

SCAAN QUARTERLY WINTER ISSUE - January 21, 2023





### Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

### **PRAASA 2023**

I am serving as the Chairperson of the Host Committee for PRAASA 2023 when Southern California Area 5 hosts the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, the largest AA service convention of its kind, here locally-live and in person-at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel in less than two months, Friday through Sunday, March 3-5, 2023.

The LAX Marriott is a <u>fantastic</u> convention hotel, within walking distance of the Los Angeles International airport (LAX) with free ground transportation, affordable locked-in universal room rates and special low daily parking rates for folks who are driving in. Los Angeles is California's liveliest city, the entertainment capital of the world, and we are hopeful that we will see all of you and your AA group members participating and in attendance as we join together with AA's from across the Pacific Region, coming together with the purpose to speak the language of the heart.

### So what is PRAASA?

The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is an annual A.A. general service assembly open to all A.A. Members and friends of AA, including Alanon. It is hosted by one of the 15 areas in the Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous each year. The event moves around the Pacific Region, which is composed of 9 states, California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska. And this major service convention is being held here locally this year, a once in 15-year opportunity for you and your AA group members to attend, participate and experience all that PRAASA has to offer.

### The officially stated purpose of PRAASA is to:

- (1) Develop greater unity among the members, groups, and areas of the Pacific Region.
- (2) Encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences.
- (3) Provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Assembly and the PRAASA Committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity and Service legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous.

PRAASA can be an opportunity for you and your group members and our trusted servants to exchange information which relates A.A. 's life-giving services to our own personal experience, strength and hope, as well as sharing the challenges and successes of A.A. members on the 12<sup>th</sup> step frontlines in carrying A.A.'s message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

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

### So -- the why of PRAASA turns out to be really exciting and inspiring stuff!

You will get to meet and see all the Delegates from the Pacific Region and hear each of them speak about their areas and what each is doing.

2

There will be panel presentations throughout the entire weekend on important topics related to this year's exciting Conference Agenda. And the presenters for these topics will be selected from every Area including ours. Some of you may have been already asked to participate as and speak on a panel, or to serve as panel moderators, readers and timers. And *everyone* will also be given an opportunity to *volunteer for service* at PRAASA *when they register*.

At the end of each Panel presentation, you will be allowed to ask questions or share your opinions on these important topics. You will participate in the conversation -- and your voice will be heard.

Then there are round-table discussions for each group of trusted servants. GSRs, DCMs, Committee Chairs, Officer positions, Alternate Delegates and Delegates. You will get to meet with your fellow service buddies from across the Pacific Region and may form friendships that can last a lifetime. Bottom line, these roundtables are where we really have the opportunity to get to know and learn from each other.

There will be a Friday night buffet dinner during the break with room for everyone to enjoy dinner in the hotel with all their friends and an ice cream social on Saturday night. There will be an AA speaker meeting following the banquet held on Saturday night, which is always one of the highlights of the weekend. You will get to meet and hear our new Pacific Region Trustee, Reilly K share her experience, strength and hope. And the speaker at the Saturday Luncheon for everybody will be a Class A Trustee from the A.A. General Service Board.

And on Sunday morning at PRAASA, our Past Trustees from the Pacific Region will each share their wisdom, experience, strength and hope on matters essential to our Fellowship as we look toward our future. There is a great deal of wisdom and hope to be shared.

This is just a *small part* of attending an in-person PRAASA, a spiritual experience no one should miss. I have spoken with a lot of folks who tell me they have had an uplifting life-changing experience at PRAASA. That may or may not be true for you. What is important is that you attend, and encourage your AA friends and group members to attend, and allow yourselves to have your own experience. And while we talk a lot about the business of A.A. at these events, and some of it is really compelling -- it's not just about the business.

For me, it's always been the personal sharing of one alcoholic, one trusted servant talking to another about their personal experience, strength and hope that makes PRAASA such an uplifting event.

So why should you and your AA friends and group members attend? We see that what actually motivates each of us to come together, apart from the fellowship we share with each other, is the spiritual imperative of our 12th step – having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics. PRAASA is a valuable exchange of information and dialogue among our Fellowship that focuses us on how we may better work together, hand in hand, in fulfilling our declaration of responsibility, and the work we do together to strengthen and improve the growth and welfare of our AA groups.

That is why we come together in General Service. That is how we grow our A.A. movement and strengthen our common welfare – and make sure that A.A. is always here for the many generations of alcoholics to come.

Registration is open now. It's easy, and the registration fee for the entire weekend is only \$25. We can pretend to care, but we cannot pretend to be present. Let's all be present for PRAASA here in Los Angeles!

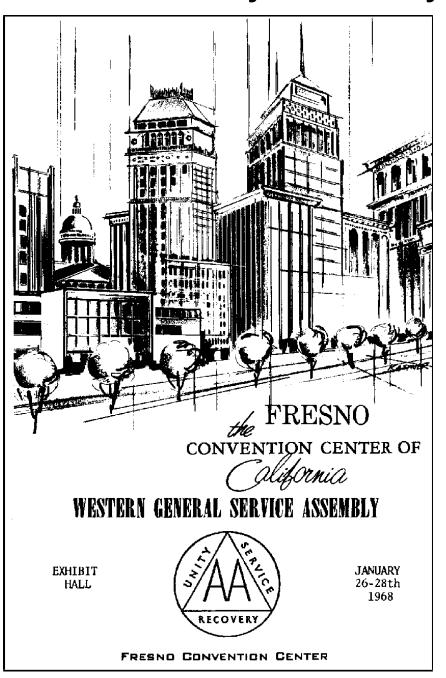
Go to praasa.org TODAY and click on register – and volunteer.

Love and Service, Thomas B Chairperson – PRAASA 2023



# S

# The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly— Its history



\*The program cover from the first PRAASA in 1968.

The first two PRAASA's were known as "Western Regional Service Assemblies"

# PACIFIC REGION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE ASSEMBLY - ITS HISTORY

This material was originally compiled by Marge Kemp from material supplied largely by Carl Binam around the time of the 1987 PRAASA in Sacramento, CA. It was originally available on disk as a CP/M Wordstar file. In that format, only the text portion was available. The illustration material from the binder has since then been scanned as computer graphics. These files are currently (1994) being formatted so that they can be incorporated into this manuscript as an integral part of the document. None of the original text has been changed, merely transformed through several stages of evolving word processing software. The pagination and table of contents do not match the original as significant font changes have accompanied these translations. Additional material has been added to reflect PRAASA's which have been held since the original printing.

### **PREFACE**

This concept of a sequential history of the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) was originated by Carl Binam in 1983-84. The idea of a PRAASA history was approved by the attendees at the 1984 PRAASA business meeting and Carl and Marge Kemp produced the basic loose-leaf volume which was distributed to each Area of the Pacific Region. One copy was sent to each Pacific Region Delegate with the recommendation that the volume be placed in that Area's archives.

Carl's plan had been for each PRAASA host committee to produce a new chapter chronicling their PRAASA experience. That new chapter was then to be sent to each Area's archives to be incorporated into their volume. It was a simple plan that seemed to assure that all would have an up- to-date history. But we almost immediately fell behind on the updates. Worse, most of the volumes were eventually misplaced and, by early 1994, few were to be found in the archives of the areas.

At the 1994 PRAASA in Juneau, Greg Muth, Pacific Region Trustee, suggested that the delegates appoint a committee to not only bring the history up-to-date, but also to replace material missing from the traveling briefcase which historically has moved from host committee to host committee. In a sense, this traveling briefcase is the "PRAASA archives" and it could be a rich source of information on the successes and failures of previous committees. Larry Cagnina, AK; Burke Dykes, WA; and Don Johnson, OR were the three unfortunates that were saddled with the assignment—and it has turned out to be a very interesting one!

The task is now done. Enthusiastic cooperation from some areas—and dead silence from a few others—greeted our requests for information, financial reports, history write-ups, etc. All that we could scratch up has been incorporated in the history and into the briefcase. Goldene Lahann had been trying independently to update the PRAASA history and her efforts are gratefully included here.

This history is based on Marge and Carl's original work. Marge's files were converted to a modern format by John Gehrmann of CNIA and that original text is unchanged although additional material has been added in some places. These additions are primarily submissions that came in after Carl's original deadline and thus did not make it into the original. And, of course, many subsequent chapters have been added.

Many of the figures in the original printing were almost unintelligible. We were able to get access to some of the original material and that was scanned into a digital format for incorporation into this document and for safekeeping. Where originals were not readily available, some of the old copies were electronically scanned and, in some cases, digitally

enhanced.

Appendix B has been added to include the historic roster of Pacific Region Delegates that Al Hendricks has maintained for the last few years. This is more than a historic roster—the addresses and phone numbers of the living delegates are kept up to date as much as possible, making these past delegates more accessible to those of us with less service experience. Changes in this information should be forwarded to Al in order to keep this information current.

Copies of all of the digital information used to generate this history are stored in both the California Northern Interior Area Archives and in the Washington Area Archives.

Burke Dykes February 1995

### **FORWARD**

This is the history of the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA). A copy of this history may be found in the archives of each area within the Pacific Region.

The purpose of this history is to make a permanent record of the formation and progress of the Assembly. It is hoped that it will provide an insight into the trials, tribulations and gratifications encountered during the growth of the Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly.

The history consists of two sections. Wherever possible, these sections have been written by those people who were directly or indirectly involved in the Assembly. Thus, the participation and personal touch of the individual, which is so vital to Alcoholics Anonymous, has been captured.

The first section gives the history of how each individual Assembly was organized. The second section contains the memories of people who have attended the various assemblies. Each one has contributed immensely to the success of each assembly. Without the moral support of each individual, the Assembly would never have survived. Sincere thanks are hereby extended to those many thousands throughout the Pacific region who have helped make PRAASA a success both by their involvement and their presence.

It is believed the experience and benefits derived from the Assembly have been valuable to an untold number of people and Alcoholics Anonymous in general. The impact it has had on the Fellowship is probably immeasurable.

It is requested that at the conclusion of each Assembly, the hosting committee prepare a history of that particular event. This will be added to the History Section. A copy of this history will be sent to the archives of each Area within the Pacific Region, to be added to their volume. In this way the history will be self-perpetuating and will be current at all times.

Recovery, Unity, and Service should always be paramount and foremost in the actions and spirit of the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly.

PRAASA Archives Committee Carl Binam, Chairman

To view complete document (240 pgs) click this link: ■ praasa-history\_1968-2000.pdf

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-T86wcmXnlvuOlwKxqkmnULgvfj5UPsl/view?usp=share link

6

### From the Delegate's Desk.....

Hello Area 5! Happy New Year to you and I hope everyone is safe and healthy.

I'm excited and honored to serve as your Delegate for Panel 73. I recognize the trust you've bestowed in me, and I don't take this commitment lightly. I've watched numerous Past Delegates perform their responsibilities and they never ceased to amaze me.

I'd like to thank our newest Past Delegate, Lauren A., for serving us with grace and dignity during Panel 71. She worked tirelessly for our Area, the Public Information Committee and A.A. I'm privileged to have had her as my mentor the past two years and advisor the next two.

I'm very pleased to report I've been assigned to the Conference Committee on Treatment and Accessibilities. I am one of four new members on that committee. This is an exciting assignment for me as I've spent substantial time working with Southern California Hospitals and Institutions (SoCal H&I) Intergroup the past two years as Alternate Delegate. I feel at home in this line of service.

I have begun preparation by reviewing the preliminary agenda items for this year's conference, the History and Highlights of Actions from past conferences, past conference reports and our new A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service (2021-2023).

I would like to congratulate our Panel 73 officers:

- Nikki U. Alternate Delegate
- Gola R. Chairperson
- Shawn A. Secretary
- Amy O. Accounts Treasurer
- Brian P Contributions Treasurer
- Jennifer C. Registrar

It was amazing to watch the Third Legacy Election in action! I am proud to serve with our new officers!

I'd also like to welcome our new General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs), Committee Chairs and alternates to our first Assembly of 2023. It's going to be a great year and panel!

I recall when Charlie W. was the Alternate Delegate many years ago. He said his most important job was to pray for the Delegate. I didn't understand what he was talking about at the time, but I certainly do now. I hope Nikki is busy doing that... If it weren't for Charlie W., I wouldn't be here today!

As most of you know, our Area is hosting the Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) this year March 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Registration is open, so please register, sign up for the various banquet options and reserve your hotel rooms at <a href="https://praasa.org/">https://praasa.org/</a>

Be prepared for an exciting service filled PRAASA weekend!

The Area's Pre-Conference Assembly Workshop is a two-day assembly held in the Spring before the General Service Conference. This year the dates are Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. It is designed by the Alternate Delegate with consultation of the Delegate to address topics from the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference. The event will assist our Delegate (that's me!) in making informed decisions at the General Service Conference. I am looking forward to working with Nikki and I hope you are too.

This year we will receive agenda background materials in all three languages of our U.S. and Canada Conference (English, French and Spanish) at the same time. This may affect "when" we receive the materials.

To select topics for presentation and discussion at the Pre-Conference Workshop, we need to wait patiently for the materials to be translated and delivered. In past years we've received English language background material from the General Service Office mid to late February. The Spanish language materials were provided sometime after that. GSO has committed extra resources to deliver all materials at the same time. Keep your fingers crossed.

We need to hear from your Group what **YOU** think about the business items that affect Alcoholics Anonymous!

This year's theme is Participation: A.A. Service Manual – Appendix V

### STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE

Most A.A. members are primarily interested in their groups, in their own sobriety, and in helping other drunks one-on-one. And that is as it should be. While the work of general service has precisely the same objective — carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers — the connection is not always direct or obvious. Some stimulators are usually needed to get the attention of A.A. members — to show them that service can add a rich dimension to their sober lives and Twelfth Step work, and that their participation is vital to the future of A.A.

Feel free to contact me at any time via my email address: <u>delegate@area05aa.org</u> or my mobile number listed in the SCAAN.

I look forward to representing the Area!

Respectfully,

Doug S. Delegate Area 05 Panel 73

	IN THIS ISSUE
PAGE	TITLE
2	PRAASA 2023
4	History of PRAASA
7	Delegate's Report
8	TABLE OF CONTENTS
9	PRAASA Scholarship
10	Responsibility Statement
11	Just For Fun
12	My Experience in General Service
13	2023 Area DRAFT Calendar
14	Area Committees
14	AAA Websites
15	Area Maps
16	Fall Area Assembly Minutes
25	Area Winter Assembly Agenda



# PRAASA 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

We encourage Areas, Districts, and Groups to collect and distribute scholarships to help their members attend PRAASA



### Share the service, share the fun! Donate to your PRAASA Scholarship Fund

REGISTRATION - \$25

REGISTRATION PLUS FRIDAY DINNER - \$ 52

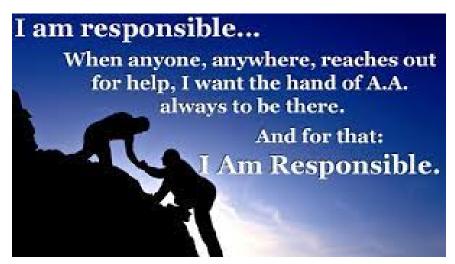
REGISTRATION AND SATURDAY LUNCHEON \$74 REGISTRATION PLUS SATURDAY NIGHT

BANQUET - \$94

REGISTRATION PLUS ALL THREE MEALS - \$170

CLOSE ENOUGH TO DRIVE? CARPOOL! ADD \$20.00 PER DAY TO PARK

### **Responsibility Statement**



The Responsibility Declaration was formally introduced and written by **Bill W**for the 1965 AA International Convention in Toronto

This may seem like a simple statement, but it is at the heart of what it means to be of service to the alcoholic who still suffers. I was told by my sponsor from the beginning that being present consistently at one home-group and introducing myself as an alcoholic with a handshake was the first way that I could be of service to the next drunk who came in the door.

I went to my first District meeting within the first 60 days of my sobriety because I wanted to know who was running this whole business and getting all those dollar bills everyone was tossing in that wicker basket. My sponsor was wise enough to let this incurably curious, obstinate drunk find out for herself that there was no boss and that the money was spread around to lots of places for a lot of good. I found out that the people there were sober alcoholics, like I aspired to be, and that they were there to bring the thoughts and feelings of every individual member of THEIR home-group to the District they were located in, then to AA in all of the United States and Canada.

I was chosen to be an Alternate General Service Representative (keywords being Service and Represent-ative) and at the recommended 2 years of continuous sobriety I was elected to be the GSR!! I was thrilled!! I served as GSR for different home groups, which changed over the years as I grew and my needs and schedule changed for 14 years.

For five years I served on the Corrections Committee. (Every GSR should serve on a committee) In AA/ New York/ General Service Conference, it is the Committee which is the connection to those who are incarcerated/behind the walls and a link to those being released. I loved bringing the Big Book alive in actual meetings to the women in the county jail and sponsoring many on their release.

I served on the CPC Committee, more initials, for Cooperation with the Professional Community, which contacts and provides information to medical and nursing professionals, social workers and psychologists, and as well as those who work with

alcoholics as their primary profession. We went to nursing schools, a school psychologists convention and more. Primarily it is providing information and answering questions, over and over, about what AA is and what AA is not. This is also carrying the message and making sure we leave Big Books and appropriate pamphlets in their hands.

When I moved across the country, my friends and family had no worries about my being lonely here, WE knew the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous would be here waiting and that my enthusiasm of being of service would land me in the middle of those of like minds and hearts.

I have been truly blessed to have only one sobriety date so far. I've turned from someone who cursed the light of day, to a servant of AA who now has the choice of cheerfulness and helpfulness. Most days, I figure, what the hell, might as well smile, smile, smile.

By the way, I now have the privilege to serve on the PRAASA Host Committee!! We're expecting alcoholics from the 9 western states including Alaska and Hawaii to join together here in Los Angeles County. Please join us on March 3rd-5th! See you there!

Yours in love and service, Jenny P. Public Information Chair, Panel 73



## JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the accountant do so well in AA? A: He was already a friend of bills.

Q: Why aren't people in recovery good dancers?

A: They lose interest after twelve steps.

Dollar Tree bought Family Dollar for about \$8 billion. It would have been \$10 billion, but

Family Dollar was dented.



Q: Why aren't koalas actual bears?
A: They don't meet the koalafications.

Q: What does a pepper do when it's angry? A: It gets jalapeno face!

I went into a pet shop. I said, "Can I buy a goldfish? The guy said, "Do you want an aquarium?" I said, "I don't care what sign it is."

As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field.

Q: You know why you never see elephants hiding up in trees?

A: Because they are really good at it.

Q: What do you call bears with no ears?

A: B

### MY LIFE IN GENERAL SERVICE

My introduction to AA General Service began in August 2019 at my home group when I volunteered to finish the last four months of the present GSR's commitment for my home group. I had only five years in AA and a bit over two years of sobriety. "Commitments help keep you sober," is what I had learned in the AA rooms....but, "It's a two year commitment!!" is all my brain heard which was quite shocking. I had experience with 'commitments' - marriages, mental health facilities (51/50), loans, contracts, etc. Saying 'yes' to be the General Service Representative for my home group, I committed to the monthly and quarterly meetings where I quickly learned what the third part of the AA triangle is all about - **SERVICE**!

Shortly after attending my 3rd GSR meeting, elections for Panel 71 were held and suddenly I was the DCMC! I had experience in business management and am retired with time to dedicate to AA. First, I knew I had to get a Service Sponsor - There's 12 Concepts and 5 Warranties and I had just gotten familiar with the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions! What an order!

Sobriety at times can be overwhelming, challenging, but is constantly changing. I took this responsibility head on, chose a service sponsor, dug in, and with the help of the other awesome District and Area 05 Officers of Panel 71, we made AA history as the Zoom Panel! AA did not stop with the pandemic. AA fellowships found solutions.

Two months later I am attending my first PRAASA, held in Tucson, AZ. As I listened and took notes I realized that this "service" thing is BIG and why General Service is so important. AA General Service guarantees that AA will be there for those <u>after</u> me. Bill & Bob understood that if we didn't pass the gift of recovery on to another suffering alcoholic, we would perish. General Service assures me that this program will be there for others as it was there for me!

In the past two years being involved in General Service, I've had the honor and privilege to chair and attend the monthly district meetings, Area 05 Assemblies, Steering Committee Meetings, PRAASAs, Pacific Regional Forum, and as SCAAN Chair, Panel 71. I am living a life beyond my wildest dreams, to be a part of, instead on the sidelines where my drinking took me, watching others living life, wishing it was me doing those things. I am now living and being of service to others by suiting up and showing up on time to an AA meeting, sending a text, making phone call, assisting a senior, doing a H&I panel at a recovery center....AA members said and I agreed - I went to <u>any</u> length to get drunk and party, I must go to <u>any</u> length to stay sober. I found my answer: General Service!

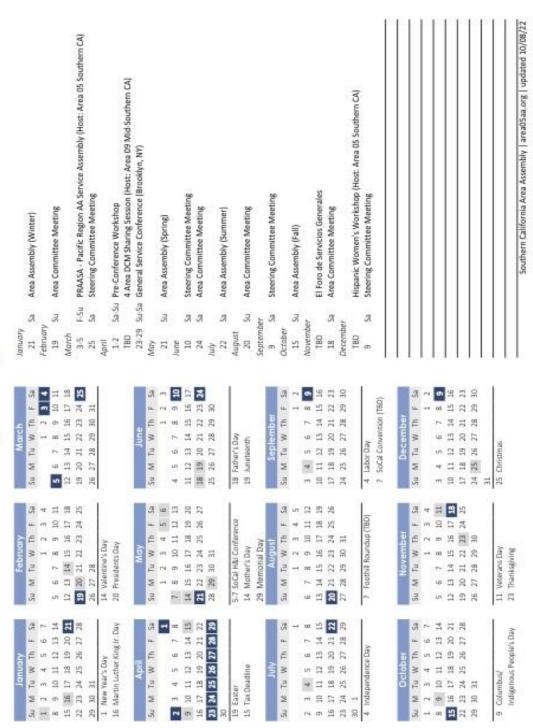
General Service has kept me sober, keeps me very active, and the best part - ALL you wonderful sober brothers and sisters I have been honored and am blessed to meet, work with, and get to know! I am so inspired by others and humbled by what AA has done in my life. I am serving Area 05, Panel 73 as SCAAN Chair. I look forward to 2023 as AA Area 05 hosts PRAASA 2023! Refreshing since the last two were on zoom! See you all there!

At long last, you have come to realize that service to others is all you have to offer in this life!

"I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere reaches out I want the hand of AA to be there and for that, I am responsible."

In Love & Service, Joe Sun, SCAAN Chair, Panel 73

# 2023 SCAA CALENDAR (DRAFT)



# **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 (CYP)
- Corrections
- Finance
- Grapevine/La Viña

- 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)

<u>aagrapevine.org</u> - A.A. Grapevine (A monthly journal of A.A. stories articles of interest.)

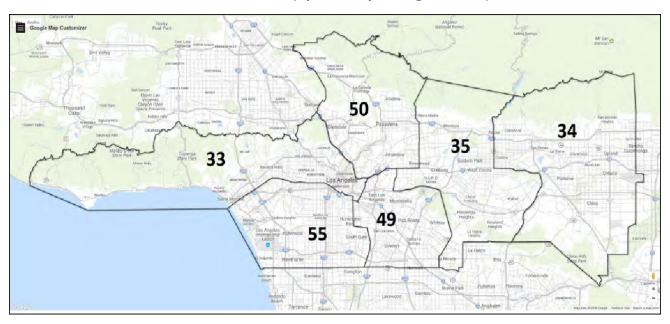
<u>aagrapevine.org/espanole</u> - A.A. La Vina (A.A.'s Spanish Language Magazine)

### **Area 05 Maps**



AREA MAP (English-Speaking Districts)

### AREA MAP (Spanish-Speaking Districts)



# A.A. AREA 05 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MINUTES FROM THE FALL AREA ELECTION ASSEMBLY Sunday – October 16th, 2022 via Zoom

### Welcome and Opening Comments

The 2022 Fall Area Election Assembly Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, by Chairperson Nikki U. with a 1-minute silent meditation, the serenity prayer, welcoming remarks, and opening comments.

People with A.A. Birthdays (Anniversaries) from January 23, 2022, to July 23, 2022, were recognized and serenaded with the birthday song.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form) were read in English and Spanish

### Approval of Agenda and July 23<sup>rd</sup> Assembly Minutes

A member of the assembly moved to approve the day's agenda. The motion was seconded and passed.

Brian P., Secretary, made a motion to approve the Minutes from the Area Assembly on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Presentations for November 19th Area Committee Meeting Voting

2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Contributions Report

Contributions Treasurer Shawn A. presented the 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Contributions Report

2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report

Accounts Treasurer Zoraida R. presented the 2022 3rd Quarter Financial Report

2023 Budget

Finance Committee Chair Nancy H. presented the 2023 Budget

### Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Registrar Miguel M.

### Introduction of Pacific Regional Trustee & Visitors

Delegate Lauren A. introduced Pacific Regional Trustee Reilly K. and visitors from other conference areas.

### **Zoom Third Legacy Election Procedures**

Mike W. from Tech 12 reviewed the technical procedures for voting during the elections that day.

### Third Legacy Election Procedures

Delegate Lauren A. read from the *Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05*, Section VIII SCAA Elections.

Pacific Regional Trustee Reilly K. read Appendix G. Third Legacy Election Procedure from the A.A. Service Manual.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Delegate

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Delegate from the *A.A. Service Manual* and from the *Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05*, Section III.E.2.

Doug S. was elected Panel 73 Delegate.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Alternate Delegate

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Alternate Delegate from the A.A. Service Manual, and Panel 71 Alternate Delegate Doug S. read the duties of the Alternate Delegate from the Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05, Section III.E.3.

Nikki U. was elected Panel 73 Alternate Delegate.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Chairperson

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Area Chairperson from *the A.A. Service Manual*, and Panel 71 Chairperson Nikki U. read the duties of Chairperson from the *Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05*, Section III.E.4.

Gola R. was elected Panel 73 Chairperson.

The Area Assembly recessed for lunch at 12:40 PM and reconvened at 1:10 PM.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Secretary

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Secretary from the A.A. Service Manual, and Panel 71 Secretary Brian P. read the duties of the Secretary from the Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05, Section III.E.5.

Shawn A. was elected Panel 73 Secretary.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Accounts Treasurer

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Accounts Treasurer from *the A.A. Service Manual*, and Panel 71 Accounts Treasurer Zoraida R. read the duties of the Accounts Treasurer from the *Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05*, Section III.E.6.

Amy O. was elected Panel 73 Accounts Treasurer.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Contributions Treasurer

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Contributions Treasurer from *the A.A. Service Manual*, and Panel 71 Contributions Treasurer Shawn A. read the duties of the Contributions Treasurer from *the Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05*, Section III.E.7.

Brian P. was elected Panel 73 Contributions Treasurer.

### Third Legacy Election: Panel 73 Area 05 Registrar

Panel 71 Delegate Lauren A. read the qualifications and duties of the Registrar from *the A.A. Service Manual*, and Panel 71 Registrar Miguel M. read the duties of the Miguel M. from the *Guidelines and Policies for the Southern California Area Assembly (SCAA) of Alcoholics Anonymous Delegate Area 05*, Section III.E.8.

Jennifer C. was elected Panel 73 Registrar.

### Presentation of Panel 73 Area 05 Officers

Delegate: Doug S.

Alternate Delegate: Nikki U.

Chair: Gola R. Secretary: Shawn A.

Accounts Treasurer: Amy O. Contributions Treasurer: Brian P.

Registrar: Jennifer C.

### Trustee's Report

Pacific Regional Trustee Reilly K. reported:

Reilly introduced herself. She was from Winston, Oregon and had her last drink in Santa Maria, CA on 8/7/66. She thanked everyone and congratulated the new officers. She was there that day to tell the area what it was like to be a trustee and to let the area know who they had trusted to help out in New York.

Lauren had already given us the last quarterly board report in August, and Lauren was excellent at making sure the line of communication was a two-way street and working well. Reilly was going to have another quarterly report after the next weekend of board meetings in November.

One of her mentors was Cliff W., a panel 1 delegate and the first Southern California Trustee. He told them about 37 delegates arriving at the first Conference, wandering around headquarters, meeting the 15 trustees, wondering what they should be looking at. Soon he said, "Well, I guess we better go find out what they've been doing with our money." Some things had not changed in 80 years.

She was a panel 66 delegate in 2016. Our Conference discussed some important issues, asked a lot of questions about money, and one night spent 4 hours in a loving discussion over one word. They left the Conference, as most delegates did, blithely saying "We got a lot of decisions made. Now we get to go home and leave all this for the Trustees to make it happen." Six years later, she found herself one being of those Trustees "making it all happen" after everyone went home!

Delegates served on 13 Committees that met at the beginning of the Conference and decided what agenda items to forward to the full Conference discussion, those to take no action on, and which ones needed more information and consideration. Every AA member and group had an opportunity to tell their delegate how they felt about agenda items prior to the Conference. Delegates carried their voices, not their votes.

Trustees served on corresponding committees plus some that had no counterpart with delegates. The trustees' job was to carry out Advisory Actions and discuss Committee Considerations.

The General Service Board was composed of 21 Trustees. She was one of the 14 alcoholics on the Board.

She served on the following six committees:

Trustees Committees for International. This year they were reviewing international licensing, trying to improve communications, and relieve the backflow of requests. They hired an Executive Legal Administrator, who was now supervising this function.

Under International, she served on the ad hoc committee on Participation of Online Groups in the US/Canada Service Structure. This was formed to gather information on what participation for online groups in the service structure could look like. Delegates completed a detailed survey as of October 12 concerning current participation of online groups. They were going to be looking at those results beginning this week.

Trustees Committee on Public Information. They were adding QR codes to pamphlets, creating podcasts, and reviewing the AA World Services (AAWS) YouTube Channel, Google ads, and the Meeting Guide App. Two new Public Service Announcements were distributed: "My drinking built a wall" and "When drinking is no longer a party".

Subcommittees were working on the Membership Survey, the Comprehensive Media Plan, and Analytics and Reports.

Under Public Information, she served on the subcommittee on the Membership Survey. This was the first Membership Survey since 2014. The survey was distributed, and the results were due back soon. As soon as they were tabulated, the results would be released to their committee. They were working on ongoing plans for distribution of the results.

Trustees Committee on Literature. She was Vice-Chair (or Alternate) Chair of the Literature Committee. They followed the Advisory Action for updating pamphlets as closely as possible. Many Advisory Actions from prior Conferences dealt with literature, so they were always working on those. Literature could be a slow process to review and revise, so many items were in process for quite a while.

198 proposed Agenda Items for 2023 had been received, many of which were proposals regarding Literature. They reviewed those proposals and decided how they were going to be moved forward to the Conference. Whatever actions the 73rd Conference took on Literature would come to the Literature Committee to begin a new process.

Under Literature, she served on the subcommittee for the 5th Edition Big Book. They were constantly calling for more stories to be submitted for the 5th Edition Big Book. The deadline for submission was October 31st. They encouraged anyone to submit their story. The preface to the Big Book stated that stories should "reflect the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby to reach more alcoholics". Bill W wrote that the stories should "portray more adequately a cross section of those who have found help. The audience for the book is people who are coming to Alcoholics Anonymous now. Those who are here have already heard our stories." Every story was read and discussed, some a few times, to make sure each one was given thorough consideration. She encouraged anyone who felt like they did not know many people who looked or felt like they did to write their story "so newcomers can find YOU!"

She said jokingly that she only served on six committees this year and that they liked to take it easy on newcomers their first year.

All trustee committees met in New York quarterly in July, October, January, and at the Conference in April. Subcommittees met online regularly. Some days, she was on virtual meetings from 7 am to evening. After those meetings, they worked on new assignments and continued with other projects.

This could take the form of data on spreadsheets, phone calls and emails to get information. They could call on experts in the field to find out how to accomplish something the Conference asked for. There was a cost for this. They volunteered. Helpful experts were paid. There could be a budget attached to an item, or a cap on the cost that prevented them from going ahead. For instance, one Conference item was to produce a video, but for not more than \$20,000.

Discussions usually had one of three outcomes: If they thought they got it right, they sent it to the Conference to see if it was what the fellowship really wanted. If they found out it was not possible to complete now or would cost more, they might have referred it back to the Conference for more discussion. Then, the groups got to discuss next year whether they wanted to spend their money on the project. Or, they might have just needed more information from delegates on what they really meant.

Because the Conference only met once a year, things moved very slowly. They got questions all the time about why something was taking so long. That was because trustees were pretty careful about carrying out Conference decisions as described in Advisory Actions. They were aware that the precise wording was arrived at by substantial unanimity, sometimes after hours of deliberation. They may have had suggestions or questions for delegates. The most often asked questions in committee meetings were "Is this a good use of basket money?" and "What will this do to help the newcomer?"

New Agenda items were proposed in a number of ways. Any matter could be sent from areas, districts, groups, or individuals. Trustees did not make any decision on items. They just sorted them out into the respective committees to forward to the Conference. This year, they had 198 proposed items. Similar items could be combined into one.

One interesting phenomenon that surprised her was the number of individuals who addressed specific topics outside of the General Service structure. They all received calls and letters from individuals lobbying for consideration for or against different topics. The only thing they could really do was refer them back to the structure that already existed in AA, back to their groups, district, or area. Lobbying was kind of a political thing that crept in from the outside. The Third Legacy procedure was created to eliminate that kind of pressure. By and large, it worked pretty well. "Politics" could include a person or group who had a specific outcome in mind and then tried to convince others to agree with them.

In AA, the group conscience was the highest authority. When a topic was proposed at the group level, sometimes there was a good amount of heated talk. There could be some persuasive techniques used and some tempers showing. They called that a loving discussion. But when the vote was taken, at least two thirds of the members agreed. That was a substantial majority. And then, they offered the non-prevailing voters a chance to offer new information. Sometimes it flipped the vote. Whichever way it ended up, each side finally knew they had been heard. They were given a chance to share their opinion, and the loudest voices did not necessarily prevail. Anyone who cared deeply about a topic had one more chance to talk about it. At the Pre Conference workshop or meeting that was held in each district, every AA member could make sure the delegate heard their voice. When the delegate went to the conference, they did not vote for their area, but they did make sure that every voice was represented.

In addition to responsibilities on the General Service Board, the eight Regional Trustees had the joyful opportunity to communicate with all the Areas in their regions. She had no power or authority within the Region. I just got to come meet everyone, conduct their elections when they wanted her to, and be one more step in the process of communication between groups and AA corporations.

She was more surprised than anyone when she became Pacific Regional Trustee this year. She was all set to spend the summer completing long overdue house and yard repairs. So far, all she had managed to do was tie down a tarp over the hole in her shed roof. Perhaps next year...

So, what had she been doing? She started out in her home area, with Oregon Area 58 first in-person area assembly. As the delegate started her Conference report, the room was practically empty. She invited Reilly up to announce her election as Oregon's first Pacific Regional Trustee to the empty room. She thought that was a little weird, and then 200 people filed in, each one handing her a single rose on the way to their seat. Yes, she cried. What a spectacular welcome home!

She attended the Western Canada Regional Forum virtually in May and began preparations for their own Forum to be held in September.

In June, she went to New York for new Trustee Orientation. It was four long days filled with meetings, wonderful welcoming new friends, and lots of new information!

A lot of the weekend was familiar and comfortable, as she had been involved in General Service for 56 years. Still, there was a lot of stuff at the Board level that was new to her. It was really beautiful, and humbling, to feel like a newcomer in a new level of service!

In July, she was honored to present a talk on Living the Concepts in California. Committee meetings on Zoom began to dominate her days, while reading material and writing reports ruled her nights.

Suddenly, it was time to go back to New York for her first Board Weekend. Five days of travel and meetings and people – it was pretty fantastic. Now, she knew more about what she was supposed to do, and she set about reading all the background material to bring her up to date.

In August, she washed her dishes.

In September, she did the laundry. She chaired her first Pacific Regional Forum in Salt Lake City. The energy in that room was extraordinary. Members of the Pacific Region were informed, insightful, inquisitive, and awesome!

The next week, she went back to Salt Lake City and spent the weekend with some wonderful people in Utah Area 69. They elected the Alternate Delegate directly from a Spanish linguistic district!

In October, she swept her floor.

She had big plans for December. She hoped to watch at least one of her favorite TV shows.

Last week, she stopped by her hometown in Western Washington Area 72 and saw some family members on her way back from a fantastic weekend electing new area officers.

And now, she was here in the Area where she got sober. This was a miracle, and she could not tell everyone how grateful she was to serve everyone.

She confessed - she used to be one of those who thought "Gee, trustees get to travel and experience new places all the time." That was true. Like all of us, she had not traveled in a long time. Today's travel was a little different than it used to be, though. She got up at 1am, drove for 2 hours to the airport, walked for half an hour to the terminal, waited in line, checked her bag, went through security, waited in line, found the right gate, waited in line, boarded the plane, waited for takeoff, then flew 3 hours, got off and repeated the process for the next 5-hour flight. Once in New York, she tried to find a taxi or Uber – those were stories for another day! Finally, she arrived at the hotel after 15 hours of travel, very bedraggled and ready for sleep. Then, she met her east coast friends who were fresh from a two-hour trip by train.

Here in the Pacific Region, we really did go the extra mile with a smile.

There was some other exciting news from the General Service Office (GSO).

GSO had opened for visitors! The office had been closed since March 2020. There were certain safety and security measures in place, so she instructed everyone to please check aa.org before scheduling a visit. Preparations for re-opening and re-organizing GSO had been underway for several months, and now most of the staff were in place.

They had a new Executive Legal Administrator, who was going to be designing procedures for licensing and copyrights. A new Human Resources Administrator was on board now. Communication Services was collaborating with all positions to establish consistency in messaging guidelines. Three new staff members were assigned to desks. The Publishing department still had an open staff position.

Book orders were not able to be filled due to supply chain delays and no paper! An employee came up with an idea for printing directly onto the book! They saw a demo of his idea and it was fascinating. We did hire some brilliant

people! The goal was two-fold: to be able to ship out books on time, and also to save several hundred thousand dollars. Immediately, there was a complaint from someone that their anonymity would be broken if they carried around a book that said Alcoholics Anonymous on the front. She suggested that any bookstore in the country probably carried these little stretchy covers in bright colors that fit right over a book. Also, in grade school, her friends used to make book covers out of paper sacks to cover up the dirty words they wrote on math books.

In Grapevine news, there was going to be a price increase in January. They looked forward to everyone's support, as they were all aware that publishers currently faced steadily rising costs. Grapevine was developing a smartphone app for both Grapevine and La Viña magazines. Features were going to include scrolling through the monthly magazine and archives, a search tool, audio playlist, popup day count, podcast link, Daily Quote, Meeting Guide, Sobriety Calculator, and link to YouTube Channel. Members were going to be able to build a library of articles and create a Daily Spiritual Maintenance Checklist.

She encouraged everyone to attend a Grapevine Writing Workshop and get motivated to write their stories for the Grapevine. Deadlines coming up soon for topics to publish next year were:

Nov 15 – Home Group

Dec 15 – Stories about the 12x12 book

Jan 15 - Prison issue

Feb 15 – AA in the Military

Mar 15 – Young & Sober

April 15 - Mid-life Sobriety

Reilly said she could not tell us how much she enjoyed being here today. It was a privilege to serve Area 5 and the Pacific Region! She thanked everyone.

### Delegate's Report

Delegate Lauren A. reported:

She just returned from the Pacific Regional Forum, and it was amazing! There were presentations from the Pacific Region Delegates as well as direct contact and Q&A with:

Linda Chezem - General Service Board Chair

Kevin Prior - Class A Trustee and General Service Office Treasurer

Bob W. - General Manager of the General Service Office

Molly Anderson - Class A Trustee

Reilly K. - Pacific Regional Class B Trustee

Irene D. - General Service Office Staff on the Literature Desk

Paz P. - Trustee Director, La Viña

Jon W. - AA Grapevine Senior Editor

Irma V. - AA World Services Trustee Director

Trish L. - Trustee-At-Large Canada

many more staffers and friends!

It was an amazing event, in-person, and it was so wonderful to see not only our members from Area 05 but friends from all the Pacific Region areas, and the presentations and workshops were fantastic. She thought the final count for attendance was almost 600 people. The questions from our members and insightful responses from our trusted servants were inspiring. Access to them was so simple and easy for all of us, and there was no doubt about their love for their work and A.A. A special stand out was the skit presented by a mix of trustees, delegates, and staff about the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver British Columbia. It was pretty hilarious.

There was a sign-up board to have a meal with one of the trustees, and it was full by 10:00 AM on Friday! She felt that was an extra special touch.

There were workshops on both Friday and Saturday, and our Alternate Delegate Doug S. ran one of the workshops on Area Websites and did a fabulous job. The list of workshops was too long to list here but they were all well-thought-out and effective.

Lauren thanked the Area 05 Southern California Assembly for electing her to be their delegate and serve the 71st -72nd General Service Conference. She could not really explain how this changed her life, brought a new perspective to our work, and helped her to meet everyone at their districts and events. Being a part of the conference and being on the Public Information Committee was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and she did not take it lightly nor waste it.

She learned that we were engaged and thoughtful, hard-working, and fun-loving, and that we were willing to do the work we were assigned as General Service Representatives, District Committee Members, Committee Chairs, Officers, and Past Delegates. She did her best to listen and act on everyone's behalf in everything she did, and "for this alcoholic... that is a task!" Everyone inspired her, and hopefully, her experience had made her a better member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

As we embarked on our next two years, she knew our Area and the General Service Conference would prosper and be in good hands. The spirit of rotation was such a wonderful idea, and she believed it helped our movement to stay "fresh", "real", and safe.

She looked forward to being a Past Delegate in our Area and was going to strive to do whatever was asked of her in the future.

She thanked everyone for their support, loving discussions, and continued dedication.

### Good and Welfare Announcements

Good and Welfare Announcements were made by members of the Area Assembly.

### Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement

The Assembly recited A.A.'s Responsibility Statement in Spanish and English



# A.A. AREA 05 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA WINTER ASSEMBLY AGENDA

### Saturday - January 21, 2023

# 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
	Introductions: Officers, Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Alternates
9:10	Orientations: New Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Alternates
	(Chair, Gola R., & Registrar, Jennifer C.)
	New GSR and Alternate GSR Orientation (Alternate Delegate, Nikki U.)
	Returning GSR and Alternate GSR Orientation (Delegate, Doug S.)
	DCM, DCMC and Alternates Orientation (Panel 71 Past Delegate, Lauren A.)
9:50	Coffee Break/Morning Stretch
10:00	Call-to-Order
	2 Minutes Silent Meditation, Serenity Prayer AA Birthdays (October 17 - January 21)
	The Twelve Concepts (Short Form) - Spanish and English
	Introduction of DCMs, DCMCs, and Alternates
	Introduction of new GSRs and Alternates
10:20	Roll Call (Registrar, Jennifer C.)
10:25	Approval of Agenda (Chair, Gola R.)
	Approval of October 16 Assembly Minutes & 2023 Area Calendar (Secretary, Shawn A.)
10:35	Delegate's Report (Doug S.)
11:20	Approval of ACM Approved 2023 Area Budget (Finance Committee Chair, Arnulfo G.)
11:35	General Service Conference Process & Pre-Conference Workshop Presentation, Alt Delegate (Nikki U.)
11:55	Pacific Region A. A. Service Assembly (PRAASA) Presentation – Panel 67 Past Delegate (Thomas B.)
12:15	Lunch Break

### 12:45 Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

### 1:30 Officer Reports:

Alternate Delegate (Nikki U.)

Secretary (Shawn A.)

Accounts Treasurer, including presentation of 2022 4th Quarter Financial Report (Amy O.)

Contributions Treasurer, incl. presentation of 2022 4th Quarter Contributions Report (Brian P.)

Registrar (Jennifer C.)

Chairperson (Gola R.)

- 2:00 Standing & Ad Hoc Committee Reports 2-to-3-minute summary
- 2:45 Hispanic Women's Workshop Report (Hispanic Women's Workshop Liaison, Olga M.)
- 2:55 Unfinished Business
  - Final Approval of Proposed Changes to Area Financial Guidelines (Finance Committee Chair, Arnulfo G.)
- 3:15 New Business/Good and Welfare Announcements
- 3:35 Closing: Moment of Silence & Responsibility Statement (Spanish & English)

