wrote a story 4 years ago, and it just got published in a recent issue of La Viña, so they congratulated him. The Grapevine was a meeting in print done by English-speaking members, and La Viña was the equivalent written and edited by Spanish-speaking members. Claire had great past magazine issues. He mentioned the Carry-the-message project and the Grapevine podcast that Lauren introduced at a previous assembly. He thanked everyone for being of service and invited everyone to keep coming back.

Grapevine / La Viña Committee Chair, Jacobo M., reported:

He thanked Paul who has helped and supported them with the Grapevine and La Viña in Area 05, and everyone who kept the committee alive and functioning. The last service event that I attended was the Foro de Servicios Generales on 11/7/21. That evening, he had an accident, so he needed to take a little break from service, but now, he was back. The La Viña committee at Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) was meeting twice a month. They thanked everyone from CIH and the District Committee Member Chair, Antonio, because he was always present and always supported them, and they were learning how each La Viña committee worked in each district. They brought reports that showed how many books they sold and how many people they subscribed. It was inspiring to see that despite the pandemic, the committee members continued to visit groups and carry the message, because that was how the Grapevine and La Viña supported themselves – through subscriptions. The day of the Foro, he had the opportunity to meet our Trustee, Paz P. She sent her greetings. She shared how encouraged she was to be part of the Grapevine board. The Grapevine continued to be published, and it continued to be our meeting in print. Thank you, members of Area 05. Thank you for being unified with us Spanish-speakers and giving us a place here.

Guidelines and Policies Committee Chair, Jenny P., reported:

They met today and have had ongoing work from the last Assembly and Area Committee Meeting for a motion to add language to the Guidelines and Policies Section XI E. to add the Hispanic Women's Workshop as an area event. In accordance with our procedures, this was presented initially at an Assembly in English and Spanish for the motion to be brought up at an Area Committee Meeting for a preliminary vote. The motion was brought up at an Area Committee Meeting, again in English and Spanish and it passed a two-thirds majority. Later that day, Olga, who was our Liaison for the Hispanic Women's Workshop would be making the motion for a vote, and if it passed, the language would be officially added to our Guidelines and Policies. They were also going to be starting the same process to add the Cooperation with the Young Committee as an area standing committee, so they would be presenting the proposal today during new business. They discussed some other items, and they were going to work on them and present them at the next Assembly. She thanked everyone.

Literature Committee Member, Dave D., reported:

The committee's Chair was not present, and its Alternate Chair was recovering from Covid, so he was asked to step in and chair the committee. There were 10 participants at the meeting, and the primary thing they talked about was putting together a potential agenda item for the 5th edition big book so that more outdated aspects of the book could be addressed in the footnotes. That way, the original text could remain unchanged, but historical context regarding gender roles, referring to God as "He", and further explanation on the expanding community could be explained and added. There was some confusion about Lauren's comment on "To Wives," and they were hoping to get some clarification. They also spoke about possibly coordinating with the Public Information Committee with their project to get literature into high schools, asking their group members to submit their own stories for the 5th edition big book, whether or not funds were

put aside to schedule writing workshops for 5th edition big book stories, and whether or not money was put aside to help people who could not afford literature to obtain literature. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

Public Information (PI) Committee Chair, Mike C., reported:

Area level service was about facilitating 12-step work outside of the group level, so their committee took on the ambitious goal of getting AA literature into every high school in the area. They had already emailed all of the District Committee Members (DCMs) about it, so many people already knew about it. It was definitely something that they could not do alone. They were delegating the task to districts to do however they wanted but also wanted to support however they could. He figured that he should do it himself too and noticed that District 15 did not have a DCM. So, their committee ordered literature from the General Service Office. They put together packages that contained two mini big books and three each of six pamphlets that applied mostly to young people. For those with less budget, the big books could be removed, and the packet would cost considerably less. He went around to Watts, South Gate, Bell, and other neighborhoods in District 15, and went to the front desks of high schools and asked if he could leave the literature for the guidance counselor's office. The packet also contained a letter that explained where it was from, what it was, who we were, and his contact information. So, districts could do this too and deliver the literature by hand or by mail. We were not a secret society; a lot of people found out about AA for the first time in school or from a judge or therapist. They were just focusing on high schools for now and were already working with a few interested districts. They had talked with the Cooperation with the Young Community Committee and would also love to work with Literature Committee. It was a big but worthwhile undertaking. He invited anyone with questions to contact him. They wanted to empower General Service Representatives and give them the opportunity to actively help with 12-step work. He invited anyone with concerns to reach out to his Alternate Chair Sean C.

Registration Committee Chair, Sam P., reported:

They had 4 attendees, himself, the Area Chairperson, and the Area Registrar. They each discussed their activities since the last assembly. They were continuing to assist the Area Registrar with his efforts to get all General Service Representatives (GSRs) in the area registered. Each committee member was contacting several districts' District Committee Members (DCMs) or District Registrars to encourage them to get all GSRs registered. They were still having problems getting everyone registered, but they were making an effort to make sure that at the next Assembly, all GSR attendees would be registered. He thanked everyone for allowing him to be of service.

Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter (SCAAN) Committee Chair, Nadine S., reported:

(via written message to Nikki) She had to go to work and sent her apologies. SCAAN would normally be out by now, but she had some technical difficulties and hoped to have it out by the end of the week.

Treatment Facilities Committee Member, Jim A., reported:

They elected an Alternate Chair, Nikki P. They were continuing to work on QR codes so that they could have them to give when they went into facilities so that they could have access to meetings. They were visited by 2 and were a committee of 4. He thanked everyone.

Website/Technology Committee Chair, Kyle H., reported:

The website needed some revamping. There were some District Committee Member (DCM) and General Service Representative (GSR) change forms that were missing. There was also some district meeting information that was not accurate on the district pages. They needed updated monthly meeting information from each district along with their address for mailing contributions. He asked for people to send this information to webmaster@area05aa.org so that we could get everything up to date. They were also going to be updating the maps on the website to the ones from our mobile app. Faith and Mary were currently working closely together on the Archives website, which we would be hearing more about. Brian and He went to the Hispanic Women's Workshop and ran the hybrid functions of their event. They learned a lot by hosting that for them. The workshop was going to be coming to Area 05 next year, so that was exciting. The tech team was also helping with the 3rd Legacy Meeting, and we would be hearing about the next one sometime today. He thanked everyone.

Hybrid Area Meetings Ad-Hoc Committee Chair, Brian P., reported:

The ad hoc committee was a newly formed committee that Nikki asked him to lead at the end of last year. They had two meetings so far. One was the previous Tuesday, and the other was that day. Since the committee was a secondary committee for many of its members who were already serving on other committees, they decided to meet outside of the Assembly every other Tuesday. It was going great so far, and they had some really great enthusiastic and motivated

committee members on their team. He appreciated all of them. Doug S. offered to be the committee's Alternate Chairperson and the committee approved. They went over some administrative things, like how they were going to be communicating and sharing files. They also nailed down a purpose statement for their committee, which was: "...to support the area in converting from an all-virtual format to a hybrid format for its Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings by researching various topics related to hybrid meetings, identifying issues and open questions, providing recommendations, purchasing equipment and other assets, and assisting the Area Chairperson, other committees, and host districts in the planning and execution of these meetings."

When it came time to have our first hybrid meetings, they were going to be working in coordination with the Area Chairperson, Nikki, and also with other committees like the Website/Technology Committee who would probably still be handling Zoom hosting, the Audio/Visual Committee, who would be handling the sound system for the in-person part of the meeting, the Registration Committee, and the host district. They talked about providing parity, or an equal experience, for everyone attending the meeting, no matter how they were attending. There were going to be at least four different classes of people attending: Spanish-speakers virtually, English-speakers virtually, Spanish-speakers in person, and English-speakers in person. There could also possibly be deaf participants, like we've had before, participating virtually or in-person who would need ASL interpretation. They wanted to make sure that everyone had an equal experience with no privileged access for any of the groups. They wanted everyone to be able to hear and see what was going on and also be heard and seen, and it was going to be very important for us.

There were a lot of areas to research and gain knowledge about, including how to technically set up a hybrid meeting and then how to operate it, whether we needed to acquire any equipment like cameras, computers, or a Wi-Fi hotspot, how to support all of the functions of an area meeting such as voting, both normally and with our 3rd legacy procedure that was used for elections which involved multiple rounds of voting and was more complicated. Fortunately, Nikki shared some information about her experience helping with doing a 3rd legacy vote in another area in a hybrid fashion. They talked about the possibility of doing hybrid breakout rooms with some people present virtually, and some in-person. They agreed it would not be possible for now and that even though there were technical ways to make it happen, too many virtual meetings in the same room could lead to a lot of audio feedback and cause a lot of chaos. There was also regulatory compliance and whether or not we would be subjected to capacity limits, masking, distancing, or screening requirements, or disclosures for contact tracing. They wanted to be able to support the area so that when our venue told us that we were able to meet under certain conditions, we would be able to tell our chairperson what we were able to do with what we had so that she could bring it to the area, and if we decided to meet, we could make it happen with an actionable plan.

The committee was focused on preparing for the possibilities and did not want to assume any authority to make decisions about when or how to go hybrid. We just wanted to research and present the information so that the area could decide. They already had a few projects underway. Doug was working on a survey for other areas and entities so that we could gather what they might have already learned by going hybrid. Jim A. from District 2 was working on a survey for people in the Area so that we could find out what everyone in the area was comfortable with and what their preferences would be. He already had a first draft, and we would be sending it out soon.

They were also going to be doing a quick poll as a temperature check at each area meeting so see how much the area wanted to go hybrid and when it wanted to do that.

Brian launched a poll, and these were the results:

Do you think it is a good idea for the Area to change from virtual to hybrid meetings?

- 59% (38/64) - Yes
- 31% (20/64) - No
- 9% (6/64) - I don't know

When is the earliest you would like to see the Area change from virtual to hybrid meetings?

- 39% (25/64) - 5/22/22 - Area Assembly
- 8% (5/64) - 6/25/22 - Area Committee Meeting
- 17% (11/64) - 7/23/22 - Area Assembly

- 2% (1/64) - 8/21/22 - Area Committee Meeting
- 8% (5/64) - 10/16/22 - Area Assembly
- 0% (0/64) - 11/19/22 - Area Committee Meeting
- 16% (10/64) - 2023 or later
- 11% (7/64) - I would not like to see the Area change from virtual to hybrid meetings

If the 5/22/22 Area Assembly was held in a hybrid format, how would you attend?

- 41% (26/64) - In Person
- 36% (23/64) - Virtually (via Zoom)
- 23% (15/64) - I don't know

If the 6/25/22 Area Committee Meeting was held in a hybrid format, how would you attend?

- 42% (27/64) - In Person
- 34% (22/64) - Virtually (via Zoom)
- 23% (26/64) - I don't know

It looked like most people thought it was a good idea to change from virtual to hybrid, and that the highest number of people thought we should look into doing it for the May assembly. There was a pretty even split between those who thought they would attend in person or virtually.

He thanked everyone and invited anyone interested in joining the committee to reach out to him. He also wanted to hear any opinions or anything people had to share, so he invited anyone with input or questions to contact him also.

Questions:

Q (Mary T.): We used to have assemblies in a main room but then rent other rooms so that the committees could break out. That might be another way to look at it.

A (Brian P.): Thank you, Mary. That is something we might research by having some mock meetings to see how it works out.

No reports were given from the Audio Visual Committee or the Accessibilities/Interpretation Ad-Hoc Committee.

Area Archives Website – Archives Committee

Sandra C., Archives Committee Chair, presented the following:

Sandra welcomed everyone to an exciting new presentation that was put together by the committee together with our Area Archivist, Mary T. It was first presented at the last Foothill Roundup, and some people might have seen it there. It was also presented to the Archives Committee itself, but this was going to be the first time it had been presented to Area 05 at large.

Mary T., Archivist, presented the following:

She thanked Sandra and Nikki and explained that many people were involved in the project. She thanked Arnulfo from the Translation Committee who translated their English script into Spanish, our Delegate Lauren who provided the English narration and also recorded all of the narration at her studio, Central California Area 93 Delegate Karla who provided Spanish narration, certainly Sandra and the Archives committee for all the work they did sorting the archives and performing the very important task of removing staples, the Website/Technology Committee who was going to be screening the showing, and Alternate Delegate Doug S. who shepherded the project from the very beginning to the end.

She explained that the images were the same for the Spanish and English versions of the video, but the narration was different. The Spanish video was going to be presented in the main room for Spanish-speakers, and English-speakers were to join a breakout room to view the screening of the English version. The Spanish version ran a little bit longer, so there was going to be time for questions and answers and announcement afterwards.

Assembly members split off to view the Archives Presentation (video) in English or Spanish at 1:39 PM.

The Area Assembly reconvened at 1:57 PM.

Mary T., Archivist, presented the following:

The archives website was now live at area05archives.org thanks to our webmaster Faith. The videos in English and Spanish could be viewed there now. She asked that everyone to please show it at their districts. They were going to be adding to it eventually to make it their virtual repository so that the things we had could be seen there.

Nikki commented that it was an excellent way for General Service Representatives (GSRs) to show their groups what we do if they ask, "What does General Service do?" They could be referred to the archives website to see what the area has done and also the longevity of the area as well.

Breakout Rooms: General Service Preconference Preparation

Nikki U., Chairperson, explained the following:

There were going to be 5 breakout rooms including main room. Spanish-speakers were going to stay in the main room where interpretation could be provided. The main portion of the workshop was going to be a brainstorming session, and then report-backs should not take more than 1 minute per group because each group was going to be sharing just one or two ideas or suggestions that came up during their brainstorming session for scheduling or achieving a group conscience.

Assembly members split off into breakout rooms for roundtable discussions at 2:00 PM.

Discussions were guided by the following general outline:

- Introduction
 - Workshop Objectives
 - Past Delegate – General Service Conference Perspective
- General Service Conference
 - What is the General Service Conference and why is it important?
 - Conference Timeline
 - Agenda Items/Background materials
 - Getting the information to Your Group
 - Scheduling
- Informed Group Conscience
 - What is an Informed Group Conscience?
 - Obtaining an Informed Group Conscience
 - Reporting the Groups Conscience to the Area
- Let's Practice
 - Announcing/Scheduling
 - Informed Group Conscience
 - Shared Experience: What Worked/What Didn't Work

The Area Assembly reconvened at 2:50 PM to report-back.

Main points from report-backs:

- Talk to the secretary of the group, ask if you can make an announcement if you're going to have a group conscience
- Get information as early as possible
- Highlight controversial issues
- Conference questions – what were the important questions?
- Discuss how to get your voice heard
- There is a small window of time between survey questions and the Preconference Workshop
- Pick a few questions instead of all of the questions
- Have meetings before or after the meeting
- Use simpler version of agenda items
- Make sure that all of the voices in your group are heard. Some best opinions come from most quiet ones.

- Informed group consciences are reached by listening to everyone. Reach out to people in remote communities to let them know they have a voice and that it is important.
- Delegates need to hear from everyone.
- If you have questions or don't understand something, it's okay to ask questions to members who have been here longer.
- Inform every member that they can make changes in AA.
- Okay to ask questions to members who have more time.
- Get a service buddy / service sponsor to guide you.
- Post flyers with area website URL so people could go to area website and fill out questionnaires themselves
- It is important to have a good sense of your meeting to know what interests the group
- Address one item at a time.
- Call a special business meeting or meet for dinner or lunch after the meeting.
- Call members on phone to have conversations with them.
- Make process relatable to everyone.
- Need to study and understand what the agenda items are, background information
- Explain why our delegate wants to hear our group's conscience
- Make sure everyone gets to give their point of view and give them a second opportunity if necessary
- My point of view is important, but my duty is to take my group's conscience.
- Don't forget to turn in your results to the Delegate.
- Large groups, where the GSR is unable to meet with everyone directly, can share surveys with a few members, certain members that you believe will be willing to give their input.
- Can make GSR available to take feedback before the meeting or any other time during the week.
- Timing is key – the earlier we have the information the better.
- Study the information ahead of time
- Ask area people or experts on the subject to present to the group

Nikki shared the workshop outline and two mock agenda items in the chat and explained that they could be used to get prepared before the actual agenda items came out the following month.

Unfinished Business

2022 Area 05 Calendar

Brian P., Secretary, presented the following:

He thanked the Translation Committee and said that he had forgotten to thank them earlier. They always helped him so much, especially with the minutes, and it took a lot of work, so he always made it a point to thank them.

He shared the area calendar earlier during the report and shared it again in the chat. It was first presented at the October Assembly and then voted upon and approved preliminarily at the November Area Committee Meeting (ACM). Since that meeting, there had been one amendment made to it. The August ACM was originally scheduled for 8/14/22, but The District Committee Member Chair (DCMC) of the Westside Combined Districts, David W., let us know that it conflicted with their monthly meeting, so he amended the proposed calendar to move the ACM to 8/21/22. He ran it by the other officers, and nobody saw any potential conflicts. He said that if there was anything anyone wanted to discuss about that or any of the other dates, we could discuss them now.

Brian P., Secretary, made a motion to approve the 2022 Area 05 Calendar as amended. Paul DeC., District 36 District Committee Member and Grapevine/La Viña Alternate Chair, seconded.

Discussion:

Q (Thomas S.): On the calendar, there are two dates that are to be determined, the 4 Area DCM Sharing Session and the Hispanic Womens Workshop. Since the calendar was shared earlier this month, have either of those dates been determined?

A (Brian P.): No, they haven't, and there is actually a third date that is to be determined too for the Foro de Servicios Generales.

Q (Thomas S.): What will we do when those dates are determined? Will they just be generally accepted, or will that be brought back for a vote?

A (Brian P.): I believe in the past, we just updated the calendar, but maybe someone with more experience could speak to this. We could certainly bring it back for a vote if we wanted to vote on each as an amendment.

A (Nikki U.): Thinking about the past, I believe that since these are events that the area participates in but does not control the scheduling of, we have just accepted those dates once they have been determined.

A (Thomas S.): Yes, that is how it's been handled in the past. Once we know, it immediately gets updated. Thank you.

A (Brian P.): Thank you, Thomas.

The Assembly voted on the motion, and it passed unanimously, 60-0.

Approval of ACM-approved change to Guideline and Policies Section XI. Other SCAA Activities to include the Hispanic Women's Workshop

Olga M., Area 05's Liaison to the 2021 Hispanic Women's Workshop, presented the following motion:

To amend the Guidelines & Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05, adding a new subsection E to section XI as follows:

E. The Hispanic Women's Workshop

The Hispanic Women's Workshop is an annual event. The purpose of the Hispanic Women's Workshop is to carry the message, develop a greater unity among Spanish-speaking women in Alcoholics Anonymous, encourage the exchange of ideas, and experiences for Spanish-speaking women. The Workshop has a Planning Committee in which a liaison from Area 05 will provide representation from SCAA. The Hispanic Women's Workshop practices the Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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

Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer, seconded the motion. Time for discussion was offered but no comments were made. The Assembly voted on the motion, and it passed unanimously, 51 to 1. Time for minority opinion was offered but no comments were made.

2021 Foro de Servicios Generales Report

Arturo F., Chairperson of the 2021 El Foro de Servicios Generales, reported:

He was from District 33 and he was the chair of the 42nd Foro de Servicios Generales, which took place on 11/7/22. In his opinion, the Foro was a phenomenal experience. To him, it was symbolic. They had worked on it for 2 years. They started in 2020 and it was cancelled due to the pandemic, and they decided to have it in 2021. He gave a special thanks to all the Spanish-speaking districts and Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH). Since they started, they received incredible support from all of the districts. He thanked Area 05, especially to Nikki, who was very helpful, and Zoraida for helping me with the reimbursement and understanding the contribution that the area gives to the Foro. She helped him a lot. He thanked Doug for his participation at the event. He did a great job, and people were very happy. He heard really good things about the event. Trustee Paz P. visited from Arizona and gave us very good information. They had around 200 people in attendance. Area 05 was present. It was very good. Had \$2,169 more contributions than expenses. They planned the event for over two years. They divided the surplus amongst different organizations. They were going to make a contribution back to the area for \$750, to CIH for \$700, and to the next event for \$500. They were going to make a \$719.34 contribution to the General Service Office (GSO). They were very thankful to Area 5 for their contribution of \$600 and \$750 for interpretation. They were grateful. They were going to continue in service as much as they could and continue to inform the area. They already had the new committee for the next event. District 34 was going to be the host, and they had already started working. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

2021 Hispanic Women's Workshop Report

Olga M., Area 05's Liaison to the 2021 Hispanic Women's Workshop, presented the following:

She was the General Service Representative (GSR) for her group in District 33. She was going to report on the 6th Annual Hispanic Women's Workshop that took place in Arizona on 12/4/21. The host area was Area 03. Area 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, and 93, women came from Mexico and many places in the United States – New York, Texas, different places. Many newcomers came to event. That morning they had a meeting with the liaisons from Area 03, and they gave a report on their expenses. There were about 96 women who came in person and 45 on Zoom. She thanked to Area 05 for our technical help to make the hybrid event possible. She thanked Kyle and Brian for being present with the technology and preserving everyone's anonymity. The next event was going to be hosted by Area 07 in San Diego in 2022, and in 2023,

the event was going to be in Area 05. The expense report reported that expenses were \$6,761.52. They had a contributions surplus of \$3,920.57. Area 03 said they were going to have another meeting to give the total expense report and where that money would be contributed. She thanked everyone for letting her be of service and said she could answer any questions.

New Business

Presentation of 2022 Area Budget

Nancy H., Finance Committee Chair, presented a draft 2022 Area Budget. She shared the document in the chat and explained that it contained figures for actual inflows and outflows from last year. She apologized for taking so long to prepare the budget and explained that she had some health setbacks that caused the delay. Moving forward, we should be able to get it looked at and voted on by the Spring Assembly. It was only being offered for presentation today, so she asked everyone to look at it and have their questions available for our next meeting. She thanked everyone.

Motion to Add Statement of Purpose for Cooperation with the Young Community to Standing Committees in Area Guidelines and Policies

Jenny P., Guidelines and Policies Chair, presented a motion (for presentation only) to add the following statement of purpose for the Cooperation with the Young Community to Section V. Standing Committees in the Area's Guidelines and Policies:

"The purpose of the Area 05 Cooperation with the Young Committee is to bring the A.A. message to young people, 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 Area 05 committees 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."

4-Area District Committee Member (DCM) Sharing Session

Alex H., Area 05's Liaison to the 4-Area DCM Sharing Session, presented the following:

He reached out to the other areas to ask them to send liaisons to make further arrangements. The February date was largely aspirational and was not going to happen under the current circumstances. He was hoping that we could do the sharing session as a hybrid event, and that we could adapt Brian's hybrid survey to get a sense for what will work for all four areas. His home district, District 30 was at the crossroads for all 4 areas, and he scouted out some good locations where we have held Area Assemblies before and were available. In order to make it work, we would have to have breakout rooms to accommodate hybrid roundtables, which was more complicated than originally thought. He reached out to some people to help with the committee. He had plenty of people on the ground that could help set up and run an in-person event but could use help with outreaching for speakers like past trustees or anyone else that would be of interest for the sharing session. He invited anyone interested to join the committee, particularly those with a lot of years of experience in the general service community to help get speakers. He could be reached at district30@area05aa.org. He had nothing else to report. He was waiting to hear from the other areas for available DCMs to help plan the event. He thanked everyone.

2022 PRAASA – What, Where, When, Where Next?

Thomas B., PRAASA 2023 Chair, presented the following:

He thanked Nikki for asking him to speak to the Assembly. For those at the first assembly, he introduced himself. He was the Panel 67 Past Delegate for Southern California Area 05 and served AA as a whole and all the groups and members of Southern California as their Delegate to the 2017 and 2018 General Service Conferences (GSCs). He was presently serving as the Chairperson for the 2023 Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) when Area 05 would be hosting the event at one of the major convention hotels near LAX airport just one year from now. He was hopeful that many in attendance would be volunteering and participating in the work of our areas hosting committee.

He explained that he was going to do his presentation a little backwards and speak briefly first to those who had been in the area a while about PRAASA 2023. The PRAASA 2023 Committee, which was comprised of all Past Delegates of Area 05, had its first meeting on 8/19/18, and they had met many times since to review and select potential hotel venues for hosting PRAASA in the Los Angeles area. Over the space of several months, they negotiated and signed a contract on 1/29/20 with a major LAX convention hotel, a 1,004 room facility and locked in a very excellent and affordable universal rate for 1,000 room-night 3-day commitment, with complimentary rooms and the option to extend the rate to more

rooms if needed, free airport shuttle within walking distance of LAX, a special PRAASA attendee parking rate, and workable food and beverage minimums which gave us all the hotel's meeting space for the entire weekend, bottom line.

They were continuing to plan PRAASA 2023 as an in-person event but were keeping very close watch on Covid-19 developments and formulating contingencies and alternative plans should they become necessary.

During the last year, the committee published their PRAASA 2023 fictitious business name statement, opened their PRAASA 2023 bank account, and with everyone's vote at the last Area Assembly, chose a logo for the event. The logo contest was spearheaded by the diligent efforts of our Past Delegate Mary T. They were grateful for the work of all our Past Delegates in the process. Mary T. served as Archives Chair. Thomas S. was their Secretary. Jim I. was the Translation Equipment Chair. Jim W. was the Hospitality Chair. Marcus F. was their Treasurer. Dean B. was the Registrar, and Juan M. was their Translation and Spanish-Speaking Outreach Chair. He also wanted to thank our Delegate Lauren who had attended almost all their monthly meetings.

They were just getting started, however, and that year, they were going to be filling out the rest of the committee in earnest. They had a long list of things to get done that year and many things to get ready, so there were a lot of important positions to fill. They would be calling on a lot of people in the Assembly to please step up and help out.

He then switched to talking about the 55th Annual PRAASA that would be held virtually this year 3/4/22 – 3/6/22 hosted by Area 58 Oregon, which he said was what he was really there to talk about. He had been attending all of the PRAASA 2022 monthly planning meetings and assured everyone that they had a fantastic program lined up.

For those who were not as experienced he explained what PRAASA was. The Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) was an annual general service assembly open to all AA and AI-Anon members. It was hosted by one of the 15 areas in the Pacific Region of AA. Each year, the event moved around the Pacific Region which was comprised of nine states: California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Hawaii, and Alaska.

We had heard earlier that day from our Delegate the stated purpose of PRAASA, which was:

"... to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of AA."

He admitted that this accurate, but somewhat dry description of what PRAASA was aptly covered the "what" of what PRAASA was. AA was really good at carefully describing the "what" of things but did not always do a good job in communicating the "why" of these events. He wanted to focus on the "why."

PRAASA could be viewed as an opportunity for AA members and trusted servants to exchange information which related AA's life-giving services to our own personal experience, strength, and hope, and also to share the challenges and successes of AA members on the twelfth step frontlines of carrying AA's message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

PRAASA attendees and participants always included the Delegates of each area, past and present Trustees, and often you would also get to see AA Grapevine directors, AA World Services directors, staff members and workers from the General Service Office (GSO). When you attended, you were going to be given an opportunity to see and hear panel presentations from trusted servants throughout the Pacific Region – General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), officers, and Delegates, and ask questions and offer your own feedback on the many ways we were working collectively as a society of alcoholics in action, especially during the course of the pandemic, to make the hand of AA visibly available to reach and help the suffering alcoholic and also concerning agenda topics affecting the health and welfare of our AA groups and members.

Essentially, at PRAASA, we got to discuss and share the work and spirit of AA with each other, which was all about the work of saving drunks and our Fellowship's unity. PRAASA provided a unique opportunity to come together as a Fellowship to focus on our primary purpose, as we were guided by the moral and spiritual imperative of AA's twelfth step as to how we may better and be more effectively engaged in the work of saving drunks and improving our unity, which was another name for our common welfare.

So, the "why" of PRAASA turned out to be really exciting and inspiring stuff!

Thomas asked how many people had not yet attended PRAASA.

It was very easy to register through the website praasa.org for the virtual event, which was going to be held March 4, 5, and 6, 2022. The cost was only \$15 payable by credit card.

As far as what we were going to be experiencing, like last year, there was going to be a virtual welcoming hospitality room where we could freely interact with one another. Then, we were going to meet and see all of the Delegates from the Pacific Region, as well as our honorary Pacific Region Delegate from BC/Yukon in Canada, and we were going to hear each of them speak about their areas and what they were doing. There were going to be panel presentations on important topics related to that year's Conference agenda as well as matters of keen interest to everyone. Presenters on those topics were going to be selected from every area including ours. Lauren would soon be submitting names of volunteers and many of us might be tapped to participate as a panel presenter, a timer, a reader, or moderator. At the end of each panel presentation, we would be allowed to ask questions or share our opinions on these important topics. We would participate in the conversation and our voices would be heard. There were also going to be roundtable discussions for each group of trusted servants: GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, officers' positions, Treasurers, Secretaries, Registrars, Chairpersons, Alternate Delegates, Delegates. We were going to get to meet with our fellow service buddies from across the Pacific Region. The bottom line was that these roundtables were where we were going to really have the opportunity to get to know and learn from each other. For our Spanish-speaking members, there was also going to be a special Spanish story writing workshop for the newest version of the Spanish big book hosted by Amalia C. PRAASA was going to be amazing. On Sunday morning, our past Trustees from the Pacific Region were going to each share their wisdom, experience, strength, and hope on matters essential to our Fellowship as we looked toward the future. For the final panel, there were going to be questions picked from an "Ask-it basket," questions that we will have had an opportunity to submit, and each of the Delegates were going to attempt to answer the questions. For good reason, we lovingly called that panel "Stump the Delegate."

This was why everyone was encouraged to participate and attend. He had spoken to a lot of folks who told him they had an uplifting life-changing experience at PRAASA. This might or might not have been true for you, but it was important that you attended and allowed yourself to have your own experience. While we talked a lot about the business of AA at those events, it was not just about business. For him, it had always been the personal sharing and interaction of one alcoholic, one trusted servant talking to another about their personal experience, strength, and hope, that made PRAASA such an uplifting event.

So why should each of us attend? We were going to be hosting PRAASA in 2023 and folks who would be serving on their committee and volunteering should be fully familiar. More importantly, if we took a step back and looked at the larger perspective, we could see that what motivated each of us to come together was the spiritual imperative of our twelfth step: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics." PRAASA represented a valuable exchange of information among our Fellowship that focused us on how we may better work together, hand-in-hand, 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. That was why we came together in general service and that was how we grew our AA movement and strengthened our common welfare and made sure that AA was always there through this pandemic and for the many generations of alcoholics to come.

Once again, registration was easy. We could pretend to care, but we could not pretend to be present. Thomas asked all of us to be present and go to praasa.org to register. He thanked everyone for allowing him to be of service.

Questions / Comments:

Comment (Nikki U.): She especially loved the roundtables at PRAASA especially when she was new in a job in a panel. She got to meet other people who were maybe on the first year of their job in their panel too, and she got to commiserate and learn from others who have done it before.

Comment (David W.): First, I want to thank Thomas for your service. Your presentation of the upcoming 2023 PRAASA and summary of the upcoming 2022 PRAASA were excellent. I want to announce to all members of the Westside Combined Districts (WCD) who attend PRAASA that WCD will fully reimburse your \$15 registration upon presentation of the appropriate documentation. We encourage everybody to go there. It's a fantastic experience in person and on zoom. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Q (Don C.): Did I miss it, or is the hotel a mystery?

A (Thomas B.): It is a conscious decision not to share it at this time. We shared it before, but the committee decided not to share it widely at this time because we didn't want the room block filled before room block opened. We have a

commitment to make, and it will be announced in due time. It is one of the major convention hotels right near LAX.

Good and Welfare Announcements

Shawn A: He thanked districts that invited him to talk about new GSO address for contributions. Also, the new service manual, which costs \$4, is awesome. For all the nerds that liked to put tabs on the pages, the tabs were already in there. Also, for the AA History Symposium, someone asked the committee if there was going to be Spanish interpretation, and they hadn't decided yet. But then suddenly, because that member asked, there was now going to be Spanish interpretation for just over half of symposium. As a result, registration for Spanish-speakers was going to be \$15 instead of \$30. Don't ever be afraid to ask questions because this one person did, and he changed the whole thing.

Don C: The next 3rd Legacy meeting was going to be 2/19/22. He believed we were still going to do it virtually. The number and passcode were going to be on the announcement. Topics were from page 59 of 2021 General Service Conference (GSC) report which talked about the theme and topics for upcoming GSC, so it was going to be relevant. He was going to be getting the agenda out to the districts the next day. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

Ron H.: The 70th Southern California Convention was going to be held 11/4/22 - 11/6/22 in Area 05, which did not conflict with anything on our calendar. There was going to be more information to come later in the year. Planning meetings were going to be starting on 2/13/22 at the 502 Club in Covina at 10am. There was a lot of history between the So Cal Convention and Area 05, and hopefully, we could bring some of that history back.

Mark S.: Camp Spiritfire was coming back full-fledged again. They were going to be hosting it in Idyllwild that year. It was going to be a 4-day event on Memorial Day weekend, Friday through Monday 5/27/22 – 5/30/22. Registration was going to open soon. He was going to have more information and flyers that were going to go out to the districts probably around the time of our next Area Committee Meeting.

Jacobo M.: Thanks for a wonderful assembly. The Grapevine / La Viña committee meeting was not going to be next Saturday, but 2/26/22 at 11 AM. They were looking for a location where they could have their 2022 Grapevine / La Viña workshop. Also, the Spanish-speaking districts were working on their 4-committee event. Their first planning meeting was going to be the next day at District 50's location at 10am in morning.

Lauren A.: Meet with the Delegate is back. It will be 2/28/22. I will be there for an hour to answer questions or just hang out. If you have questions about what's coming up at the Conference or something that's going on in your district or your group, just come and share. I will be available for you. I will put the flyer in the chat and distribute it to the DCMs.

Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement

Joe T, General Service Representative, District 7, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by another Assembly member. The motion was passed by acclamation.

Mario, District Committee Member, District 55, led the Assembly in reciting A.A.'s Responsibility Statement in Spanish.

Chuckles, General Service Representative, District 9, led the Assembly in reciting A.A.'s Responsibility Statement in English.

The Area Assembly adjourned at 4:00 PM.

**A.A. AREA 05 - SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA AREA SPRING ASSEMBLY AGENDA
Sunday – May 22, 2022
Zoom Meeting ID: 891 0086 2280 Passcode: area05**

- 8:00 Registration & Zoom Room Fellowship
- 9:00 Welcome and Opening Comments
- Call-to-Order
 - Silent Meditation, Serenity Prayer AA Birthdays (January 22 – May 22)
 - The Twelve Concepts (Short Form) - Spanish and English
- 9:20 Introduction of new General Service Representative and Alternates
- 9:35 Roll Call (Registrar, Miguel M.)
- 9:45 Approval of Agenda (*Chair, Nikki U*)
Approval of January 22nd Assembly Minutes (*Secretary, Brian P*)
- 10:00 72nd General Service Conference Delegate Report: Personal and Spiritual Experience (*Lauren A, Delegate*)
- 10:45 Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Meetings (*Committee Chairs*)
- 11:30 Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports – 2-to-3-minute summary
- 12:15 Lunch Break
- 1:00 72nd General Service Conference Delegate Report: Business Report, Agenda Items, Q & A (*Lauren A, Delegate*)
- 2:30 Officer Reports:
- Alternate Delegate, Including Audit Subcommittee Report (*Doug S.*)
 - Secretary (Brian P.)
 - Contributions Treasurer, incl. presentation of 2022 1st Quarter Contributions Report (*Shawn A.*)
 - Accounts Treasurer, including presentation of 2022 1st Quarter Financial Report (*Zoraida R.*)
 - Registrar (Miguel M.)
 - Chairperson (*Nikki U*)
- 3:00 Unfinished Business:
- Presentation and Final Approval Vote: SCAA 2022 Budget (*Nancy H, Finance Chair*)
 - Presentation and Final Approval Vote: SCAA Guidelines and Policies Change to include Cooperation With the Young Community Committee (*Jenny P, G & P Chair*)
- 3:30 New Business:
- Presentation: SCAA Guidelines and Policies Change to include Good and Welfare announcements and announcements in the SCAAN (*Jenny P, G & P Chair*)
- 3:45 Good and Welfare Announcements
- 4:00 Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement (Spanish & English)