



SCAAN



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF AREA 05

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

A.A. COMES OF AGE 2.0

UNIFIED IN LOVE AND SERVICE



DELEGATE'S REPORT

2022!

Hello Area 05,

As I write this, I am preparing to go to a district meeting this evening. I will be reporting on Advisory Actions and Committee Considerations that occurred at the 72nd General Service Conference. It's part of my "duties" as Delegate for Area 05 but it's also a great joy. Connecting with our General Service Representatives and District Committee Members is one of the most fun and rewarding things I do every year. I am always in awe of the participation and willingness to be of service I find at each district and always want to nurture that commitment to our movement. Since the General Service Conference came into existence, it has been the members who make change...or don't. Watching carefully to make sure our Traditions, Concepts and their warranties are held reverently and not impinged on, making changes in a more modern world, watching the power of the purse and keeping inclusiveness and diversity in sight - these are the things you do for Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I first came to General Service, I was sparked. I was super charged into understanding how A.A. functions and who was caretaking our A.A. World Services and the General Service Office. I really had no idea how it all worked. Even reading these things in a Big Book Study or hearing the long form of the traditions didn't really inform me. It was just another reading and things were handled far off in New York and the meeting ended. Now I am well aware of where our 7th tradition goes, what amazing services A.A. offers the still suffering and already recovering alcoholics and all the families affected by alcoholism in the world. I understand the role of the Class A Trustees and how they serve only out of love for our program. I understand the committees and their directors' jobs. I understand the Class B Trustees' careful and tender considerations and volunteerism. Of course, a lot of this was learned by electing me to be your delegate to the conference but at the Area level, I was so excited to serve and help make sure we were staying connected to our meetings and members.

I guess, I may be already feeling a little melancholy as my term as your delegate rotates. I have said this over and over in the last two years “This is the most fun I’ve ever had in service.” I’m not talking about the fun of going to a party or amusement park, it’s the learning, oh my goodness, the learning, the people I have met, it’s the responsibility I developed for all things A.A., and it’s knowing that we are still here for anyone who wants us. Yes, traveling is fun too but - I take all of this very seriously and on each flight to New York, I was preparing and getting ready to work. The work is why I was there. Who knew THAT would be so fun? I am such a nerd right?

In October at our assembly we will be having a Third Legacy Election and all of the officers and committee chairs will be rotating to a new position and new members will come forth offering themselves to be elected to all positions. I hope you are one of them. Yes, GSRs and DCMs rotate too, elected by their meetings and districts. Our January assembly with a brand new panel is always so exciting! We are all going to meet our new Pacific Region Trustee Reilly K. at this election and that will be wonderful. If you don’t know, Reilly was a trusted servant in Area 05 years before moving to Oregon.

So, as I await the July Board report from G.S.O. I wish you all peace and love and full speed ahead with our last months in the panel. There’s still “work” to be done!

Yours In Service,

Lauren A.

Delegate - Area 05, Panel 71



Area 05 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 1PM
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 Choir*)

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

2022 SCAA CALENDAR

January						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

1 New Year's Day
17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

April						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

17 Easter
15 Tax Deadline

July						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

4 Independence Day

October						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

10 Columbus/
Indigenous People's Day

February						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

14 Valentine's Day
21 Presidents Day

May						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

8 Mother's Day
30 Memorial Day

August						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

? Foothill Roundup (TBD)

November						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

11 Veterans Day
24 Thanksgiving

March						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

19 Father's Day/Juneteenth

September						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

5 Labor Day
? SoCal Convention (TBD)

December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

25 Christmas

January

22 Sa Area Assembly (Winter)

February

20 Su Area Committee Meeting

March

4-6 F-Su PRAASA - Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (Portland, OR)

26 Sa Steering Committee Meeting

April

TBD 4 Area DCM Sharing Session (Hosted by Area 05 Southern CA)

2-3 Sa-Su Pre-Conference Workshop

24-30 Su-Sa General Service Conference (Brooklyn, NY)

May

22 Su Area Assembly (Spring)

June

11 Sa Steering Committee Meeting

25 Sa Area Committee Meeting

July

23 Sa Area Assembly (Summer)

August

21 Su Area Committee Meeting

September

10 Sa Steering Committee Meeting

16-18 F-Su Pacific Regional Forum (Salt Lake City, UT)

October

16 Su Area Assembly (Fall Election Assembly)

November

TBD El Foro de Servicios Generales

19 Sa Area Committee Meeting

December

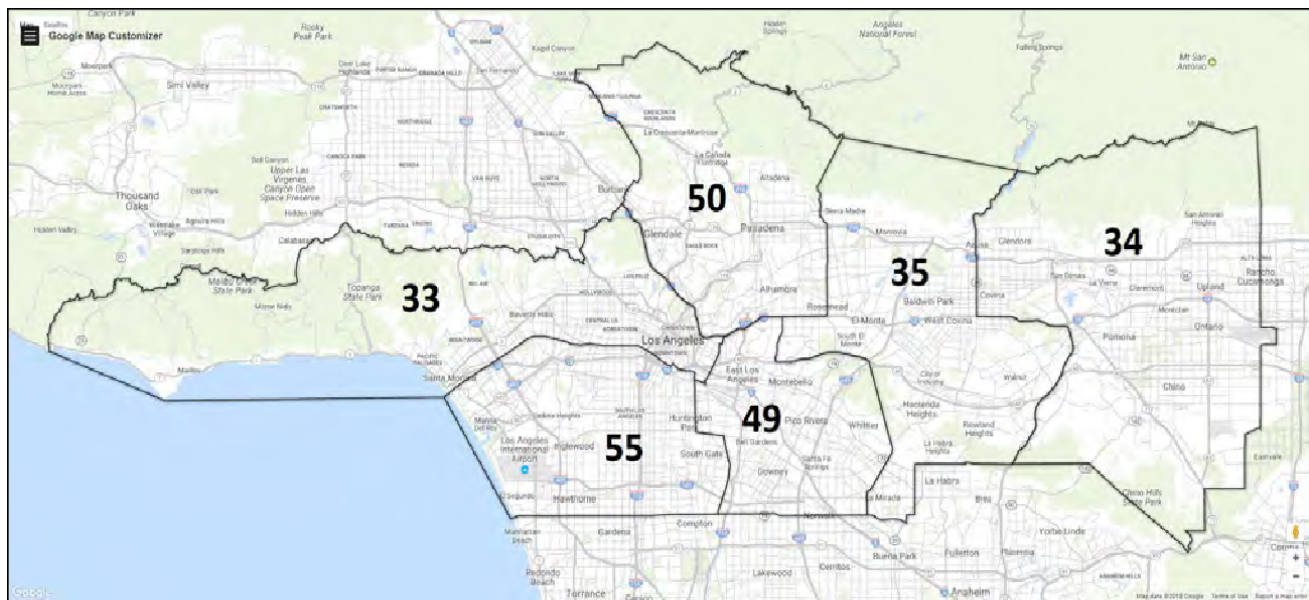
TBD Hispanic Women's Workshop (Host/Location: TBD)

10 Sa Steering Committee Meeting

AREA MAP (English-Speaking Districts)



AREA MAP (Spanish-Speaking Districts)



A.A. AREA 05 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MINUTES FROM THE SPRING AREA ASSEMBLY
Sunday – May 22, 2022
(via Zoom)

Welcome and Opening Comments

The 2022 Spring Area Assembly Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Sunday, May 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 instruction for how to participate at Area Assemblies.

People with A.A. Birthdays (Anniversaries) from January 23, 2022 to May 22, 2022 were recognized and serenaded with the birthday song. Birthdays: Lauren A., Doug S., Shawn A., Gia G., Thomas B., Paul DeC., Jenny P., Dave D., Zoraida R., Olivia M., Kathe S., David W., Mark S., Dustin, Mike C., Mary T., Mimi T., Jim A., Denise E., Antonio A., Matt W.

Yoli H., General Service Representative, District 35, read *The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)* in Spanish

Kristy L., Alternate Chairperson, Archives Committee, 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:

Selena B. (GSR), Felipe (GSR), Luis (GSR), Kelly X (GSR), Mandy D. (GSR)

Roll Call

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

Potential	Present
Area Officers	7
DCMs	31
Alt DCMs	13
GSRs	196
Alt GSRs	38
Total	285

Potential	Present
Past Delegate	10
Committee Chair	20
Alt Chairs	16
DCMCs	3
Alt DCMCs	2
Total	51

Total Present	
Voting Members	63
Non-Voting Members	8
Visitors	22
Total	93
Serving in Multiple Positions	
Individuals	0

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

Area Officers: 2021 - 2022 Panel 71					
Delegate	1	Secretary	1	Registrar	1
Alt Del	1	Accts Tr	1	Total	7
Chair	1	Cont Tr	1		

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

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

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

Approval of Agenda and January 22nd Assembly Minutes

Nikki U., Chairperson, moved to approve the Assembly Agenda. The motion was seconded by Jacobo M., Grapevine / La Viña Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously, 46-0.

Brian P., Secretary, moved to approve the Minutes from the January 22, 2022 Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Jenny P., Chairperson, Guidelines & Policies Committee. The motion passed 43-1. Time for minority opinion was offered, but none was expressed.

A point of order was made by Robert K., General Service Representative: As the presiding adjudicator of all procedural matters, normally the chair is not entitled to introduce (or second) motions.

A point of order was made by Doug S.: Normally, we would provide time for suggested changes to the agenda, and comments and corrections for the minutes.

Nikki U., Chairperson, determined that the approval of the agenda and the approval of the minutes were out of order.

Claire B., District Committee Member, District 15, offered a friendly amendment to correct the title of the agenda from "Winter Assembly" to "Spring Assembly". Nikki U. accepted the friendly amendment.

Robert K., General Service Representative, moved to approve the Assembly Agenda. The motion was seconded by Jacobo M., Grapevine / La Viña Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously, 51-0.

Brian P., Secretary, moved to approve the Minutes from the January 22, 2022 Area Assembly. The motion was seconded by Claire B., District Committee Member, District 15. The motion passed unanimously 43-0.

72nd General Service Conference Delegate Report: Personal and Spiritual Experience

Lauren A., Delegate, reported:

Lauren welcomed everyone to the assembly. In July 1950, at the first International Convention in Cleveland, OH, it was decided to try this idea for the General Service Conference (GSC). There were six basic reasons underlying the proposal by our co-founders:

- Dr. Bob and Bill could not last forever
- Trustees were generally unknown to the movement
- Trustees would need future guidance from the movement itself
- AA was growing up and was able to assume rightful responsibility for its headquarters and all its services
- The importance of bringing the trustees into closer contact with the movement
- The need to be as completely prepared as possible to face some potentially grave crisis with action in the best interest of all AAs

In April 1951, the first GSC met, beginning a 5-year experimental period to link the AA trustees with the entire fellowship. We were now at the 72nd GSC.

Lauren presented a slideshow with various photos from her week at the GSC. She explained that full-face photos were shown with permission from the subjects, and that she would not be showing the slides in any public forum.

Her journey started that year at the “General Service Board Weekend” in Brooklyn, where all the delegates’ committee chairs met with staff, board members, AA World Services, and the trustees. They had joint meetings and discussed the agenda items for the conference. It was very exciting, and she felt as if she was given a gift.

She showed photos of the delegate chairs at the Board Weekend, friends and colleagues, Vera F., who was a director working on the pamphlet for black and African American members, our Trustee-at-Large Marita R., Jennifer B. and Lauren at lunch, and the committee chairs on their way to a final dinner before returning home.

She then showed photos from our Area 05 dinner zoom meeting from the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) 2023, including one with smiles and one with goofy faces. She joked that Shawn’s face was the same in both and said that she was just poking fun at our contributions treasurer.

Next, she showed a photo of souvenirs that she collected from other areas. Most delegates created buttons, bookmarks, or pens. She showed a photo of the button she created for Area 05 which she handed out as gifts to other attendees, and said it was a nice way to meet people.

She then showed photos of the scene outside her hotel window at dawn, the Public Information (PI) Trustee Beau B., their committee’s secretary Patrick C., and the PI pin she got for the entire committee, which looked like the mathematical symbol pi.

She arrived at JFK airport in New York at around 7:30pm Thursday evening and got to the hotel at around 9:00pm. She had been there before for the board weekend, so she knew where to get some food and got herself some New York pizza. She explained that this part of the report was going to be about what she saw, heard, and felt, and that later that afternoon, she would be going over all the agenda items and the business that was done at the GSC.

The pizza was greasy, flavorful, and filling. Up in her room after dinner, she started unpacking the essentials: coffee brewer, coffee, sweetener – the most important things to wake up with. That hotel had bad coffee so she brought her own.

Friday morning at 11am, she attended an AA meeting at the General Service Office, where the Public Information Committee’s Secretary Patrick C. was the leader. She shared a little bit and met other conference members who she had hitherto only seen in little squares on Zoom. One of them was her Alternate Chair for PI Jim F. from Missouri who was just as excited about the conference as she was. It was so cool to be at 475 Riverside Drive, downstairs from the General Service Office, and in an AA meeting.

After that, she and the other Pacific Region delegates went to the 9/11 Memorial to pay their respects, which was something she had always wanted to do. It was an emotional stop on their way to get lobster rolls for lunch. Then, she stopped at Trader Joe's for creamer, bananas, and snacks, and then returned to her room.

She thanked the past delegates for sending her 3 giant care packages, and said it was wonderful to have things to snack on, water to drink, and cheese to eat. Dinner was at the Shake Shack.

They had a delegates-only meeting downstairs at 7:30pm with an overview of the conference weekend, orientation, discussion, and questions and answers. Then she had to get some rest because she needed to be up at 6am every day so that she could be ready and alert at 8am. She was usually a night owl and slow-moving in the morning, so that was her plan.

The next morning, she went through registration, got oatmeal at the juice bar next door, and at 10am, it all began. She had the most fun she had ever had in service, not running around New York sight-seeing or hanging around with other delegates, which she did the first day before the conference, but doing the actual work of the conference. She made new friendships that would last a lifetime and met pretty much every single delegate, staff member, trustee, director, and so on, but it was the actual process of the conference that was the most fun for her.

On Saturday the 23rd, they all attended the 1728 meeting. $1728 = 12 \times 12 \times 12$, and this symbolized the twelve steps, traditions, and concepts. There was a presentation on Concept 3 and then sharing. There was then the Remote Communities report regarding the extreme remote conditions of Alaska, the Northwest Territories of Alberta, and Nunavut, and also the 19 unique languages including Navajo in New Mexico. Those reports were very compelling.

The Opening Session was where they met the Chair of the General Service Board, Linda Chisholm and the General Manager of the General Service Office (GSO), Bob W. Things were starting to get real, and Lauren admitted that she was a little giddy.

At lunch, they had a delegates' orientation for the Pacific Region, and they elected the new PRAASA Advisory Board chair and alternate chair. At 3:00pm, they had their joint meeting with the Trustee for PI, Beau B., and she was more than excited because the work had begun. They were all informed by Beau.

She was feeling an enormous tension building up, but not in a bad way. She was a performer and was always a little tightly wound before a show. It was not anxiety, just herself getting revved up to get to work. She was feeling that way at dinner that night and was a pinch nervous about running her committee meetings, hoping she would do it right and get through the big workload they were given. Her fears were quelled by Patrick, their secretary. They had a cohesive plan that started an hour early the next day at 8am. He was amazing, so all in all, she was doing okay so far.

Lauren then showed a few photos from Saturday before the conference, when Kathy F., our outgoing Pacific Region trustee, planned a little bus trip around Brooklyn for the Pacific Region delegates so that they could see "Bill Wilson stuff." They went to Clinton Street where Bill and Lois lived, Calgary Episcopal Church where Bill first said he was an alcoholic, Towns Hospital, and Central Park. Then, they drove by GSO again. The city was blocking off some streets, so they got stuck in Little Italy for a while before going back to the hotel. Those sites were very inspiring.

The following Saturday, after all the work was done, many delegates and trustees piled into 3 buses and went to visit GSO. She showed photos of them walking into GSO, saying hi to Bob W., the General Manager, the entrance to GSO, and a video from Lauren's first-person perspective walking into GSO's AA archives. She showed more photos

of Bob in his new office, the Accessibilities Office door, some older drawings of our conference on the wall, the shipping department, the La Viña office, and some of the literature that was being sent to Ukraine.

It was really cool for her to walk into where literature was pulled off the shelves to be sent to people and to see boxes of books and pamphlets. We were still helping the still-suffering alcoholic.

She showed an odd photo of Bill on a roof with a hammer in a suit, which she thought was funny, the 7th tradition fish basket, and a basic AA starter pack. The next showed a slide with photos of all the doors to all of the offices.

Lauren then talked about Covid-19 at the General Service Conference. Last year, the Pacific Region dubbed the panel the “poo panel” because on Zoom, they used the poop emoji as their mascot. For the 72nd Conference, they were calling it the “Covid Conference”. The past two panels, Panels 70 and 71 made history by being entirely virtual. She was very grateful that she was able to attend the 72nd Conference in person.

GSO was compiling information and history regarding virtual experiences and using virtual technologies to support the work and staff at the office as well as thinking forward to AA’s future as a whole. Lauren found that there was not reason to think that members of the conference thought about anything other than protecting our movement and moving in the right direction, which was the direction that all of us proposed.

All attendees were told to be vaccinated before going to the conference. Lauren, herself, was vaccinated and double-boosted. There were buttons outside the ballroom in different colors for attendees to place on their badges to indicate their level of comfort for contact with others – red meant stay away, yellow meant perhaps a handshake, and green meant “anything goes.” Lauren was too busy and forgot to get one, so she just kept her distance and said, “no ” most of the time.

On Wednesday, they received the news that one of the Pacific Region delegates had Covid and was in her room quarantining. Then, they received news that a staff person and another Pacific Region delegate and her husband also had Covid, then more delegates and more staff. It was outrageous and a little terrifying.

The Sunday before, they had a banquet and AA meeting where everyone was unmasked and sitting closely together, much like people did at the PRAASA banquet and AA meeting (pre-pandemic.) Lauren felt a little uneasy and put on her mask, but she thought it was probably too late for most. She was also unmasked for her 9-person committee meetings, which she regretted, but she did not get sick.

On Thursday evening, one of the delegates from her committee went home. The delegate was angry that nothing was being done to curb the spread and had a wife at home who was immunocompromised. It was very upsetting and sad, but Lauren understood why she would want to leave.

There were more announcements of people with positive tests. Lauren and some others started sitting in the back of the room by the door, masked and socially distanced. She noticed later that those who sat up front closely together were all testing positive.

They were now a spreader event. Masks and tests were placed on the tables outside of the ballroom, and on Thursday evening between sessions and after a break, Lauren went to the mic and urged everyone to wear masks and get tested because they were spreading Covid-19 amongst themselves. They needed to think of each other and not just themselves. Most people started wearing masks and testing, but some decided they would not. By the time she left on Monday, there were at least 30 conference members who had tested positive for Covid-19 and more who were sick. Delegates who quarantined did not leave until the Tuesday or Wednesday after the conference. The Pacific Region delegates were hit hard. There were many staff who decided not to wear masks and got sick. She did not know how long everyone might have spread the virus and how many decided not to test.

There was a meal train set up for the quarantine which was delivered by volunteers. The hotel helped to set up lunch boxes and dinners. They could not get answers from the hotel about whether they were spraying the ballroom each night or whether the maids were testing themselves daily.

At this point, Lauren started to have a pounding headache, and she was not someone who usually got headaches. She thought to herself that she was vaccinated and double-boosted, but that this was the first sign of being sick. She took some Motrin, which helped, but for 3 days she had a headache. She was testing negative twice a day, and by Friday, she was furious but kept her cool.

She had given her committee report, made the recommendations, answered questions, voted on the advisory actions, listened to every report from every committee, participated in debate for some agenda items and floor actions. By then, there had to be at least 40 reports of positives out of around 150 people.

Lauren said that when she wrote the report she was delivering at the Assembly, she was back home in Los Angeles and was ill. She did a Covid-19 PCR test, and it came back negative. She was sick for a while, as were many other conference members who also tested negative. They were considering that they might have had a different flu or that the new variant was not detectable. It was very confusing, but more and more people were testing positive, even that day. The new variant was called 24 and was a combination of the last two omicron variants. It was spreading, but from what she read, it was not as strong as the original omicron variant, though it was highly contagious.

Lauren said once again that GSO was compiling the data and thinking about all the regional forums coming up that year. She did not know what the solution would be. Perhaps it would be a mask and vaccine mandate.

Lauren was thankful that we were on Zoom for the Assembly and not having a spreader event. She explained it was not a justification of meeting virtually, but she was just reporting on what happened.

Our first Tradition states, “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first.” Lauren shared that she cared about everyone and their health and hoped we would meet in person again at the Area Committee Meeting (ACM).

Lauren showed a slide with a quote from Bill W.:

“We live in an era of change. Our Twelve Steps probably won’t change; the Traditions not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service – let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever.”

- Bill W., speaking on the topic “A.A. in an Era of Change” at the General Service Conference, 1960.

Bill knew that we would need to adapt and change for the times we were in, and he was all for it.

Lauren said her experience was life-changing during the conference week. She was pinching herself and asking how she got there. She was in the second year of her rotation as our delegate, and it had been exciting, eye-opening, and a huge learning experience that deepened her understanding of the Concepts for World Service. She was grateful we elected her and trusted her to do the work.

She then showed a slide with some words that the late Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic then-chairperson of the Board of Trustees and one of the architects of the conference structure, gave during his opening talk at the 1954 meeting answering the question “Why do we need a conference?”:

“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against the government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration.

We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”

She then read an email she received from our Trustee-at-Large, Marita R. Lauren had asked her to send information when she traveled, and Marita had been asked to go to Havana, Cuba to help them with their Conference that year.

“Hi Lauren,

The trip to the Cuban General Service Conference was amazing. They traditionally have a trustee board of eleven, but due to the pandemic, they had 3. They elected 5 more, but still not a full board. They do not have zoom, and the internet is spotty at best, so they have had 2 years without meetings. They felt they were beginning all over again. They’re such a poor country with country support that has dried up. Mexico has been their country-to-country sponsor for 20 years and supplied them with books and literature. The chairman of the board was very pleased to announce they had \$200 to begin to purchase their own literature. Their annual budget for their GSO includes purchasing six pens and two erasers, one ream of paper. It brought me back to our roots when groups sent in change, and what an honor it is to receive their spiritual connection to the whole.

They were given full recognition as an association (equal to “.org” or “.com”) by the government in recognition of lives saved the last twenty years. This means they now have an office phone and soon an internet connection. I think A.A. is about to mushroom there. I find it humbling how much they do with so little, and I’m honored to witness their struggles.”

Lauren showed some photos of herself with the PI committee on the last day of the conference with masks on and masks off, the delegates’ lunch, and the Pacific Region delegates (minus Ben H. from Western Washington who might have been in his room or at Stepping Stones).

She showed a photo of delegates, staff members, and trustees and said that they came prepared with open minds and open hearts, and it was amazing to work with them. She pointed out the timer on the dais and explained that two minutes was what each person got to express themselves on the floor in discussion, so “you better be ready.”

The next slide showed the composition of that year’s conference, which totaled 134 members and was made up of 93 delegates (69.4%), 27 trustees (20.2%), and 14 staff members (10.4%). She explained that each member had not only a vote but a voice, not only a right, but a responsibility to express their view.

She showed a slide of the upside-down triangle structure of the conference, with groups up at the top and delegates to the conference at the bottom. She explained that the delegates were assigned to conference committees, while trustees, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, were assigned to committees on Archives, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)/Treatment and Accessibilities, Corrections, Finance and Budgetary, General Service Conference, International, International Conventions/Regional Forums, Literature, Nominating, and Public Information. There were also employees of A.A. World Services, Inc., which employed GSO personnel, directed GSO services, and was responsible for A.A.’s website (aa.org) and broad publishing efforts, and AA Grapevine, Inc., which employed editorial and business personnel, and published A.A.’s magazines, Grapevine and La Viña, and other related items across its digital platforms (aagrapevine.org).

Lauren displayed a slide with data on the delegates at the 72nd GSC which showed that the average age was 57 years, the oldest was 80 years, and the youngest was 35 years. The average length of sobriety was 22 years, the longest was 43 years, and the shortest was 8 years. The average length of service was 17 years, the longest was 37 years, and the shortest was 6 years. Lauren then shared information from the Financial Report given by the new non-alcoholic Class A Trustee and General Service Board Treasurer, Kevin Prior. The trustee’s Finance Committee

reviewed the budget, and the financial reports of A.A. World Services, the A.A. Grapevine, and the Conference, and stayed abreast of the needs of the fellowship.

There was an annual audit of finances that was completed on schedule and with recommendations.

2021 GSO Financial Highlights:

- 7th Tradition of Self-Support: \$10.78M set another record and was up 5.7% from \$10.26M in 2020.
- Operating expenses were \$15.28M and were down 31.6% from \$22.34M in 2020
- Self-support covered 70.5% of operating expenses and 142.0% of program services expenses.
- AA World Services publishing gross profits were \$6.30M, down 4% from \$6.58M in 2020.
 - Lauren noted that one of the reasons gross profits were down in literature was due to supply chain issues and the lack of paper at the moment.
- Operating surplus of \$1,697,141 but an operating cash increase of only \$53,177.

GSO Savings Achieved in 2021

- Compared to 2021 Budget
 - o Salaries and Benefits \$233K (due to the retirement option many took)
 - o Professional Fees \$345K
 - o Operating Expenses \$207K
 - o Lockbox saves 3 Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)
- Compared to 2020 Actual
 - o Salaries and Benefits \$1.7M
 - o Operating Expenses \$1.6M

2021 Grapevine Financial Highlights

- Grapevine paid print subscriptions decreased \$11.5% in 2021. Online and mobile app magazine subscriptions increased 73.3%
- Gross profit of \$1.091M on the magazine, and \$411K on other published items
- General Fund support of La Viña service activity was \$388,646 in 2021, almost the same as \$385,771 in 2020
- La Viña magazine circulation decreased by 12.4% in 2021 compared to a 36% decrease in 2020 after several prior years of growth.

Lauren noted that this was mostly attributed to the cancellation of many live events that generated La Viña subscriptions and suggested that we talk to our groups and districts about the Grapevine and La Viña and the need for funds through subscriptions.

7th Tradition Self-Support saw record growth for the 3rd straight year, and Lauren showed a chart showing steady growth of contributions from 2012 to 2021.

Lauren then showed a slide that explained that GSO's two basic functions were publishing (such as A.A. Literature, the Big Book, Box 459) and services on behalf of the General Service Board (such as the aa.org website, fellowship connection database, and GSO's A.A. Archives.)

The next slide showed a pie chart of consolidated operating expenses for 2021 which totaled \$17.25M and consisted of Professional Fees (14.9%), Salaries (50.2%), Payroll Taxes & Benefits (14.5%), Facility and Equipment (8.4%), "Data, Automation, and Website Maintenance" (3.6%), Printing (other than literature) (2.2%), and All Other (6.2%).

The next slide showed consolidated cost of services provided to the fellowship in 2021 which totaled \$17.25M and consisted of Supporting Services (44.4%), La Viña (2.5%), Grapevine (9.8%), Literature Infrastructure (17.4%), Group Services (4.2%), Service Leadership (4.4%), and Outreach Services (17.4%).

Member Services & Statistics 2021

- Members:
 - o 7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions \$10,775,871
 - o Number of Members: 1,475,520
 - o Contributions per Member 2021: \$7.30
 - o Contributions per Member 2020: \$6.81
- Groups:
 - o 7th Tradition Self-Support Contributions \$10,775,871
 - o Number of Members: 72,136
 - o Contributions per Member 2021: \$149.38
 - o Contributions per Member 2020: \$144.12

2021 Prudent Reserve

- Beginning Balance 1/1/21: \$12,449,464
- Investment Earnings: \$152,822
- Drawdowns: \$0
- Additions: \$250,000
- Ending Balance 12/31/21: \$12,852,286

Lauren then went on to report on the agenda items from the 72nd GSC assigned to the Finance Committee. She explained that there was an Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) plan that gave committees with a lighter workload items from other committees to discuss and work on to balance the workload across the committees.

Lauren went over the items in section IV Finance from the “Quick Reference Guide to Results from the 72nd General Service Conference” which she distributed via email and in the chat.

She then explained some things to clarify what would be coming up in the next part of her presentation which would be about the agenda items for the 72nd General Service Conference.

“Advisory actions” could be thought of as motions which were voted on at the conference. They were, by tradition, considered binding on the General Service Board, although Concept 3 did provide some discretion. In practice, the board rarely vetoed or overrode conference advisory actions.

“Considerations” were basically suggestions that are made by committees for the staff and board to consider. There was no voting on considerations other than maybe in the committee meetings.

“Took no action” meant that the committee reached the conclusion that no action was needed on the item, and could be because they wanted more information, there was not substantial unanimity, there was a similar item from the past year, among other reasons.

She explained that she would sometimes be using acronyms for General Service Conference (GSC), General Service Office (GSO), General Service Board (GSB), and AA World Services (AAWS).

She then read the section titled “Sources of Agenda Items” from page 42 of *The A.A. Service Manual*, which described how items were suggested and selected for the conference agenda each year. She reminded everyone that the deadline to submit an idea for the agenda for the next conference was 9/15/22 and encouraged people to take items from their groups to districts and then the area to gain as much support as possible. She then made herself available for questions.

Questions:

Comment (Doug S.): There were no photos of the New York Pizza

Q (Claire B.): Were you going to show a close-up photo of the Area 05 pin?

A (Lauren A.): I might have one. If I have it, I'll screen-share it

Q (from chat): One of the finance slides on contributions showed that there were 1.45 million members. Was this the total number of AA members in the US and Canada, or just the ones who contributed?

A (Lauren A.): That showed the average contribution per member (contributing or not)

Q (Thomas S.): Can you define what the “Grapevine liability” of \$1,443,500 was in the slide on the 2021 Prudent Reserve? If it was a reduction in the ending balance, there has to be some cash used and it appears to be the operating deficit.

A (Lauren A.): I guess you’re right, Thomas. I don’t understand it. Is that what it appears to be to you?

Comment (Thomas S.): Yes, that’s what it appears to be, and I think the entire fellowship should take this personally. This is essentially our trade magazine, and the percentage of subscribers to our trade magazine for the fellowship that saves lives is atrocious.

Comment (Lauren A.): Many more people are getting the e-subscriptions, the total download and electronic versions, but those are all totaled in there. Each group may want to think about getting a Grapevine subscription for their group.

Comment (Jim W.): Usually, subscription liabilities are pre-paid subscriptions that must be accounted for until they’re actually delivered.

Q (from chat): Will you be sending out the slides?

A (Lauren A.): I will send out a pdf without the photos

Comment (Nikki U.): the liability is probably for the subscriptions that have been paid but issues had not been sent out yet.

Q (Jessica): How would a group go about buying a digital subscription?

A (Lauren A.): Go to aagrapevine.org, and you can purchase either a digital or print subscription, or both. You can also get a daily quote sent to your inbox for free.

Comment (Jennifer B.): Good to see you (Jennifer was the delegate from Area 06 California Northern Coastal and was visiting our meeting)

Comment (Lauren A.): You saw Jennifer in the second picture from lunch holding a milkshake. There’s this great little tiny restaurant, a typical New York lunch spot. It was awesome, and it was Kevin F. from Arizona’s birthday, so we had a little birthday cake, singing, etc. We had a day out. Brooklyn museum and then lunch.

Lauren told everyone to get ready. After committee reports, she had a lot of stuff to tell everyone. A lot happened – some really cool stuff. She explained that her report thus far was what she saw, heard, and felt, and in the next part, she would get down to business. She thanked everyone and said she loved everyone.

The Area Assembly recessed for a break at 10:34 AM.

The Area Assembly reconvened at 10:45 AM.

Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

The Area Assembly reconvened at 10:45 AM and Assembly members split off into breakout rooms for Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings.

Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Archives Alternate Committee Chair Kristy L. reported:

They had 4 people at their committee meeting and celebrated Mary T.’s 40-year AA anniversary. They went over some archived materials from the 1988 Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) in Honolulu which was very exciting. Kristy did not attend herself but remembers the discussion about who was going to go represent Area 05 and how it was going to be paid for. One of the things we did was try to bring back materials from events that would allow us to share as much information as possible, so the attendee brought back cassette tape recordings of the event. The Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter (SCAAN) listed the Archives as the last Saturday of the

month, but they were not going to be meeting that month. Kristy reminded everyone to save their stuff and to include the year when creating any event flyers.

Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) Committee Member Joan R. reported:

She was the only person in her committee meeting that morning. She had been the CEC Chair (for Westside Combined Districts) for years and finally Dorothy O. took over, but she was not there that morning. They had created two flyers for senior homes and also for Meals on Wheels. She had gotten in touch with Meals on Wheels many times in the past and many of them were happy to have some information from AA, and she put together pamphlets and information to give to them so they could hand it to people who looked like they needed it or showed any interest. Another thing she had done was go to events at senior centers such as Malibu, Santa Monica, and El Segundo and bring a big book and pamphlets and set up a table, and at these very large events, they would make it a requirement to stop by her table in order for attendees to receive their door prize. She was able to see everyone who attended the event that way and received inquiries. It was a wonderful way to get in touch with seniors and the events were often a lot of fun anyway. She was going to start getting in touch with the centers again. They had a larger committee earlier, but in the past two months, people seemed to have disappeared. It was a really worthwhile committee because retired seniors are hard to reach and get isolated. Many have had good lives up until retirement when they got deeply into their alcoholism. This was evidenced by reports from hospitals and emergency centers on the numbers of seniors who end up there with broken bones due to alcohol-related incidents. Joan thanked everyone.

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

They had 7 people in attendance at their meeting. Sue S., who was their Alternate Chair and also District 14's CPC Chair started a "Talk to Your Doctor" program. It included a packet that members could bring to their doctor. In the packet, there was a letter to the doctor, a small information card the size of a business card, a large information card, and a handful of pamphlets. The small information card contained QR codes to the meeting directory and to the meeting directory app for both iOS and Google. The letter to the doctor detailed what AA was and what AA was not and explained the program of recovery in hopes that they could refer prospective alcoholics to AA. Sue gave a presentation to the Westside Combined Districts that month and everyone was on board and still talking about it. They started with 50 informational packets, and they were all gone. The project was currently in its second phase of printing. Who knew where they were going to go and who the next professional was that they would reach? They were going to be checking in with the person at the CPC desk at the General Service Office (GSO) to see if there were any national level events in California that they could attend. Their committee met each month on Zoom on the 4th Saturday at 8am and all were welcome to join. Joe thanked everyone.

Corrections Committee Chair Mimi T. reported:

She had one other person with her at their meeting that day who was just checking things out. After being dark for two years, panels were back, and they received their first groupings of contact requests to their area05corrections@gmail.com email as well as their Google voice number. Since they were dark for so long, a lot of the panel leaders had outdated forms, so she was working with Patrick, the Los Angeles Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) coordinator to make sure that they all had new forms. They were going through their list of volunteer contacts. Also, since not all areas have corrections committees and the General Service Office (GSO) had our committee's information, they were forwarding us requests and we were helping people find out where to go in our surrounding areas like 8, 9, and 93. They also talked about how fantastic all the committees were in General Service, and how people could use their natural strengths to carry the message in ways that were fun and they felt passionate about. The other member at the meeting, Kathy, used to work at a university, and Mimi told her she might also look into being of service with the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) or Public Information (PI) committees. There was so much room for us to be of service in the standing committees. She thanked everyone.

Finance Committee Chair Nancy H. reported:

They had 6 members in attendance. There were four Financial Guidelines and Policies items that needed to be addressed that were left hanging. They would be doing a presentation on them in July and making sure they would be translated into Spanish properly. We were going to be voting on the 2022 budget that day, but they were also going to be starting work on the 2023 budget. They discussed some wording in the Guidelines and Policies regarding the upper cash limit that needed updating. Their next committee meeting was going to be 6/21/22 at 7pm, and all were welcome to join. Nancy thanked everyone.

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

The individual members of the committee gave updates on things they were working on. They also talked about planning their summer workshop for writing stories for the Grapevine and La Viña. La Viña was not a Spanish translation of the Grapevine. It contained stories written by Spanish-speaking members for Spanish-speaking members as a service tool. It did not need to be self-supporting. They were going to have their workshop somewhere in the Westside Combined districts, hopefully in one of the Alano Clubs that could host up to 50 people. The workshop was scheduled for 8/27/22 from 9am to 2pm. They checked with the area calendar and saw no conflicts with the date. Also, Doug, the Alternate Delegate was on their committee. Claire was a great resource. She was also the Grapevine Chair for the Westside Combined Districts and brought a wealth of information. They also had 2 new members, Don, who was the district committee member for District 13 and Jessica, who was a Grapevine representative. It was great to have some new members checking the committee out. The committee was open to anybody who was interested. There was the Carry the Message Project. Digitally, there was a lot of resources on aagrapevine.org and lavina.org that anyone could pass on, especially to grapevine representatives at their meetings. He thanked everyone.

Grapevine / La Viña Committee Chair Jacobo M. reported:

Jacobo greeted everyone. The La Viña Committee at the Spanish-speaking combined districts Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) was working at max capacity. They had the La Viña writing workshop organized by District 35 on 5/15/22. They wrote around 30 stories that were going to be submitted to La Viña. The Grapevine and La Viña needed stories to sustain. He was very happy with what the Spanish-speaking districts were doing – visiting groups, getting subscriptions, and selling literature. They had 2 meetings a month at CIH. They shared experience, strength, and hope. They had a lot of food – bread, coffee, and there was a member who brought burritos every time. The Grapevine and La Viña provided a structure for members to support the magazines. This was why they organized these writing workshops. As Paul said, they were working on a Grapevine/La Viña writing workshop for the area. It was going to be on August 27th, and more information was to come. They were also working on the 26th anniversary of La Viña. This year, it was going to be in Las Vegas. The Spanish-speaking districts were already being of service to the event and looking forward to it. Last year, the event generated 1000 subscriptions. They were hoping to break that record. They were also working on the CIH's 4 committee event which featured the La Viña, Public Information (PI), Archives, and Internet committees on 8/14/22 from 9am – 3:30pm. The flier was going to be on the area website. He thanked Nikki. District 35's La Viña Committee gathered \$5K in literature and CDs and they wanted to send them to Cuba. They were trying to work with trustees Paz P. and Marita to see how they could send it to them. I wanted to share that joy and happiness with you.

Guidelines and Policies Committee Chair Jenny P. reported:

There were 4 people in attendance at their meeting including herself, a District Committee Member (DCM), General Service Representative (GSR), and an interested AA member. They discussed a motion to add clarification to the Guidelines and Policies for Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter (SCAAN) announcements to put them in alignment with our policies for the website. They decided they would table a motion to add guidelines for good and welfare announcements because they did not have sufficient information. There was going to be a final vote to approve the language for the Cooperation with the Young Community for the Guidelines and Policies. She thanked everyone.

Literature Committee Member Dave D. reported:

There were two people at their meeting. They reviewed results from the conference on the literature items. They also talked about story submissions for the fifth edition of the big book and were wondering if there was any information about the deadline. They could not find the information on the area website.

Doug S., Alternate Delegate, shared a link in the chat to Box 459, which had more information about the submission deadline on page 11.

Lauren A., Delegate shared a document for the call for stories in the chat.

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

They were getting literature into every high school in the area. That project would be completed in August or September; they were waiting for school to get back into session. He gave a shout-out to Districts 13, 14, 15, 4, 55, and the Combined Hollywood Districts for taking it upon themselves to get literature to their high schools to take some load off of the committee. If any district was interested in participating, they could email pi@area05aa.org. They talked about what would be next. They wanted to email all the television stations their media kit so that TV, radio, and podcasts could know about our traditions of anonymity. They also talked about setting up for the next committee for 2023-2024 to continue the high school literature project if they wanted to. Roy, from a Young People in AA (YPAA) committee was there visiting and they suggested that Gola from the Cooperation with the Young Community (CYC) Committee and Kyle from Los Angeles County Young People in AA (LACYPA) get in touch with him. Mike thanked everyone.

Registration Committee Chair Sam P. reported:

They had 3 members at their meeting – himself, the Registrar, and one member. The first thing they talked about was how much they missed their committee member Don C., who was very involved in their committee. Sam and the Registrar both attended the meeting on April 30 to walk through the hybrid Summer Assembly. Unfortunately, this Assembly did not end up being a hybrid meeting. The Registrar also briefed them on his activities reaching out to districts and making sure everyone was registered. They made plans to meet in August to make sure they were prepared for the election Assembly in October, whether it be hybrid or on Zoom. Sam wanted all District Committee Members (DCMs) to know that there were new registration forms, and they had to be filled out and submitted to the Area and the General Service Office (GSO) 72 hours prior to any Assembly where they would be voting. Sam would not be attending the Summer Assembly due to a family reunion on the same day. Joe T. would be filling in for him. He thanked everyone.

Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter (SCAAN) Committee:

Nikki U., Chairperson reported that our SCAAN chair had to leave for a career opportunity, and our Alternate SCAAN Chair was not available to step into her position due to business commitments. So, the last two issues have been minimal and bare bones with no extra articles, but the agenda and minutes were there, which were the most important things. They had 3 people at the committee meeting that day, including one who had editing experience. Nikki was going to be checking with the officers to see if we could confirm her as the new SCAAN chair. Another member was going to be writing an article for the next SCAAN. She asked anyone interested in getting involved in the SCAAN to let her know.

Translation Committee:

Translation Committee Chair Arnulfo G. was not present to give a report, but Nikki U., Chairperson noted that Arnulfo was incredible because he was doing all the translation for our area by himself, and sometimes things had to be done overnight. She encouraged everyone to give him their thanks the next time they saw him.

Treatment Facilities Committee Member Nikki P. reported:

She was the only person at the meeting, but later on, Al T. joined about 10 minutes before the end of the meeting which was awesome. She ordered the Treatment Committee Workbook that came from the General Service Office. It had a bunch of suggestions that she wanted to talk to the group about, but nobody was there. She was able to share some ideas with Al, who had a lot of experience in general service. He suggested that she hone it down to just one thing instead of having a bunch of ideas. Some of her ideas were to keep in contact with Area 05, increase

committee members, create a list of contacts for the facilities in Area 05, and maybe have some kind of a literature display. She really wanted to be able to talk about it with others, so she asked everyone to let her know if they knew anyone that would be interested. She thanked everyone.

Comment (Doug S.): As part of the Treatment Facilities Committee, you might want to consider joining the Hospitals and Institutions Committee. Mimi T., our Corrections Chair attends their monthly meeting, you might want to consider that as well. I'll give you more information offline. Thank you.

Website/Technology Committee Chair Kyle H. reported:

They usually had Claude, the Alternate Chair, running the committee meeting since Kyle was always busy hosting Zoom, but Claude could not be there that day, so they did not have a meeting. The committee had an ongoing group chat where they would discuss things the committee was active with, like hosting events like the Pre Conference workshop and today's meeting. Anyone interested in joining could email Kyle at technology@area05aa.org. Some members were also part of the ad hoc committee on hybrid meetings. Lauren sent out an email about our need for a webmaster. There was a long list of requirements, and it was exciting. Kyle thanked everyone.

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

They had 4 members present at their meeting. They updated their young people's meeting directory. It was a good outreach tool and helped adolescents they came in contact with at their respective meetings get in touch with the fellowship and settle into environments they felt were more accessible to them. Gola made at least two contacts with adolescent treatment centers and had been asked to start a monthly panel at one of them. She was getting additional details together to discuss and organize it with the committee. They were also working with Los Angeles County Young People in AA (LACYPAA) on their YPAA day to have CYC provide a speaker that could share their experience with general service. They were speaking with the LACYPAA events chair about adding language to event formats to advocate for more involvement in general service from the young community as a form of general service representative (GSR) outreach. She thanked everyone.

Accessibilities/Interpretation Ad-Hoc Committee Chair Jamie W. reported:

No people showed up to the meeting that day. Jamie said that she was available to answer any questions about accessibility. However, it seemed that she was not receiving emails sent to the email alias accessibilities@area05aa.org and there was not a webmaster currently, so she shared her number in the chat and invited anyone with questions to send her a text message. She thanked everyone.

Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) 2023 Chairperson Thomas B. reported:

He was our past delegate from Panel 67 and also the chairperson for PRAASA 2023, when our area was going to host PRAASA at one of the major convention hotels near the LAX airport March 4-6, 2023. He was hopeful that many would be volunteering and participating in the work of the area's hosting committee. From its inception, their work had been spearheaded by the efforts of our past delegates Mary T. (archives chair), Thomas S. (secretary), Jim I. (translation equipment chair and equipment wrangler), Jim W. (hospitality chair), Marcus F. (treasurer), Dean B. (registrar), and Juan M. (Spanish-speaking outreach chair). He thanked Lauren, who attended almost all of their meetings. The PRAASA guidelines gave the responsibility for forming the PRAASA Committee to the PRAASA Chair. In light of their committee process, Thomas delegated his authority on the advise and consent basis to the central majority consensus of their host committee. They recently added new members: Faith B., who was a former web chair for the area, was going to be the PRAASA 2023 website servant, Ron H. was going to be the alternate registrar, Sharron S. was going to be the recording and alternate secretary, Mary T. was going to be the hotel facilities liaison in addition to her role as archives chair, and Lauren A. was going to be the PRAASA 2023 program chair.

They received financial reports from PRAASA 2022, and they were waiting to transfer information from the PRAASA 2022 department chairs. When that happened, they were going to start filling out the PRAASA 2023 committee in earnest when the service positions were needed and people had something to do. Those who contacted him were still under consideration. Most of the PRAASA equipment had arrived and was being stored by our Area

Chairperson Nikki U., and Dean and Jim had taken inventory ahead of the final shipment. The website was up and operational, transferred from PRAASA 2022.

He thanked Ron H. for alerting them to the opportunity to participate and promote PRAASA at the Southern California Convention 11/4/22 – 11/6/22 and thanked Doug, our Alternate Delegate, who had been working as our liaison to make it possible. They were also going to be promoting PRAASA at the upcoming Pacific Region Forum. Their budgeting process was going to be starting in June.

He encouraged everyone to start talking about PRAASA and getting their groups involved. PRAASA represented a valuable exchange of information among our fellowship that focused on how we may better work together, hand in hand, in fulfilling our declaration of responsibility to reach and help the suffering alcoholic and to strengthen and improve the growth and the welfare of our AA groups. He found this to be true in 2010 and believed it would be true in 2023, that the more we involved our local fellowship in this, the great service benefits it would have for our area would last for many service panels to come. He thanked everyone.

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

The committee was formed earlier this year at the request of our Chairperson Nikki U. to support the area in converting from virtual-only to hybrid meetings. We had originally planned to have this assembly as the first hybrid meeting, but plans changed due to things that happened at the conference, as we heard from Lauren's report. As officers, we were not sure what the situation was going to be with the virus and were in a tough spot, so we decided to push it back until the June ACM for now.

The committee had some very active and enthusiastic members putting in really great service on the committee and he was very appreciative of them. Doug S., was the alternate chair, and he was everywhere doing everything as our alternate delegate too. Claude D., Alternate Chair for the Website/Technology Committee, Jim A., District Committee Member (DCM) of District 2, Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer, Al T., and Jenny P., Guidelines and Policies Committee Chair were all serving the committee, and Nikki U., Area Chairperson had been participating a lot too. They were volunteering on the committee because they really cared about this effort, but it was a secondary committee for a lot of them, so they did not actually meet during assemblies because everyone was usually in their other committee meetings.

That day, he was joined by Dustin and Alex, who were actually spillovers from the Website/Technology Committee because that meeting was canceled. They talked about the upcoming 4-Area DCM Sharing Session and how the committee along with the Website/Technology Committee would be supporting hosting. They also talked about the experience acquired at the tech dress rehearsal that they had in preparation for the first hybrid area assembly.

Since the committee was formed in January, they sent a survey out to the entire area and a lot of people participated. He thanked everyone for responding to the survey so that they could get a sense of how the area felt about change from virtual to hybrid and what people preferred in terms of timing and what would make people feel comfortable attending. There were 7 multiple-choice questions and 2 open-ended questions. We received responses from 102 people, including 21 DCM/DCMCs. He shared the results in the chat. They really wanted to be able to provide those results to Nikki so that they could make decisions based on what the area wanted.

He said there were a lot of them that were disappointed that we were not able to meet in person that day, but pointed out that in the survey results, only 33% of respondents said they wanted to do it as early as the 2nd quarter. Another 33% said they wanted to do it as early as the 3rd quarter, so there was substantial unanimity for changing to hybrid as early as the 3rd quarter. So, we were actually pushing the area ahead of what it preferred, keeping in mind that anyone who did not want to attend in person could still attend virtually in a hybrid meeting. Even with the June ACM being the first hybrid meeting we were ahead of the 3rd quarter, so even though a lot of us were itching to go back in person sooner, it did not align with what the area wanted.

At the February ACM, they proposed an unbudgeted expense request for equipment and supplies such as personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies that might be needed for hybrid meetings. It was passed and authorized the committee to spend up to \$1,600. So far, they had purchased a WiFi Hotspot for use at our hybrid meetings which cost \$380 for the device, and \$50 a month for service.

A very exciting thing that happened was that they met last month to do a technical dress rehearsal at Westminster Presbyterian Church where we would be holding our meetings for the rest of the year if we were able to go hybrid. The Audio Visual (AV) Committee Chair Manuel met them there with all of the AV equipment, and the Translation Equipment Chair from the Spanish-speaking Combined Districts Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) Pasqual brought the interpretation radios and transmitters. Our committee was there, along with the Registration Committee and Website/Technology Committee. A lot of people got involved to stage the hybrid meeting and make sure it would work.

The good news was that everything went very well, and he could not be happier with how things went. They made sure every type of attendee could hear everything in their preferred language, whether they be English or Spanish speaking, remote or in person, and that the interpreter could be remote so that we could still use Amalia's and Rosa's services. They tested out the WiFi hotspot and it had a strong and stable signal with good range. They tested out a PowerPoint presentation and it could be seen by people on Zoom and in-person via a projector. They were also successful in having hybrid breakout rooms. Brian thanked everyone who showed up that day and did such great service.

They had been really focusing on the technical aspects, but now that the technical dress rehearsal was complete, they were concentrating on purchasing supplies needed for the meeting, assisting the host committee, and researching cashless options for the food kitty.

They were talking with the Combined Hollywood Districts the day before. They were slated to host the August ACM. With the pandemic, everything being fluid, and people deciding based on their personal preferences and comfort levels, they were worried about whether enough people would be available to volunteer from within their district. An idea came up to create a pool of volunteers from the entire area who would be willing to serve in person at area meetings to help out the host districts. He agreed to collect names and contact details of volunteers. He shared links to an English and Spanish signup form in the chat and invited anyone interested to sign up, explaining that it was not a commitment and that they would be contacted to ask if they were still available closer to the dates of the meetings.

Brian launched a Zoom poll to help the host committee for the June ACM estimate attendance.

Zoom poll and results:

1. Do you think it is a good idea for the Area to change from virtual to hybrid meetings?
 - a. Yes (34/47) 72%
 - b. No (11/47) 23%
 - c. I don't know (2/47) 4%
2. When is the earliest you would like to see the Area change from virtual to hybrid meetings?
 - a. 6/25/22 Area Committee Meeting (20/47) 43%
 - b. 7/23/22 Area Assembly (12/47) 26%
 - c. 8/21/22 Area Committee Meeting (1/47) 2%
 - d. 10/16/22 Area Assembly (2/47) 4%
 - e. 11/19/22 Area Committee Meeting (2/47) 4%
 - f. 2023 or later (6/47) 13%
 - g. I would not like to see the Area change from virtual to hybrid meetings (4/47) 9%
3. If the 6/25/22 Area Committee Meeting was held in a hybrid format, how would you attend?
 - a. In person (26/47) 55%
 - b. Virtually (via Zoom) (14/47) 30%
 - c. I don't know (7/47) 15%

4. If the 7/23/22 Area Assembly was held in a hybrid format, how would you attend?
 - a. In person (29/47) 62%
 - b. Virtually (via Zoom) (13/47) 28%
 - c. I don't know (5/47) 11%

Brian thanked everyone.

Comment (David W.): I like the idea that if we are going to be doing hybrid meetings, that the live portion would be at the Pasadena location. In the past, the model has been to have different districts help host. That comes from when you have to have meetings located in various districts. But, given the schism between people wanting to go live and people wanting to remain virtual, I like the idea of having people volunteer rather than trying to allocate the responsibility of hosting the live portion to the various districts. I think it's a much better idea to let those who are willing or interested in going live to be involved in actually hosting the live meetings instead of the districts which will have different feelings about it.

No reports were given from the Audio Visual or Translation committees.

The Area Assembly recessed for lunch at 12:30 PM.

The Area Assembly was called back to order at 1:00 PM.

72nd General Service Conference Delegate Report: Business Report, Agenda Items, Q & A

Delegate, Lauren A., reported:

Lauren screen shared a photo of the Area 05 button, which was requested earlier. It featured a wave and a coastline.

Lauren went over items from a document she created, *Quick Reference Guide to Results from the 72nd General Service Conference*. She distributed the document to the area via email and in the chat and went through it item-by-item.

(Since the presentation was mostly a recitation of the document, along with some extra information from the documents *72nd General Service Conference Advisory Actions* and *72nd General Service Conference Committee Considerations*, all which were distributed to the area, only extra comments will be shown here)

- Agenda I.B, Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2023 GSC: The conference presentation/discussion topics can also be used at districts for discussions and presentations.
- Agenda I.D (not included in document), Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2021 Evaluation Summary: The committee reviewed the request to consider alternating the GSC between a virtual and face to face format and took no action. The committee noted the importance of cost saving approaches and supports ongoing ways to do so by using virtual technology wherever effective in in-person conferences which are topics being considered by the Subcommittee on conference improvement.
- Corrections II.B, Reconsider the use of the term “person in custody” in AA Literature: It was a request by Area 79 BC/Yukon, but Lauren was told by the Area 58 Delegate in Oregon that their system preferred the word “guests”.
- Corrections II.C, Consider requests to limit changes to the book Alcoholics Anonymous: Participation is key – every year by every member.
- CPC III.D, Consider creating a new pamphlet designed to help C.P.C. committee to reach as many doctors as possible: This is much like what our Area CPC committee is doing now.
- Grapevine/La Viña V.E (not included in document): The committee requested that the Grapevine office consider the feasibility of producing or utilizing American Sign Language (ASL) content.

-

- Literature VI.D, Review draft pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated”: The discussion at the mics were that the illustrations were not of a current style and were all very grim. There was no hope or suggestion of recovery in the illustrations, only pain with each step, and the language was negative. This motion failed and the trustees’ committee will conduct further oversight and study of this pamphlet.
- Literature VI.E, Review progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated”: They all watched the video. It was very interesting and colorful and just needed some language tweaks. Lauren asked at the mic if there would be translation into Spanish and French and was advised by the trustees’ committee that everything was always translated and was assured by the communication staff members that it would be done.
- Literature VI.G, Review draft of the revised pamphlet “Young People and AA”: The committee recommended that the draft pamphlet be approved with additional suggestions and that QR codes and additional language be added, and it passed.
- Policy/Admissions VII.A, Discuss the procedure “Process for Approving Observers to the Conference.”: This year, members from Argentina and Brazil were approved to attend our conference by a vote of the entire conference. Both sat as observers in our Public Information meetings, as they were very interested in what we did, and they were very grateful to be among them. The member from Argentina tested positive for Covid and was quarantined, but this was after their meetings.
- Policy/Admissions VII.C, Discuss report on the Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) Process.: Originally, the action included a due date of February 15, but there was lively discussion about putting the workload on the staff, the dates of the board weekend when agenda items are set, and the date of the annual financial audit. Lauren went to the conference armed with a floor action regarding this but was told by the trustee for Policy/Admissions that they were talking about it in their committee, and Lauren was pleased with the outcome, that it passed. There was a lot of discussion about the item each day during open sharing. A lot of delegates with and without linguistic districts were upset that maybe they would receive their English background too late for their Preconference Workshops, but most who spoke about that at the mic were from areas without linguistic districts. They did not know how it was going to be implemented, but the conference spoke with substantial unanimity. Lauren was told by the new general manager that he already had a working group assigned to look at this, and that was going to be helpful. The committee also noted that the EDW plan allowed 50 more delegates to participate more equitably in the conference committee process, and Lauren appreciated the spiritual aspect of that accomplishment. So, what it all meant, was that all of the conference background material for next year’s conference was going to come out at the same time in all three languages.
- Policy/Admissions VII.B, Consider request to restore a paragraph in the story “Freedom From Bondage” in the Book Alcoholics Anonymous: There was a lot of discussion regarding pagination and that it should not be an issue. However, Josh E., the general service trustee and Grapevine director spoke several times about the cost of the additions and making changes mid-run. Also speaking in opposition was Vera F., Trustee and AA World Services Director, about not limiting the choice of stories for future conferences. Deborah C., General Service Trustee and AA World Services Director spoke against it, saying that all stories were edited, and some would be changed in editing new editions. Al Mooney, Class A Trustee asked if this change could open a can of worms, followed by an executive director of GSO who said the change would need to be made to all formats of the book, including print, Braille, and paperback, so that motion failed.
- Public Information VIII.E, Review report on “Google Ads Performance”: This basically gave staff the okay to do this work themselves rather than ask the conference for approval each year. The two staff members on communications, Morgan and Julie, were marketing whizzes and ready to go.
- Public Information VIII.F, Review report on “Meeting Guide Performance”: People wanted to have Big Book access and all kinds of great stuff in the app, like Grapevine stuff, and everything, almost like our Glide app, but the committee thought that it was a meeting guide app for anyone looking for meetings and that it should stay that way.
- Public Information VIII.I, Discuss feasibility research on paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms.: They had 3 members from Canada in their committee, and the streaming platforms there were completely different.

- Report and Charter IX.A, Discuss GSC Final Report: The final report reflects the conference actions and discussions. Therefore, the committee wanted to express that the final report is an extension of the experience we learned about in the AA service manual.

Lauren explained what floor actions were. The committees were not the only source of recommendations for the body to consider and vote on. During general sharing sessions, the delegates, members, and trustees could make recommendations or motions directly from the floor that may not have passed through a particular conference committee. These were known as floor actions and could be looked at or remembered as motions, like the ones we made at the area. The full body voted whether or not to consider such action, and if approved, moved forward, had full discussion, and voted on it the same way as with the other committee recommendations or motions. Some of the actions she was going to read resulted in “failed to consider”, which meant the body voted not to consider the action. (Again, floor actions were detailed in the documents distributed by Lauren, so only extra commentary will be recorded here.)

- Floor action #2, regarding The Twelve Steps Illustrated: Since they did not approve the draft pamphlet earlier (Literature VI.D), they moved to keep working on the pamphlet with their new suggestions.
- Floor action #3, regarding the 2022 Memberships Survey Questionnaire: This came about because it was noted in Canada’s constitution to name the two native tribes, that the employment question seemed ambiguous, and the word “homemaker” seemed offensive and kind of outdated.
- Floor action #4, regarding the one-year moratorium on new agenda items: This was in response to the advisory action that was approved to deliver background materials in all three languages simultaneously. It was apparent the conference wanted the advisory action since this floor action failed.
- Floor action #5, regarding creation of non-geographic area(s) for online and telephone groups: There will still be continued work on this, but the conference felt that this plan was not the correct direction to go at this time.
- Floor action #7, regarding conference background materials: This was an effort to make the background material more succinct in reaction to the advisory action that was approved to deliver background materials in all three languages simultaneously, and it failed.
- Floor action #8, regarding returning the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to original text: the motion failed with the body declining to consider it.

Lauren showed a slide of some of her belongings at the conference (green juice, coffee from her own coffee maker, her mask, and her computer) and said, “This is how I survived.”

She then shared a quote from Bill W.’s remarks at the 1956 GSC: “I do not think that any of us would presume Alcoholics Anonymous in its present form would necessarily last forever. We can only hope that it will lead to better things for those who suffer from alcoholism.”

At the end of the night, the panel 71 delegates said their goodbyes. It was emotional and moving. Lauren’s headache was pounding, but she was able to express herself and show her gratitude.

Lauren then shared a story that was told, she thought maybe it was from a delegate from Texas. They were standing in front of the hotel smoking and talking about the conference when a young man came up to them and asked them if they were with AA. They said, “yes” and asked him if he was there for the conference. He said, “no ” and told them he was from California and counting days (newly sober,) so the lady gave him her card and the schedule for the 7:30 am meeting that happened every morning downstairs and invited him to come. It was another reason why we had a conference.

Lauren then said, “Thank you Area 05 for electing me to be your delegate to the General Service Conference. I hope I have served you well so far. This experience has made me a different person...in a good way. As I said, participating in the conference was the most fun I have ever had in service to AA. meaning...it was exciting and thought provoking and a most spiritual look at AA around the US and Canada. And I thank you for letting me experience it. I am looking forward to the District Visits coming up! I also want to thank you for all of your help, feedback, and interest in what goes on in A.A. You are the top of the pyramid and in charge of what happens in General Service and AA as a whole. I am way at the bottom. I have no authority, only the job of attending the

conference and participating in the work with your group conscious and my own experience, strength, and hope. Without you, the conference fails, and AA is left unprotected and stalled. I look forward to passing the reins to your next delegate whom you will elect in October. Until then, I remain your trusted servant and I am looking forward to visiting your districts for the rest of the year as well as participating in the conference which is a yearlong process. Thank you.”

Questions:

Q (from chat): Please repeat what updates there were to the 5th edition of the big book. There was something that failed, and there was no action. Then, there was a question about language changes to the Twelve and Twelve that were to be reviewed.

A (Lauren A.): The 5th Edition is just doing a call for stories now. There is work on a 4th Edition plain language big book. They were trying to change it so that the first 164 pages would not be translated into plain and simple language, but that did not go through. The other changes happened last year at the 71st GSC, the Twelve and Twelve changes. There was a floor action regarding that because there was an agenda item to basically rescind it that failed. The floor action tried to get people to change their mind and go back to the old language, but it failed. The 4th edition plain language translation is for people with low reading ability which we have found to exist and need help and have trouble with the big book as it is from 1935.

Q (Jacobo M.): How does GSO come up with the number 1,475,520 members when that number changes every year?

A (Lauren A.): I believe that's based on individual contributions

A (Doug S.): That's not necessarily our membership. That's just an estimate based on certain things.

Q (from chat): Are our public service announcements (PSAs) being played on streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon, etc.?

A (Lauren A.): The agenda item was to review a report on this. Last year, the conference asked if it was feasible and asked for a report. It was to investigate paid placement of our PSAs on streaming platforms. We were not doing anything yet. It was a fact-finding mission to see if we could play some there because that was where alcoholics were. They also had to find out about Canada's streaming platforms. It was born out of the fact that many if not most people are viewing content on streaming platforms these days. Network television would give us time to play our PSAs if there was time left over in their programming, and we would pay for the tracking to see who watched and how many times they played. That was costing us \$60K a year. We were trying to figure out how much it would cost to do them on streaming platforms.

Q (from chat): The reference to LIM, was that the Loners Internationalists Meeting?

A (Lauren A.): Yes, thank you.

Comment (from chat): There is a lot of information you can find on that on the aa.org website.

Q (Chuckles): Was the paragraph in the story *Freedom from Bondage* going to be restored? Were stories going to be added and subtracted and would there be a new foreword in the 5th edition of the big book?

A (Doug S.): The agenda item to restore the paragraph in the story *Freedom from Bondage* failed. There was a lot that went into the rationale for why they were not going to do that.

A (Lauren A.): Pagination was not necessarily the issue. The Grapevine director shared that the cost of reprinting and changing mid-run would be outrageous. We would also be limiting the choice of stories for future conferences. Basically, did we want to open this can of worms, where we would all start ripping things apart to put in stories we liked?

Q (from chat): Do floor actions supersede committee actions and recommendations?

A (Lauren A.): They can't necessarily cancel something out, but they can add to the actions, or if something failed and you wanted to bring it up again for discussion, you could see if you could get it passed as a floor action. If I hadn't known that the policy and admissions office was looking at the translation of background materials, I would have made a floor action for that, because it was not connected to any committee. I hesitate to say this, but sometimes floor actions are reactions to something that did not go through. Comment (Doug S.): And that's what

appeared to have happened to at least 2 floor actions that failed.

Comment (Lauren A.): And some failed because the body declined to consider them. Someone got up and made a motion to decline to consider the floor action altogether, and that can be done and voted on.

Q (Jacobo M.): How old are floor actions? When was the first floor action? Were they part of the first conference?

A (Lauren A.): I don't know. Does anyone know?

A (Jim W.): There is a summary of them somewhere, but I can't recall exactly.

A (Lauren A.): We'll have to look that up. I'll get back to you.

Q (David W.): There seems to be an incorrect assumption in the first floor action, when it says "with the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain language..." In my understanding, there is no such translation.

A (Lauren A.): The translation is being done right now.

Comment (David W.): What I was getting at was that I think some people were thinking we were replacing the text of the existing big book with plain language, but that's not the idea. The main language platform would never change. There might be a subsidiary secondary platform like an interpretation if we were translating the book into German. I was just wondering if there was confusion when they phrased that floor action.

A (Lauren A.): I don't think that was the tack that they were taking, but I see what you are saying. It's oddly worded there.

Q (David W.): Was that one declined to consider?

A (Lauren A.): I will look it up and let you know.

Lauren thanked everyone for their great questions and for being there. She commented that Area 05 was so engaged, and she loved Area 05.

Officer Reports

Alternate Delegate, Doug S., reported:

Doug thanked Nikki and then thanked Lauren for her report and all the hard work she did. He said it had been a very busy spring for him.

They did a new General Service Representative (GSR) orientation last Thursday. One of his duties as alternate delegate was to give GSR orientations. He typically did them before each assembly, but he could do them anytime and had done them for districts as well. There were a small number of people at the last one, and they went through the materials and discussed what GSRs did and what their role was. The next one would be the Thursday before the next assembly, 7/21/22.

He attended the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) which was fantastic and helped him prepare for the Preconference Workshop. One of his duties was to help facilitate and prepare for the workshop, which was held the first weekend of April. He thanked everyone who presented at the workshop. There were a lot of very diverse people presenting from different groups and districts. He thought it was a very good Preconference Workshop. He also worked hard with the webmaster Faith to prepare questionnaires and to make sure that the summaries that he worked on with Lauren for the agenda items were posted to the website and that translation was done by Arnulfo and the Translation Committee.

He also visited some districts as a result of the Preconference Workshop. He visited districts 33 and 49 and the office for the Spanish-speaking Combined Districts, Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) in mid-March to help them get prepared for the Preconference Workshop. They had 5 presentations done by Spanish-speaking members, and he thought they were all fantastic.

A few weekends ago, he attended the Westside Combined Districts meeting to help them with tech, since their own Technology Committee could not be there.

He also joined the Hybrid Meetings Ad Hoc Committee, and they had a great dress rehearsal. Brian did a thorough job talking about that earlier.

As the Alternate Delegate, he was also the liaison between Area 05 and the Los Angeles Central Office (LACO), the Southern California Hospitals and Institutions Intergroup (SoCal H&I), the Southern California Convention (SoCal Convention) since it was going to be held in Area 05 this year.

He attended SoCal H&I's monthly meetings which had been on Zoom, but the last few were in person. They were working on their 39th conference, which was going to be held next weekend, Memorial Day weekend. He was the program co-chair, along with his peer in Area 09, Alex W., who was the alternate delegate there. It was a lot of work, and he was sure that Lauren was going to see that when she became the PRAASA chair. It was going to be crazy. They put together a very good program. He asked everyone to encourage any GSRs or AA members who were doing work taking panels into prisons, jails, or treatment centers to attend the conference. Memorial Day weekend was going to be a busy weekend for everyone; there were some other competing events. Registration was open at socalhandi.org. This was going to be their first conference since 2019 due to the pandemic. There was going to be an AA meeting Friday night, then they were going to have a bunch of panels Saturday and a main speaker Saturday night. Claire from Area 05 was going to be one of the speakers on the corrections panel. She had some specific experience to share. The 4 delegates from Areas 05 Southern California, 09 Mid-Southern California, 93 Central California, and 8 San Diego / Imperial were going to present on the general service panel to discuss things that happened at the recent conference that would be affecting H&I work. The main speaker got sober in Folsom prison. He was from Downey who has 30 years of sobriety. He spent 25 years in prison and got sober as a result of H&I panels coming into prison. He was going to be a very good speaker.

He was also attending the monthly meeting for LACO. They just hired a new bilingual staff member. In the past, they only had English-speaking staff. A lot of Spanish-speakers had been calling LACO. The person was working part-time, and they had already been talking about making them a full-time staff employee because of the demand. This was a big change for LACO.

Doug had nothing to report for the Foothill Roundup. He needed to reach out to them to see if they would be having the event this year.

He was also the liaison to the SoCal Convention, as Thomas B. had mentioned earlier. It was going to be the first weekend in November. They were planning to have a PRAASA 2023 information booth at the event.

As Alternate Delegate, Doug also served as our corporation's chief financial officer. As such, he led the Audit Subcommittee and reviewed all reports prepared by our contributions treasurer and accounts treasurer. He made sure that things such as deposits and other things that affected our bank account were all in order, and that the numbers in the reports produced by the treasurers matched. He also made sure those reports were given to the rest of the Audit Subcommittee which was composed of himself, Jim I., and Thomas S. so that they could have an opportunity to review them as well. He also just signed our tax returns a few weeks ago which got submitted by our CPA. He worked closely with Mary T., who was our liaison to the CPA.

Doug said he would be happy to visit districts or give GSR orientations and invited anyone interested to reach out to him. He thanked everyone for letting him be of service.

Secretary, Brian P. reported:

Brian greeted everyone with his video upside-down and explained that earlier on, when only a few people had arrived at the meeting, they talked about having him start his report upside-down to see who was awake. He flipped his video right-side-up and thanked Lauren for her awesome service as our delegate at the conference these past two years. He thanked her for enduring so much, including getting sick, and for reporting back to us so thoroughly and beautifully.

He explained his responsibilities as secretary, which was to produce the minutes and our area calendar. He thanked everyone for approving the minutes earlier and shared the calendar in the chat.

He had been very involved in the Hybrid Area Meetings Ad Hoc Committee, which he told everyone about earlier that day.

He attended the Preconference Workshop which was really great. He gave kudos to Doug and Lauren for putting it together and said that the presenters were amazing. Even the attendees and the discussions he heard while moderating roundtables were great, and he was really grateful to be a part of an area that was so passionate about general service.

He attended the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and spoke on the first panel after the delegates' panel. It was an amazing experience, and he thanked everyone who came and supported him.

He was also involved in helping to take over the reins for the 3rd Legacy Meeting. Unfortunately, Don C., a longtime member of Area 05 who we all knew and loved dearly, passed away. He asked a few people to carry the torch, so they had been doing that. They had their first meeting a few weeks ago, and he saw some people at the assembly who attended. It went really well, where Lauren gave a much shorter but very great report about the General Service Conference. He thanked Lauren for attending and giving her report.

The day before, he attended the Combined Hollywood Districts' monthly meeting. It was a wonderful experience. He got to hear a great presentation on Concept 11 and got to see the district do its business. He missed going to district meetings and wanted to visit more districts. He was grateful to be of service and thanked everyone.

Contributions Treasurer, Shawn A., reported:

He thanked Lauren for her reports that day. He thought that she was the perfect choice for Area 05's contribution to the informed group conscience of the General Service Conference, and he was honored to know her and get to work with her.

His duties as the contributions treasurer were to go to the area's post office box once every two weeks, pick up all the letters and contributions, distribute things to the right people, process all the checks, and get them deposited in the bank, and put everything in a fancy report. He put the First Quarter Contributions Report into the chat for presentation.

Anyone with questions about doing online contributions could contact the webmaster, the Website/Technology Committee, or himself.

He advised everyone to contact the webmaster if they made a mistake with their contribution, such as contributing too much or making an accidental duplicate contribution. If they called their own bank or credit card to cancel it, we were charged fees, but the webmaster seemed to be able to correct things with minimal damage.

He thanked everyone for contributing, and said he looked forward to seeing everyone in person and giving everyone hugs. He thanked everyone for allowing him to be of service and participate in his own recovery.

Accounts Treasurer, Zoraida R. reported:

She welcomed the new General Service Representatives (GSRs) and District Committee Members (DCMs) and congratulated everyone who celebrated an AA anniversary.

She shared the First Quarter Financial Report in the chat and also emailed it earlier that week. She asked everyone to review it and contact her with any questions.

The first part of her service was to record all deposits to our bank account, which included the contributions that Shawn mentioned earlier. She made sure that the contributions on his report and her report matched, and if they did not, she and Shawn got to investigate the issue. The second part of her service was to keep track of all the area's expenses, so she reviewed all invoices and reimbursement forms to make sure they were accurate and balanced to the receipts. She wrote all the checks, recorded them, and mailed them. Then, every month, she reconciled the books to the bank statement, prepared financial reports to send to the Audit Subcommittee, the Finance Committee, and the officers. She also prepared quarterly financial reports for the area and sent those to everyone. It was a lot of numbers, but it was not as difficult as it sounded.

Her First Quarter Financial Report matched the contribution treasurer's report, and the reported expenses also matched the bank statements. She was happy to report that everything was in balance.

She reminded everyone to cash their reimbursement checks if they had them. And, if they wanted to contribute it back to the area, to please cash it and issue a fresh check to the area, which helped the area keep everything in order.

For reimbursements, she asked that people please look at their budget, and if they had funds available in the budget, they could send her a completed reimbursement form. If anyone had questions about how to fill it out, she could help answer them. If people did not include a completed form with their receipts, she could not issue a check. It was how our audit system worked. When we met in person, people could give them to her in person, but for now, the quickest way was to email them. She put blank reimbursement forms in the chat. People could also mail them to the area PO box.

Don C. passed away, and he chaired the 3rd Legacy Meeting. She attended that meeting as a new GSR, and it was where she learned about the Concepts and the importance of general service in carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. It was a really important part of her sobriety, and it was where she learned a lot of things about how to be of service to AA as a whole. She was very touched that he asked that she serve on the committee along with Miguel, Brian, Kristy, and Chuck to keep the 3rd Legacy meeting going. They had their first meeting that past weekend and it was great. One of the most exciting things, besides Lauren's great report, was that Jacobo was there to interpret for them. Because of that, they were able to invite the Spanish-speaking community, and they were able to participate. She thanked Jacobo and welcomed our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters to the 3rd Legacy Meetings.

She participated in and attended the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and got to be a roundtable moderator at the Preconference Workshop, which was a lot of fun. Everyone did a great job. The officers on this panel were really amazing. Even though we were virtual, everyone had been very involved, because they loved Area 05 and AA and were grateful for what the program had done for them and the people they had come to care about. It carried on into their service to Area 05, and it had been a joy to be part of.

She had an opportunity to visit District 4 and see Matt and Olivia. There were a lot of exciting things happening in District 4 that she was sure Matt would share about at the next Area Committee Meeting. One of the wonderful things that happened was that she met a young woman there named Joyanne and got her number. A few weeks later, she got a call from somebody who told her there was a young girl in high school who needed help, and because she attended the meeting and because they did a lot of work with young people, she was able to connect the girl with Joyanne, who was now helping her and reading the book with her. That was really amazing.

Zoraida was also an active member of the Finance Committee and the Hybrid Area Meetings Ad Hoc Committee. On the Finance Committee, she was helping to prepare the budget and also look at some of the wording and formulas for the upper and lower cash limits. They were hoping to make some improvements to it as a committee next month. Things were different due to the decreased expenses during the pandemic. On the Hybrid Area Meetings Ad Hoc Committee, she helped to research and identify issues, provide recommendations, and assist the area in planning their hybrid meetings. She was looking forward to seeing everyone in person.

She was also working in a committee with other AA members in the Pacific Region to explore ways to bring greater diversity and inclusion to PRAASA. They were putting together a motion that they would be presenting at the next PRAASA. She invited anyone who was interested in participating or knowing more to contact her.

She was also representing Area 05 on the Hispanic Women's Workshop Advisory Board. The workshop was an annual general service event that reached out to the remote community of Spanish-speaking women alcoholics and included 7 areas in the Pacific Region. They had active members from a lot of other areas as well. It was growing, and there was definitely still a need to reach the Spanish-speaking women's community. This year, the event was going to be in Area 08 in early December. She hoped that some of us could make it.

Lauren had shared about our Trustee-at-Large Marita going to Cuba to attend their conference. One of the amazing things that happened was that while she was there, she brought some of the Spanish-speaking women's pamphlets,

the proposal for which came out of Area 05, and she shared them with the women and men there. She also brought back a list of sober women that she had met on her trip and gave their contact information to Zoraida so that she could connect them with Hispanic women here in the US and Canada.

Another exciting thing was that our Chinese AA meeting celebrated 2 years this past quarter. They had a new GSR who attended her first district meeting the day before at the Combined Hollywood Districts. It was moving to hear her introduce herself this morning during roll call. She asked anyone who knew of anyone needing help who spoke Mandarin or Cantonese to let her or Brian know. Their meeting met on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8pm.

She was looking forward to visiting the Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) this weekend. She said she would love to visit anyone's district.

The Chairperson for Area 08 Adrian was putting together a proposal for the next conference and reached out to her and invited her and Brian to their next meeting. The proposal was to create literature for the alcoholic Asian-Pacific Islander. We did not have such literature right now, so that was something they were looking into. She asked anyone else who would be interested to let her know.

She thanked everyone, said it was such a pleasure to be on this panel, that she loved everyone and could not wait to see everyone in person.

Registrar, Miguel M., reported:

He greeted everyone and said it was good to see them. He thanked Lauren for her fantastic report. The PowerPoint she put together was fantastic and really easy to follow and her narrating was great as well. It was a pleasure serving with the other officers. If anyone could not tell from their detailed reports, they had been working very hard and they loved Area 05 as he did, and he truly enjoyed serving as Registrar.

He attended the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and the Preconference Workshop, where he got to serve as a moderator. He was very thankful for being able to serve in that capacity.

He thanked Brian and Zoraida for mentioning the 3rd Legacy Meeting. They had their first meeting, and Lauren presented there. Historically, the first report-back from the delegate happened at the 3rd Legacy Meeting. He thanked Lauren and said it was very much appreciated.

His duties as Registrar were to take attendance and do the roll call at assemblies and area committee meetings (ACMs), maintain current registration information for the area (including GSR and DCM changes), assist districts with their registration work, and attend Registration Committee meetings, which he did earlier that day.

He gave a shout-out to the Registration Committee. They were minus one person because Don C. was also a trusted servant in their committee. He was very missed, but they had to continue, and they did. Joe, Olga, and Sam were doing a fantastic job. The committee had assisted him in reaching out to 13 districts, 2 combined districts, and 4 Spanish-speaking districts. He was scheduled to visit the Spanish-speaking combined districts Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH) next week. He had 2 more Spanish-speaking districts to reach out to.

There were new registration forms. There was an updated address at the bottom of the form for where to send completed forms. However, Miguel asked that forms be turned in to the district registrars or district committee members so that they could forward them to him, and he could help complete the process with his real-time access to the General Service Office's (GSO's) database. When people send in forms to GSO directly, he does not always get notified of the changes. While he did receive notice for some, he did not receive them for all changes.

The new forms were available on the area website in the forms dropdown. He could also email forms, and he was also going to share them in the chat. He sent out an updated area roster on May 14, but it had been updated again since then, so he shared the latest version in the chat.

He offered his services to any district needing help with their registrations. He was available, and all it took was a phone call or email. He could be reached at registrar@area05aa.org. He thanked everyone.

Chairperson, Nikki U., reported:

She thanked Lauren for her report-back. The PowerPoints made it so easy to follow, and she really appreciated them.

Since the last assembly, she attended the Pacific Region AA Service Assembly (PRAASA) and the Preconference Workshop. She also visited the Combined Hollywood Districts, the Spanish-speaking combined districts Comité Interdistrital Hispanos (CIH), and the Westside Combined Districts. She also visited all the independent districts except for Districts 13 and 30. She said she would eventually drive out there and attend their meetings.

As Chairperson, not only did she chair our area meetings, she also signed checks and contracts for the area, including contracts for venues. In the past, districts would bid to host area assemblies and area committee meetings. She updated the hosting guidelines and shared them in the chat. The reason she updated it was that sometimes, a host district engaged a caterer, and for tax reasons, we needed to collect a W-9 tax form from them, so she needed to amend the guidelines to include a reminder.

For the hosts of our remaining meetings that year, she thought we would just go ahead and continue the rotation from where we left off in 2020 because the schedule seemed to coincide with the remaining events we had that year. However, since all of the people and leadership of the districts had changed over, it came as a shock to some that they were in line to host. Probably District 30 were the only ones that knew because they had been storing all the stuff in various garages since 2020.

Nikki wanted to know from all of the District Committee Members (DCMs) and District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs) that she contacted how willing their districts actually were to host the events. This was why Brian and her had the conversation and decided they probably needed a core group of volunteers to help host districts in case none of the people in the district were willing to come to the event in person.

She was hoping that this afternoon, after new business, we could all have a discussion.

The committees were all amazing to be doing the work they were doing and still be so enthusiastic while we were all online and on Zoom. One of the things she had to do was be the Southern California Area Assembly Newsletter (SCAAN) chair because we did not have one, and she wanted to make sure the SCAAN went out. Luckily and thrillingly for her, at this morning's meeting, they found someone who was much more qualified to be the SCAAN chair and editor, and she just confirmed that Jo Sun, who is the DCMC of the Combined Hollywood Districts, is going to be our new SCAAN chair. She has a skill set that is perfect. She was so happy that she could be of service that way.

Essentially, we had to continue to work together and protect each other. She did miss everyone and hoped we could meet together at the June Area Committee Meeting (ACM). She asked everyone in the Area Committee to please send her an email and let her know if would be attending the June ACM in person. It was going to be very helpful for District 3, who was going to host the event.

She put the hosting guidelines in the chat and asked that everyone please download it because our arrangement with Westminster Presbyterian Church was going to be ending at the end of this year, and starting with the January assembly, host districts were going to need to find venues, and we had to contract with those venues well ahead of the events. It might seem strange that we were talking about the January Winter Assembly in May, but it was like a wedding. To engage a large venue for a larger event, you must sign up for it ahead of time.

She thanked everyone for their support.

Questions/Comments:

Comment (Lauren): Our illustrious Panel 67 Delegate sent me a text saying that the 31st conference was where the first floor action occurred. (answer to a previously asked question during Lauren's report-back). Thank you, Thomas!

Q (Mark S.): First, you 100% have District 3's support for the June 25 ACM. We already have a planning committee on deck to be able to host and volunteer. We are back and ready to go for it. I just wanted to ask. Who has all of

the supplies, and when can we pick them up?

A (Nikki U.): I have the coffee pot and tubs. As far as the supplies, they were all 2 years old, so I'm going to put it this way: District 30 has a wonderful shopping list for you guys.

Comment (Mark S.): We kind of figured that everything was either gone or dispersed or used. I will get in touch with Alex from District 30.

Comment (David W.): Thank you very much for hosting us today and dealing with and raising some of these really tricky difficult issues going forward. For example, there's a difference between hosting for the remainder of this panel, because that will be done in Pasadena, and hosting the next panel, because that would involve the decisions of officers, DCMs, and the like, who have not yet been elected. Who knows what attitudes there will be towards wherever we are on the curve of the pandemic? That makes it very difficult. I don't know the answer, I just appreciate you trying to navigate us through that.

Comment (Nikki U.): I don't have the answers either, but we need to start thinking about it.

Q (Joe T.): I have a question for Shawn. I'm the district treasurer for my district and I noticed that no checks are coming in. I'm wondering if you've noticed this too, as more people are doing stuff on Venmo and Paypal, etc. I was wondering if I could take you up on your offer and talk to you and the webmaster about it because I don't know how to do it virtually.

A (Shawn A.): Well it's certainly up to your district how they want to receive contributions. Most have a PO Box (Joe and Shawn decided to finish their conversation offline)

Unfinished Business

Presentation and Final Approval Vote: SCAA 2022 Budget

Nancy H., Finance Committee Chairperson, moved to approve the 2022 Proposed Budget for Area 05, which was preliminarily approved at the last Area Committee Meeting (ACM). Zoraida R., Accounts Treasurer, seconded the motion.

Questions/Discussion:

Q (Jacobo M.): Are there funds for the Grapevine/La Viña Committee workshop that we are having August 27? We followed all the steps to request the funds to be in our budget for 2022

Comment (Brian P.): I see \$400 on line 450-45 for a Grapevine/La Viña Workshop

A (Nancy H.): Yes, we have \$400 proposed in the budget for that this year.

Comment (Thomas B.): I'm strongly in favor of approving this budget. Thank you.

Comment (Doug S.): Honestly, I believe it's helpful when we present a document of this nature for the person who's presenting the financials for our area to just give brief information on what's in it – "We've got a balanced budget" "We've gone through the process of this..." ... just to reiterate to those who haven't participated in the past. I just think, as a past finance chair, accounts treasurer, and contributions treasurer, that it's very helpful for that information to be described by the person making the motion. Also, there's nothing wrong with accepting a friendly amendment if something else has come up since the last time we approved it. It's not final. There's nothing against that.

Comment (Nancy H.): I'm Nancy, your Finance Chair, and I'm proposing this budget. We've projected that contributions are going to be \$44,945. Last year, I asked the assembly to submit their budget expense reports if they were going to have any expenses. We set aside the money for anyone who submitted requests in their reports. It is really late in the year to be doing this, but unfortunately, I did have some ailments earlier this year and late last year, so I was unable to get to the reports. That being said, at the bottom, you can see we have an upper cash limit of \$38,560 and a lower cash limit of \$12,525.45. I'm not sure what other information you would like me to present, but that is what I have today. This was approved at the February ACM, and now this is up for the assembly's approval today.

The motion passed unanimously, 37-0.

Presentation and Final Approval Vote: SCAA Guidelines and Policies Change to include Cooperation with the Young Community Committee

Gola Y. Cooperation with the Young Community Committee Chair moved 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.”

Mark S. District Committee Member, District 3, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 37-0.

Question (Doug S.): When will this change be made to the Guidelines and Policies

Answer (Jenny P.): It will be made towards the end of the panel with other amendments and additions we have made. It will be posted December 2022

Comment (David W.): If the language has been put in place, it is now officially part of the Guidelines and Policies, and my opinion is that it should be reflected in those that are posted on our area website. I recognize there is some work involved, but if the language has been approved, it should be posted forthwith.

Comment (Nikki U.): You might consider just adding a page of addendum rather than changing the whole document.

Comment (Jenny P.): I'll have to look into that.

Robert K. Guidelines and Policies Committee Member made a point of order (more like a point of information): We discussed the calendar for this in the Guidelines and Policies Committee today. There are some mechanics that go into it. We need to figure out where the document is, who the custodian is. My suggestion is that we put a process in writing so that going forward, there's a clear process for how to amend, when to amend, who amends, and so on and so forth, so we'll hopefully have a progress report at the next assembly on the same.

New Business

Presentation: SCAA Guidelines and Policies Change to regarding announcements in the SCAAN

Robert K., Guidelines and Policies Committee Member, presented a motion:

“... that SCAAN Announcements are for events that are put on by an A.A. entity, such as a Group, District, Area, Area committee, Intergroup, Central Office, or General Service Office. We do not announce Sober Cruises, Retreats, Social/Family Focused Events, Non-A.A. Focused or Multi-Focused Events.”

He was making the motion on behalf of the committee to expressly describe the types of announcements that were to be published in the SCAAN. The language was similar to and would be consistent with that which already existed for the website. This was just the initial stage according to Article II in the Guidelines, where a general concept was being presented. The specifics were going to be voted on at the next Area Committee Meeting (ACM). Then, specific language was going to be circulated in writing to the assembly if it passed the ACM. These sentences would go at the end of Article V.L which describes the SCAAN in the Guidelines and Policies

Questions:

Q (Thomas B.): Is this a suggestion from the Guidelines and Policies Committee? Or was the committee the proponent of this? I have questions and concerns of why the motion is needed that should be posed to the proponent of the motion. Did this suggestion originate with the Guidelines and Policies Committee?

A (Robert K.): My understanding is that someone proposed it to Jenny, the Chair, and Jenny proposed it to us at the committee today, and we discussed it.

Q (Thomas B.): Ordinarily, if a suggestion is made to Guidelines and Policies, the committee may help formulate the language in connection with it, but it should be the proponent of the motion, whether it's a committee, group, district or somebody representative of the proponent, that actually makes the presentation so that we can ask questions about why that proponent feels there is a need for something of that niche, don't you think?

Q (Robert K.): Are you asking my opinion personally?

Q (Thomas B.): I'm just saying the Guidelines and Policies Committee formulates language in connection with proposals brought up by any member who can make a motion to change the Guidelines and Policies, but I don't know who the proponent is or where this originated. I have no basis for being able to ask questions as to why it is thought to be necessary. In a presentation, ordinarily there is a presentation as to why this is necessary. Is there someone who would like to come forward on this?

Q (Robert K.): Who is this question addressed to? Can you please clarify?

A (Thomas B.): Well, the first question I asked was addressed to the Guidelines and Policies Committee. I asked if this originated there and you said, "No, it did not." So, I said, "Who is the proponent?" Whoever proposed it has an idea as to why it is necessary.

Q (Jenny P.): Is this a procedural question?

A (Thomas B.): In a sense, it is a procedural question because unless it originates from the Guidelines and Policies Committee, as Article XIII did when I was Chair of it, for example, the Guidelines and Policies Committee usually does not make the presentation on the proposal. The proponent of the proposal makes the presentation. So, I'm a little confused as to why it is that the proponent is not making this presentation.

A (Lauren A.): This was brought up to me by several members, and I think this is why Jenny got to work on this. There is no single proponent of this. It was brought up to me, there was a discussion about it, and Jenny decided to make language to propose to the area because of concerns from other members. I don't know if they're even here or if they want to step up.

Nikki reminded everyone that this was just a time for questions, and that we would have discussion at the next meeting.

Comment (Jacobo M.): This is a wonderful moment right now. This is how we learn. I remember this because I was a member of the Committee when Thomas B. was the chair, that Guidelines and Policies submits motions to change the Guidelines and Policies when someone else makes a motion and the motion conflicts with existing Guidelines and Policies. There are articles that specify how changing the Guidelines and Policies needs to be done. It needs to be in writing and sent to the committee through the Chairperson, and it needs to be in English and Spanish, and I couldn't find this in writing at all. We are a linguistic area, and we need to do things the right way. We don't govern, we serve. We can't just have an idea and pretend that we can just push the idea into the assembly. The idea has to come from members of the assembly, and then we follow the procedure.

Q (Brian P.): Some of this has been kind of answered already, but I was just curious about the background of this motion and how it came about. I don't know if anyone has more information about that. It looks like Jo is going to be telling us about that, so I'll just wait for her. Thank you.

Comment (David W.): I think I understand the background and where this is coming from, but that's just speculation. I'm along the lines of Thomas as to procedure. The first time I heard this, I was thinking that the Guidelines and Policies Committee were asking Area 05 to instruct them to make that change, but it doesn't seem that way. It seems that the Guidelines and Policies Committee has language ready to go and they're asking for endorsement of the language before they've been asked to address a policy issue. So, kind of in line with what Thomas is saying, this is procedurally a little backwards.

Q (Zoraida R.): I think that, if there is a member or various members concerned with something that's happening in the area or in the SCAAN, since the SCAAN is the voice of the area in writing, we should address those. I am not so sure why we would be so quick to address or set any policy and change our guidelines so quickly just because

somebody says we need to without really knowing what the need is, so I would like to know that too.

A (Jenny P.): I can speak to that. There is language in the Guidelines and Policies for the website, and since the SCAAN is also published on our website, this would bring the language in accordance with the existing language.

Comment (Jo S.): In my mind, one of the reasons this was proposed was that in Good and Welfare announcements, we have been announcing in the Combined Hollywood Districts, all the events. It was brought to our attention that only AA events could be publicized. And therein lies the quandary. An event is coming up, and it has caused a lot of problems regarding whether it's an AA event to announce or not. Therefore, we went to Jenny and the Guidelines and Policies Committee and asked, "What can we print?" People in AA go to the event, but is it a sanctioned AA event? So, the language needed to be cleared up.

Comment (Jenny P.): I just want to clarify that this is not a motion concerning good and welfare announcements, this is strictly for the Guidelines and Policies for the SCAAN, and it would be in accordance with the language already existing for the website.

Comment (Jo S.): ...and to define what an AA event is and what a non-AA event is.

Comment (Jenny P.): Right.

Comment (Lauren A.): I think it became necessary to people because they don't understand what affiliation is, and I think affiliation is part of what this is about. And by the way, any member can bring something up to the Guidelines and Policies Committee to work on and to create.

Comment (David W.): That's not true. Read the Guidelines and Policies Committee charge I put in the chat. It's up to the area to be approved by the area.

Robert K. made a point of order: You need to recognize people in the order that they raised their hand.

Chairperson Nikki U. ruled that he was correct.

Nikki reminded everyone that this was for questions only. The discussion was to happen at the Area Committee Meeting.

Q (Doug S.): This is a procedural question I have. According to our Guidelines and Policies, Section II, changes to the Guidelines and Policies can be brought by any member of SCAA, so I think we are good there. Item B says "After changes to Area policy have been approved by the Area, language to reflect that change is submitted in writing to the Area Assembly, discussed, ..." We haven't approved a change to area policy, so why are we now proposing a change to the Guidelines? I don't think we're doing things in order, and it wasn't in writing before the Assembly. It was just shared in chat, and that doesn't give us enough time honestly to review things in my opinion.

Q (Jenny P.): If I can interject, would it be acceptable if I was to make a motion to table this?

Robert K. made a point of order: that the Chair recognize people in order of raised hands. I've been waiting for about 5 minutes to speak.

Q (Jen K.): Can someone please read the language from the Guidelines and Policies regarding the website that you are referring to?

A (Jenny P.): The Guidelines and Policies entirely is available on the website.

Q (Jen K.): I know that. You said you're matching it with what was stated, so I'm asking if you can read what was stated, because you are Guidelines and Policies and you have that available, right? Because I don't have access to the website right now.

A (Jenny P.): Well, nothing is being decided right now. This is simply a presentation.

A (Nikki U.): This is on page 15. "The Area 5 website committee primarily posts information on SCAA and GSO/GSC business, meetings and events. Information on Regional, Area or District General-Service-sponsored events may also be posted. Non-A.A. and non-General-Service information will not be posted. Area policy requires that all information be posted in both Spanish and English. The Translation Committee undertakes translation of materials to be posted, however, publication will be quicker if you can submit event information in both languages. To have an event listed please send your information to: webchair@aascaa.org Fliers should be submitted in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc), Text file (.txt), PDF file (.pdf) - e.g. Adobe Acrobat"

Comment (Robert K.): Two quick things. First, I would invite everyone to read Article II of the Guidelines and Policies carefully. There are three sections: A, B, and C. The intention of the motion I made is to simply reflect the process reflected in paragraph A which is, “Suggested changes to policies or these guidelines can be brought up by any member of the SCAA.” As a member and GSR, I’m proposing that the assembly and area committee consider the possibility of adding language that will expressly describe the events that should be published in the SCAAN. This is not a motion to change the Guidelines and Policies today. It is literally just the proposal to consider the possibility down the road in accordance with the process set in Article II. And with that, I would like to make a motion that we close discussion on this.

Brian P., Secretary, made a point of information: It was stated earlier that this had nothing to do with good and welfare announcements, but the text that was shared in the chat has two versions. One talks about good and welfare announcements and the other talks about SCAAN announcements. I just wanted to make this point of information.

Comment (Robert K.): I can’t see what’s in the chat right now, but that was an error. The only thing that should have been shared was the proposal to consider language for the SCAAN and the types of events that should be published. Everything else should be disregarded as not applicable, not relevant. We are not presenting it.

Q (Nikki U.): I have a suggestion. Since we have the wrong documents that have been presented, Jenny, would you like to withdraw and resubmit at the next assembly?

A (Jenny P.): Yes, I would like to.

Robert K. withdrew the motion.

Good and Welfare Announcements

Doug S.: I put a flyer in the chat for the 39th Southern California Hospitals and Institutions (SoCal H&I) Convention. There will be panels all day Saturday and an AA meeting Friday night. The monthly intergroup meeting will be Sunday. It’s in Big Bear, California at the Big Bear Performing Arts Center. We have a wonderful program. If you’re available, please go or inform others who have an interest in H&I work that we will be there at the conference.

Jen K.: I just wanted to give one last-ditch announcement about Camp Spiritfire, which is by alcoholics for alcoholics. Our venue has changed. Instead of being in Idlewild, it’s going to be in Lake Arrowhead right near Big Bear. So, if you have any folks that you think would benefit from a weekend of workshops and meetings and even a little fun as well, send them our way. Campspiritfire.org, or you can reach out to me. I’ll put my info in the chat. Thanks!

Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement

Felipe, General Service Representative, District 35, led the Assembly in reciting A.A.’s Responsibility Statement in Spanish.

Joe T., General Service Representative, District 7, led the Assembly in reciting A.A.’s Responsibility Statement in English.

The Area Assembly adjourned at 4:00 PM.



Save the Date!

PRAASA 2023



**Southern California Area 05
is hosting PRAASA 2023**

(Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly)

March 3 – 5, 2023

in

Los Angeles, California!

Stay tuned to PRAASA.ORG for further information!

Coming Back - Giving Back

After leaving treatment in September of 2005 I had a sponsor, was working the steps and started taking commitments as I was told they would help me stay sober. They certainly got me to the meetings which made me feel a part of the group while understanding how meetings were run. I remained sober for 2 years after treatment but relapsed in 2007.

My mother had died at 57 years old in a car accident 2 weeks before my first sober birthday. I was in shock and so afraid of drinking as the consequences were devastating but I did relapse after 2 years of sobriety. Thank goodness for hearing 'Keep coming back' as I did that more times than I can count anymore after slipping/relapsing. From 2005 to 2015 I was more often not drunk than drunk but kept taking back control when I felt a bit stronger and then proceeded to beat myself back into desperation again, and again, and again.....

I thought I had a foundation as things looked alright on the outside, I attended many meetings and took commitments all over the place. I talked the talk but was still struggling and desperately wanting to run away from myself and everyone else. My children have always meant the world to me but they were carried along by the negative ripple effect I created in my family. My husband was ready to leave me after 22 years of marriage during my third time in treatment in 2015.

During one stretch of sobriety I volunteered to be a GSR, I really had no idea what it entailed but enjoyed the monthly meeting then going back and telling the group what was happening in our district and area, I did not stay sober so gave up the position back then but the experience stayed with me, I told a joke from the grapevine at the end of every report.

My mother was married to two legendary musicians and she was a model herself. My parents were very immersed in the rock and roll lifestyle which made for a chaotic childhood. I grew up in a bubble away from the public and most normal activities.

My father's mother was not interested in the fake world of fame and always volunteered at the hospital and she also worked as a radiology assistant, which I admired. I think of her selflessness now and am so grateful for that influence. It inspired a desire to be involved in our community, kids schools, and AA.

I have been sober for 6 years and 8 months now as a result of not overthinking my higher power as it was there all along. I just had to learn to be still and let go. Living with the aim of staying in humility and hoping to create a positive ripple effect for myself and my family. My husband and I will be married 29 years this year. My children are wonderful young adults who have gone from being angry to proud (not overnight)!

I took a GSR commitment in January and am enjoying it once again. The meeting treated the commitment like some dreaded chore, but I find it the opposite & hope I can 'be attraction rather than promotion' for others to take the commitment on elsewhere and after I am done with rotation.

I have been attending the meetings that lead up to the conference and took agenda items to our meeting beforehand. It is all helping me understand AA General Service and I feel I have found a good niche in AA that I find so interesting. I have a service sponsor, as it was highly recommended

and she is an incredible example of a trusted servant.

I feel excited to have stumbled into the service area of AA as there is so much to learn and it is amazing that it functions as it does and has for so long.

I still tell a Grapevine joke at the end of the GSR report - a short one!

-Mandy D. 2022



A.A. AREA 05 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA SUMMER ASSEMBLY AGENDA
Saturday – July 23, 2022
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 N Lake Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104
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 (May 23 – July 23)

The Twelve Concepts (Short Form) - Spanish and English

9:20 Introduction of new General Service Representative and Alternates

9:35 Roll Call (Miguel M, Registrar)

9:45 Approval of Agenda (Nikki U, Chairperson)

Approval of May 22nd Assembly Minutes (Brian P, Secretary)

10:00 Delegate Report – (Lauren A, Delegate)

10:45 Archives Workshop (Mary T, Area Archivist and Sandra C, Archives Chair)

11:00 Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Meetings (Committee Chairs)

11:45 Lunch Break

12:45 Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports – 2-to-3-minute summary

1:30 Officer Reports:

Alternate Delegate, Including Audit Subcommittee Report (Doug S.)

Secretary (Brian P.)

Contributions Treasurer, incl. presentation of 2022 2nd Quarter Contributions Report (Shawn A.)

Accounts Treasurer, including presentation of 2022 2nd Quarter Financial Report (Zoraida R.)

Registrar (Miguel M.)

Chairperson (Nikki U)

2:00 Unfinished Business:

Hispanic Women's Workshop (Olga M., Area 5 Liaison)

4 Area DCM Sharing Session (Alex H, DCM District 30/Arturo F, Alt MCD, Distrito 33)

43rd Hispanic Forum (Antonio M, Coordinadore, Distrito 34)

2:15 New Business:

Hosting Bids – Panel 73

Preliminary 2023 Budget Presentation (Finance Committee Chair, Nancy H)

Presentation of Proposed Changes to Area Financial Guidelines (Finance Committee Chair, Nancy H)

Unbudgeted Expense Request 2023 PRAASA Chair Attendance @ Pacific Regional Forum (PRAASA Chair Thomas B)

3:00 Good and Welfare Announcements

3:15 Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement (Spanish & English)